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### Welcome to New Members

David Clarke, Christine Allott and Michael Morgan, Patricia Eldridge, Jenny Hawkesley, Aileen and Nigel Hyman, Matt Jackson, Avis Judd, Rachel and Clive McGavin, Roland Morey, Oliver Oglesby and Lesley Pace, Vivien Rands, David Thomas, Guy Woodhouse.

### Condolences

We heard sadly of the deaths of Mrs Sarah Evans and Mrs Pamela Ffookes; we offer our condolences to their families and friends.

**Articles** for inclusion in the next Newsletter should be sent to the Editor.  
Copy deadline 30<sup>th</sup> August 2018.

*Front cover:* Powderham © Dianne Long

*Rear cover:* Burrow Farm Gardens © Dianne Long

## From the Editor

It has been a strange first half of the year weather-wise: constant wet, the highly unseasonable 'beast from the east', a glorious May and now a dry June. This has had a dramatic impact on our gardens, but fortunately DGT activities have not been disrupted.

In March the chairs of county gardens trusts met for the first time since the formation of The Gardens Trust in 2015. The focus of discussion was on how to increase membership, encourage active volunteers, and engage more publicly. DGT has been reaching out to facilitate more joint activities with our neighbouring CGTs (Cornwall, Somerset and Dorset) on events and activities like our research and recording training. We have also invited members of other organizations like the Arts Society, Devon History Society and Royal Institute of Biology to DGT events and we will be exploring other joint activities which might benefit respective members.

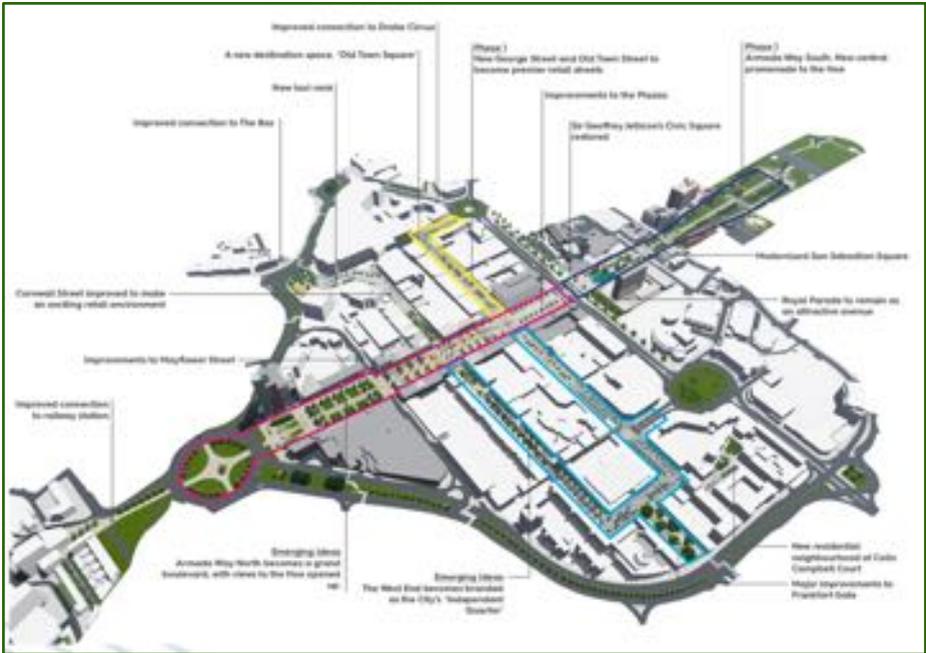
Two forward thinking landscape plans have been launched for consultation in recent months. The first is the revitalizing of the centre of Plymouth around Armada Way, including the Grade II registered Civic Square designed by Geoffrey Jellicoe (see page 4). The second is a masterplan for Dartington prepared by the Dan Pearson Studio which has proposals for the whole site some of which might take twenty years to achieve (there is a YouTube presentation by Dan Pearson at <https://www.dartington.org/whats-on/archive/open-house/live/>) Both are potentially exciting projects to revive nationally important landscapes. DGT is keeping in touch on both projects. Devon County Council has been successful in its bid for funding to upgrade the North Devon Link Road (A361) which will widen the road from South Molton to Barnstaple and improve junctions; potentially construction could begin in 2020. DGT will be looking at the detailed planning application when it is submitted to ensure there are no detrimental impacts to historic landscapes along the route, particularly Castle Hill, one of Devon's five Grade I registered landscapes.

We all seem to have been inundated with emails and post regarding the General Data Protection Regulations which came into force on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2018. DGT has reviewed its policy and procedures and published its Privacy Policy. A copy is circulated to members with this newsletter. Please rest assured that the Trust is committed to protecting members personal data. Please read the Policy and if you have any queries do contact me or our Membership Secretary, Shirley Tamblyn.

Dianne Long

# Better Places Plymouth – A View to the Future

Dianne Long



A bird's eye view of the proposed City Centre Masterplan. © Plymouth City Council

City centres are facing challenges from the retail revolution and how people want to use them. Plymouth City Council launched its plans in March for a long-term programme to transform the heart of the city in the lead up to the Mayflower 400 celebrations in 2020 and beyond. The aim is to recreate the city centre as a vibrant place to live, work and visit, accessible and attractive for all.

The vision is that Armada Way will become an extraordinary boulevard that rivals any of the great European public spaces. It seeks to revive the 'great vista' envisaged in Abercrombie and Watson's 1943 visionary *A Plan for Plymouth* that stretched from North Cross (the railway station) all the way through to the Hoe, by opening up the view with a series of different spaces including gardens.

The first phase of the project is proposed to be Armada Way South from Royal Parade to the Hoe, which encompasses the Sir Geoffrey Jellicoe designed Civic Square. Plans include restoration of the Grade II registered Civic Square, a new

avenue and axis that opens up the view, the ceremonial flagpole restored to its original location, a central walkway from the Naval Memorial, modernisation of San Sebastian Square, improved pedestrian crossings and new spaces for exercise, play, cafés and events.

Plymouth City Council have appointed WSP and LDA Design to lead the team of architects, designers and engineers brought together to take forward the project, many of whom have worked on national and international projects including the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park and the 2017 Stirling Prize-winning Hastings Pier.

The Better Places Project is just one of a number of schemes to improve the city centre and the Waterfront, with regeneration of Millbay, a new coach station, and the city's flagship project for 2020, the new history, arts and culture centre incorporating the old Museum and Art Gallery, to be known as The Box. This will house Plymouth archives and historic collections, space for contemporary art and touring exhibitions.

An exhibition and consultations have been held in Plymouth to seek the views of residents and visitors. *A Plan for Plymouth* was the vision to build a city out of the devastation of World War II, over seventy years on and Better Places Plymouth is looking to redevelop the city for the twenty-first century.



An artist's impression of the restored Grade II registered Civic Square. ©Plymouth City Council

## Restoration at Halswell Park – the Bridge in the Wood

Edward Strachan, owner of Halswell Park, describes achieving one element of the restoration

We started work in November 2016 on the so-called Bath Stone Bridge that is set in Mill Wood to give the appearance of a bridge but is in fact a dam. This reflects a technique in Georgian landscape architecture, notably seen in Charles Bridgeman's 1730 dam at the end of the Serpentine in Hyde Park, London.

The bridge was clearly a source of great pride to Sir Charles Kemeys-Tynte (1710-1785), owner and gentleman landscaper of Halswell. When he commissioned Hogarth to paint his portrait in 1753, he used the planned bridge, with masons clambering over the scaffold, as his background.



According to estate records, the bridge was completed in 1755, and the two herms were most likely installed as Mill Wood's "genius loci" the following year. It was



described by Arthur Young in 1771 in his *Tour of the Southern Counties*. In subsequent years, abandoned as a ruin in Halswell's battered post-war landscape, it captured the imagination of John Piper, who painted *The Cascade Bridge*.

Once our architect, Robert Battersby of Architecton, had received planning permission in October 2016, Ann Manders, Mill Wood's project manager, oversaw the vegetation clearing, pond draining, protective scaffolding and the subsequent archaeology and surveying of the exposed bridge. Then our talented and industrious stonemason, Mike Orchard, and his team set to work, firstly by carefully dismantling damaged ashlar stone to carry off to his studio and then removing the concrete repairs done in the 1970s.



Over the winter, Mike worked diligently in his studio on Architecton's plans to repair the damaged stone, and work new pieces for the missing places, mainly on the pediment, which needed total replacing. Meanwhile, our timetable was thrown out of kilter by the discovery in the newly-exposed silt of the pond of the front balustrade, which had, according to old photographs, collapsed at least 50 years ago. Robert Battersby diligently spent many weekends over the Spring, putting it back together again.

Mike fixed the repaired and new ashlar stone to the bridge. Simultaneously, Halswell's favourite sculptor, Tom Waugh, was working to complete an interpretation of the fine shellwork, which flank the apse, one side of which had been completely lost. Tom completed his work and installed the sculpture last October.

By the end of November, we were ready to fill the pond, and although we cannot fill it completely as we need to finalise details for the water management, we can gain a strong impression of how the Bridge should always have looked, a classically-inspired work of art in its landscape.

All that remains now is for Tom Waugh to repair the remaining herm and sculpt a missing partner. We will do this over the summer, and once we have planted background, we will consider the restoration of the bridge complete.



The joint Devon GT and Somerset GT visit to Halswell Park in April attracted nearly

one hundred members, with Edward Strachan leading tours in the morning and afternoon. This is one of the most meticulous and important restorations of both buildings and landscape currently underway in the South West. DGT members were unreservedly enthusiastic:

‘The house and surrounding buildings are equally as fascinating as the landscape. My favourite feature of the day was the back staircase. Wow, it is truly amazing. The whole day was a real treat.’

‘What a glorious place - follies fit for a king, water features of the clearest water tinged with azure blue, the prettiest bridge of sandstone, which reminded me of Prior Park in Bath, and finally an elegant rotunda.’

‘... the focus on the historic detail was impressive.... I am glad Edward found his project in the South West for us who live here to enjoy.’



## DGT Awards Grants to Two Devon Educational Projects

DGT has awarded grants to Farms for City Children (FFCC) and the WESC Foundation (formerly the West of England School and College for young people with little or no sight).

The grant to FFCC is towards the restoration of the Victorian walled kitchen garden at Nethercott House, near Iddesleigh, it is part of match-funding with a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund. FFCC was set up by Michael and Clare Morpurgo in 1976 at Nethercott House to give children from city and urban areas the opportunity to live and work on a real farm for a week to learn and experience where their food comes from. There are now two more working farms, Wick Court in Gloucestershire and Lower Treginnis in Pembrokeshire. Every year FFCC welcomes 3200 children and 400 teachers. The restoration of the Victorian kitchen garden involves repairs and recapping to the walls, relaying and edging the paths, and reinstating a sunken melon house, as well as planting. Once complete the children will help in the growing, harvesting, cooking and eating of vegetables and fruit.



Plan for the Nethercott House kitchen garden. © FFCC



The newly capped wall and one of the paths underdoing restoration. © FFCC

The grant to WESC is for the creation of a sensory garden at its Country Works site at West Hill. WESC provides specialised day and residential education, training and care for children and adults who are blind or severely visually impaired. The main college campus is on Topsham Road, Exeter. The second eight-acre Country Works site is at West Hill, where there is a Forest School, a small orchard, large pond, a ‘jungle’ ravine, vegetable and fruit growing areas. There are also two poly tunnels, a glasshouse and a propagation house and other facilities. Increasingly plants are being grown for sale through the charity’s shops in addition to consumption by the children, young people and staff in the college. The sensory

garden is designed for year-round interest to include plants with scent, texture and sound to stimulate the senses and interest in growing plants as well as where visitors can experience the natural world in a safe outdoor environment.



The WESC sensory garden under construction. © WESC

## Research and Recording Training Pilot Gets Underway

Barbie Moul

DGT has recently set up a project aimed at updating the information we hold on Devon's historic landscapes. A pilot phase will review eight sites, most of which are on the current DGT Gazetteer. A key feature of the pilot is a training programme on research and recording for DGT volunteers. We will review the pilot with the aim of extending the project to further sites together with recruiting more volunteers, both DGT members and non-members, and an ongoing training programme.

The training comprises workshop sessions designed to introduce volunteers to research methods and resources, things to look out for on a site and how to record the current elements of a landscape. Twenty volunteers are currently involved. Simon Bonvoison (Nicholas Pearson Partnership) was the keynote speaker on the first day, held at Sidholme in Sidmouth, with DGT members John Clark, Clare Greener and Jeremy Pearson introducing the planning system, chosen sites and the Historic England concept of 'Enriching the List' whereby members of the public can register to add information and images to the Historic England website.

The next session at the Devon Heritage Centre, led by the centre's Brian Carpenter, and County Archaeologist, Bill Horner, provided an introduction to using the archives and the Historic Environment Record. A third day was held at Powderham, looking at documents in the Powderham archives and walking the landscape. Further sessions are to be held over the coming months.



The Research Group examining the c. 1800 gothic Tea House. © Dianne Long

It is hoped that by holding accurate, up to date, evidence-based site records, the DGT will be in a strong position to respond to planning applications that may in the future affect Devon's outstanding landscapes. The importance of our nationally recognised sites will be enhanced, in addition to highlighting those heritage assets that are important locally.

If you would like to find out more, please contact Barbie Moul ([barbara.moul@googlemail.com](mailto:barbara.moul@googlemail.com))

Booking forms for all events are included with this Newsletter. Please send completed forms with payment (cheques payable to Devon Gardens Trust) to DGT (Events), Exeter Community Centre, St David's Hill, Exeter, EX4 3RG. Email [events@devongardenstrust.org.uk](mailto:events@devongardenstrust.org.uk)

## **‘Discovering the Landscape of John Knight’, Tour led by Rob Wilson-North**

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2018 11 am followed by lunch at Simonsbath Outdoor Centre, formerly the home of John Knight.**

Following on from his fascinating talk before the DGT 2017 Christmas Lunch, Rob Wilson-North has kindly agreed to lead members on a tour to discover the landscape created by John Knight. Knight purchased most of the former Royal Forest of Exmoor in 1819-20, eventually owning some 20,000 acres, and embarked on an ambitious programme of improvement, including a 29 mile “Forest Wall”, drainage, Pinkery Canal, and the introduction of sheep. The walk will focus on the gardens around the mansion Knight planned and the immediate area. Though the casual observer might not recognise the landscape as a garden, seasoned DGT members will soon be imagining what once was there as Rob brings the landscape to life. The walk will be followed by a buffet lunch in Knight’s former mansion, now the Simonsbath House Hotel.



A path at Ashcombe. © Dianne Long

**Cost:** £15 DGT and SGT Members £17 Guests/Non-members. Ticket includes lunch.

The walk is leisurely with some gentle inclines. Stout footwear, as ever is recommended, especially if wet underfoot.

## DGT Annual General Meeting 2018

**Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2018 11 am**

**At Powderham Castle, Powderham, EX6 8JQ**

**By kind permission of the Earl and Countess of Devon**

11.00	AGM
11.45	Talk by the Earl of Devon
12.45	Lunch
14.00	Tours of landscape

**Cost:** £21 DGT Members £23 Guests/Non-members.  
Members can attend the AGM only free of charge.

The AGM agenda and papers will be sent out to members in advance of the meeting. Nominations for election of members to the Council of Management are welcomed and should be made in writing in advance of the meeting, together with confirmation from the candidates of willingness to stand, to the chairman either by email to [chair@devongardenstrust.org.uk](mailto:chair@devongardenstrust.org.uk) or by post to Devon Gardens Trust, Exeter Community Centre, St David's Hill, Exeter, Devon, EX4 3RG.

Powderham's links with the Courtney family date back to 1325 when Margaret de Bohun married Hugh de Courtney. Through the centuries, the family, often close to the crown, has had a chequered history with the castle being badly damaged during the Civil War. The dawn of the eighteenth century saw stability, restoration and improvements to both the castle and the landscape. Belts and clumps of trees were created as well as the construction in 1771 of the Belvedere Tower that has recently been restored. The formal terraced gardens were developed in the late 1830s. The American garden contains many ornamental trees and shrubs and the gothic Tea House. The park with groups of trees including Lucombe oak is home to some 600 fallow deer. The walled kitchen garden as well as having pet and play areas, is actively used by Dawlish Gardens Trust for their horticultural activities with people with learning disabilities, sensory and hidden impairments. DGT members will have exclusive access to enjoy the castle and its grounds on a day when it is not open to the public.

### **Advance Notice: DGT Christmas Lecture and Lunch**

**Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2018 10.30 for 11 am** at the Mews Suite, Exeter Golf and Country Club, Topsham Road, Exeter, EX2 7AE

Cost: £28 DGT Members £30 Guests/Non-members

## Obituaries

Two influential gardeners and authors have died in recent months, John Brookes (11 October 1933 – 16 March 2018), and Beth Chatto (27 June 1923 – 13 May 2018). **John Brookes** trained as a landscape designer working with Dame Sylvia Crowe and Brenda Colvin, creating his first Chelsea show garden in 1962 which promoted the idea of the ‘Room Outside’. He designed gardens around the world, taught, lectured, and wrote more than two dozen books. **Beth Chatto** began her Essex garden in 1960 and later a nursery called ‘Unusual Plants’. Her books include *The Dry Garden* and *The Damp Garden*. She was a Chelsea gold medallist on ten successive occasions, and among other accolades she was awarded the RHS Victoria Medal of Honour in 1987 and the OBE in 2002. Both have left their mark on the way we garden: John Brookes for his outdoor rooms and Beth Chatto for using plants aesthetically in conditions as close as possible to their natural environment. DGT members Jim Carter and Mark Brett reflect on their work and legacies.

### John Brookes MBE – A Personal Reminiscence.

Jim Carter

I first met John Brookes in the mid-1980s, when I attended one of his day courses at the Clock House, Denmans. It had been a long journey from Nottinghamshire and I had parked in the wrong car park. John emerged from under the clock tower followed by his dog. He told me to leave the car where it was, but to close the main gate. At that moment another attendee (best described as an ‘Essex Boy’ driving a brand new Bentley) arrived. I remembered John’s comment, ‘now things are looking up!’. We talked about the demise of the coal mining industry in County Durham and his early days in the Nottinghamshire Parks Department, then in the process of being run down. The rest of the attendees were best described as ‘ladies of a golden afternoon’ but knew all the Latin plant names.

That day was life changing, for me at least. I was totally relaxed, and thoughts of industrial disputes were put aside while I grasped the principles of design, grid patterns and the merits of gravel gardening. John’s conversion of the old stable block at Denmans to his own residence and the Clock House School of Garden design was impressive and the garden itself something I could only dream of. It was my wife who had bought me John’s book and had spotted the advert for the course. I was later to work out why she wanted me out of the way for the day! I went home and over the rest of the summer made over our bungalow garden at Farnsfield in Nottinghamshire. No sooner was it finished, my wife announced she wanted to move to one of the new houses just one hundred metres down the lane. It turned out to be one of the most expensive moves of my life, not so much the second garden but the divorce that followed.

In 1991, I moved to Devon, to my current home at Hazel Court, Kersbrook, near Budleigh, with my new partner Sandra. Again, I wrestled with drawings of the site and the 'grid'. In the end, life was so hectic that I took the momentous decision to commission John to do a design plan. He visited on route to a summer sculpture weekend at Chagford in the garden of his old friend Kenneth Ashburner. Over coffee we walked the plot and he revealed he had lived in Devon. There was no need for a complicated survey, all I had in the garden were two hazel trees, grass and an ocean of gravel.

I remember well his proposals arriving in late August 1992 and the excitement of what I saw. At an instant he had solved how to make best use of the space. The design fee has over the years more than paid for itself. Sandra did not quite share that opinion, but since one of the key features was a cottage style area to the front of the property, she had her own part of the garden, and she accompanied me on my next visit to Denmans.



Construction at Hazel Court did not start until January of the following year. I will always be grateful for my son-in-law's efforts, a brick-layer by training, Robert worked on and off until Easter in shorts in what was the mildest and driest spell of weather I have ever known. Some 8,000 bricks went into retaining walls and splitting the garden into distinct areas or 'rooms' and laying a new drive. I did all the digging and planting at the weekends. By late autumn, some 150 bags of ornamental bark with the recycled gravel gave the garden its final unity. Later that year I remember being in W H Smith bookshop in Cardiff when Sandra remarked there was yet another Brookes' book for my library, *Garden Design Workbook*. She also recognised the plans for Hazel Court as No 13 - The Angular Garden. She was uneasy about the thirteen (for good reason in the end).



Over the next few years I called in at Denmans on my regular south coast journey to see key accounts. However, it was rare for John to be there. He was either away teaching in France or dealing with new overseas projects.

Life moved on and John came to the Devon Gardens Trust Millennium Conference with Penelope Hobhouse, Dr Todd Gray and Merrick Denton-Thompson. It was a lovely day, and as a result I joined the DGT. By this time, I had left the coal industry and gone to Bicton college to study horticulture. As a result, I became a volunteer at the new exciting NT Knightshayes Walled Kitchen Garden project, and at Bicton looking after the agapanthus collection.

By this time, John was doing his design course at East Lambrook Manor, one of our favourite gardens, and every year his slides revealed some exciting new projects overseas, which were to feature in later books! More importantly you could chart how his thoughts were changing. At long last I got him to sign the book. Whilst John never revisited Hazel Court, I did let him see the slides. On the 10<sup>th</sup> October 2005, he returned them with a short but cryptic letter. The sadness came when a year later to that date I buried my Sandra, my partner for nearly twenty years, in the graveyard at East Budleigh, after enjoying many years and family holidays here at Kersbrook. I have occasionally opened the garden for her favourite charities, and the family have continued to come and enjoy the garden. Truly gardens are for people.



Over the years my colleague and friend Dick has kept Sandra's cottage part of the garden looking good. Last year marked the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the plans arriving, and it was time to bite the bullet and give the shrub area a make-over. Thanks to help from Dick and this year Judith, we are well on the way to replanting.

Jim Carter has been a member of DGT for nearly twenty years, has served as a trustee and is a past chairman of the Conservation Committee.

All photographs are of Hazel Court, Kersbrook. © Jim Carter

## Beth Chatto – A Reflection of her Life and Works

Mark Brett

Beth Chatto dedicated most of her life to developing, nurturing and enhancing her gardens which are situated at White Barn House near Colchester, Essex. In addition, she was a widely published and well-respected author having written eight horticultural books and numerous articles. Beth Chatto also undertook a world-wide lecture tour during the 1980s and 1990s promoting her work and the benefits derived from ecological planting schemes. Her professional background was in teaching and although she was not formally horticulturally trained, she did not consider this as a hindrance.



Chatto had several key influences on her work including her late husband Andrew whose ecological knowledge and research informed much of her horticultural decision-making. It was the work of gardener and botanist Graham Stuart Thomas and that of Cedric Morris which provided the initial inspiration to create Chatto's gardens in 1960 and to have influence on their ongoing development. Christopher Lloyd provided further inspiration and support over a thirty-six-year period. Lloyd's approach to gardening has been acknowledged as fundamentally different to Chatto's and their diversity in opinion on many matters was an important source of ideas for her gardens.

Central to Chatto's work was her mantra of 'the right plant for the right place', providing the foundation for her ecological planting to help create a naturalistic aesthetic. During the 1960s and 1970s she had adopted a new approach to ecological planting. Her approach involved selecting non-native species from different regions that populated similar habitats and climates to those conditions within her garden. This was different to the general approach towards ecological planting at that time where native species had dominated selection.

Chatto also had an iterative perspective to her gardening where she reappraised the effectiveness of her planting arrangements on an ongoing basis to improve the aesthetics and establishment of plant communities. Parallel innovation in ecological planting at that time was undertaken by John Brookes in his own garden and through the work of Keith Wiley (then at The Garden House, now at his own garden Wildside, both in Devon) who has been acknowledged as making his gardens look and feel like the wild, compared to the domestic feel of Chatto's gardens.



Central to Chatto's design approach was an organisational strategy based on interlocking triangles. The use of triangles for organising planting is also a characteristic of many Japanese gardens, with this in mind it is likely this Asian technique was an influence on her planting arrangements. Furthermore, Chatto was experienced in floristry and there are characteristics of her planting designs based on floristry arrangement principles. These factors arguably contributed to the domestic and stylised naturalistic aesthetic she achieved.

Chatto was an early pioneer of ecological planting and has been acknowledged as being an important influence upon professional garden designers practising today such as Dan Pearson. Her work has also been cited as influential to the development of drought resistant planting and her gardens as an exemplar of having been developed and gardened on ecological principals. The significance of ecological planting schemes has grown in importance over the years and as a consequence so has Chatto's work to some extent. The importance of ecological planting has been driven by Government urban greening schemes, climate change

and, particularly within the public sector, to maintenance budgets being radically reduced. With increasing numbers of people living in cities, ongoing government public spending cuts, forecast models predicting that the climate will become increasingly variable and that a degree of warming will occur – it is likely that the importance of ecological planting will further increase in time.



Chatto received many accolades for her work and contribution to horticulture, including an OBE, Victoria Medal of Honour, the Lawrence Memorial medal, ten consecutive gold medals from the RHS Chelsea Flower Show and the Society of Garden Designers and Garden Writer lifetime achievement awards. She has left an important legacy through her gardens, publications and Education Trust Charity.



Mark Brett has recently completed an HND in Garden and Landscape Design at Eden Learning in Cornwall and is a DGT bursary recipient. Mark chose the Beth Chatto Garden as one of his course assignments. He has an MBA and an MSc in Project Management having worked primarily within software project management. Mark has lived and worked in Devon for fifteen years.

Photographs of the Beth Chatto Gardens July 2009. © Dianne Long,

## HMS Endeavour and Botany

Dianne Long

Every year has its anniversaries, 2018 is no different. On matters horticultural, it is fifty years since the BBC's first broadcast of *Gardeners' World*, then presented by Ken Burras and Percy Thrower, and there is a flurry of events 'Celebrating Repton', the bi-centenary of the death of Humphry Repton. It is 250 years since the founding of the Royal Academy of Arts whose first president was Sir Joshua Reynolds (1723-92), born in Plympton and brought up in Devon. And on 26<sup>th</sup> August 1768, one Lieutenant James Cook set sail from Plymouth on HMS *Endeavour* in pursuit of the transit of Venus, in order to help calculate the distance to the sun. This was the first of Cook's voyages of discovery and one that was to leave a huge botanical legacy.

Cook had covert instructions from the Admiralty to search for new lands, especially the mythical Great Southern Continent, to map their coastlines, 'observe the Nature of the Soil, and the Products thereof; the Beasts and Fowls that inhabit or frequent it, the fishes that are to be found.' Further, 'in case you find any Mines, Minerals or valuable stones you are to bring home specimens of each, as also such Species of Seeds of the Trees, Fruits and Grains as you may be able to collect'. This was a voyage of discovery, empire and trade. Among others on the voyage was Sir Joseph Banks (1743-1820), later president of the Royal Society, who had paid £10,00 for the team of eight scientists and artists on board including the botanist Dr Daniel Solander (1733-1782), favoured student of Linnaeus, and artist Sydney Parkinson (1745-1771).

Having mapped the coastline of New Zealand, Cook sailed on to Australia landing at what he later named Botany Bay in honour of the huge quantity of botanical specimens collected there. Cook had reported to the Admiralty that 'the discoveries made in this voyage are not great', yet on board the *Endeavour* on its return to England in 1771, there were an estimated 30,000 plant specimens. Many of these were pressed between paper from discarded proof copies of Milton's *Paradise Lost*.

Banks was the first botanist to recognize the economic value of plants and of moving them around the world for the sole purpose of benefiting Britain's growing empire. He convinced the East India Company that India and Ceylon would be good places to grow tea. Banks was behind the introduction of sheep to Australia, and many fruit and vegetable plants, which significantly altered the landscape of the country. He corresponded regularly with early governors, exchanging notes on all aspects of the development of agriculture, including how to keep plants alive on long sea journeys. Together with George III he supported plant hunters like Francis Masson, Mungo Park and Allan Cunningham.

We tend to think of how the world's flora has impacted on the diversity of plants we grow in the UK, but we are not alone, for in the 250 years since the first European colonization of New Zealand, the number of naturalised plants now exceeds that of natives. About 350 species of New Zealand vascular plants were collected by Joseph Banks and Daniel Solander, for example, *Phormium tenax*, the New Zealand Flax, used by the indigenous population for clothing, now adorns many a British border. Others were *Grevillea banksii*, *Callistemon*, *Dillenia*, *Mimosa*, *Eucalyptus* and *Pittosporum tenuifolium*. Plants were named after the participants on the *Endeavour* voyage, so *Phormium cookianum*, *Astelia banksia*, *Astelia solandri*. One plant that was brought back was *Sophora tetraptera* (kōwhai), and, planted at the Chelsea Physic Garden, it was one of the first coloured illustrations of New Zealand plants to be published.



*Sophora tetraptera* depicted in Curtis's *The Botanical Magazine*, Volume 5, 1791.

The *Endeavour's* artists, Sydney Parkinson, Alexander Buchanan (both of whom died on the voyage) and Herman Spöring, made drawings of the flora and fauna, as well as some views. Banks had planned to publish a Florilegium of 743 plant drawings but this never materialized; it was only published in 1990.

## DGT Trustees on BBC Radio Devon Toby Buckland Show Penny Hammond

A less than spring like 4th March in the car park of BBC Radio Devon in Plymouth saw Richard Soans and I chatting with Toby Buckland about the plants that were flowering despite the cold weather.

Once we were ushered into the studio, we had a brief chat whilst some music was playing, setting the scene, and then it was straight into live air time. Richard began with an introduction into the formation of the county gardens trusts, talking about threats to historic landscapes and the lack of protection afforded to them. I chipped in to mention about the success of DGT's influence some years ago at Castle Hill in North Devon, with the re-routing of the new road to minimise the effect of it upon the historic landscape, which otherwise would have been dire.

We talked about DGT's charitable aims, our work in Research and Recording, Conservation, the Tree Register and Education, including DGT's awarding of bursaries and grants. We explained about the benefits of DGT membership, about the social aspects of talks and visits, the joy of having an owner or head gardener guide us around their property, tea afterwards... We mentioned how DGT had hosted the Gardens Trust conference in Plymouth in 2017, which showcased Devon gardens and parks to people from all over the UK.

Toby was a very generous host, enabling us to present the Devon Garden Trust as a friendly organisation welcoming of new members and others. He has an excellent understanding of the gardening world and asks questions to allow his guests to present their thoughts and ideas in a friendly and accessible manner, with interest and humour, provoking thought amongst his listeners.

Guests on the programme are invited to choose a piece of music. I chose an aria from Puccini's opera La Boheme, "Che Gelida Manina" otherwise known as 'Your Tiny Hand is Frozen' - to talk about how important winter work in the garden is, being the time to make changes whilst not having to keep up with the maintenance tasks of the growing season.

Toby always ends the show with a few quick fire questions as a light hearted finish, asking his guests to choose between two different gardening styles, trees, features etc. - often a difficult choice, especially when presented with a preference for walled or woodland gardens, my equal favourites!

## Crinkle Crinkle Walls

Dianne Long

Do you know of any crinkle crinkle walls in Devon? We were recently alerted to one in a garden near Spreyton. Previously we had only known of three in the county: one in Crediton, another nearby at The Sanctuary, Shobrooke, and we knew of one in North Devon. Crinkle crinkle, crinkum crankum or



Crinkle crinkle wall in Crediton. © Dianne Long

serpentine walls are not common, and are thought to have originated in the Netherlands, brought to England by Dutch engineers who came to help drain the Fens. Certainly, there appear to be some 50 such walls in Suffolk, twice as many as the total in the whole of the rest of the country. They are economical, requiring no buttresses and so could be built with a single thickness of brick, their shape providing far better stability than a straight wall and also allowing more protection for wall-grown fruit.

We'd love to hear of any more such walls in the county.

## The Gardens Trust Conference 2018

The Gardens Trust Conference 2018 is to be held in Birmingham on Saturday 1 and Sunday 2 September with optional visits on Friday 30 August. The Conference is to be held in The Muirhead Tower at the University of Birmingham Edgbaston Campus starting on Saturday with lectures from 10.30 am, after lunch a visit to Winterbourne House and Gardens, one of the best surviving examples of an Edwardian Arts and Crafts suburban villa garden in Birmingham. The Gardens Trust Annual General Meeting will be held at 4.15 pm and the Conference Dinner at 7 pm. On Sunday, the New Research Symposium takes place at Highbury Hall, the former home of Joseph Chamberlain, from 11 am to 1 pm; in the afternoon there are tours of the Hall and its gardens. The cost of the two-day programme inclusive of refreshments and the Conference Dinner, but excluding accommodation is £240 for GT and county garden trust members, £275 for non-members. For further details see *GT News* via the Gardens Trust website, [http://thegardenstrust.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/GT\\_news\\_6-40-lite2.pdf](http://thegardenstrust.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/GT_news_6-40-lite2.pdf) and for booking, <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-garden-trust-annual-conference-2018-tickets-43887226877>

# The Research Legacy of Trevor Wood

Dr Clare Greener

Trevor Wood was well known in the plant world. He had a nursery at Southcombe Gardens, Mamhead, was an expert on willow trees and grasses, and attended many garden shows. He was also a researcher with a wide knowledge of nurseries, local and national, historical and modern. Above all, Trevor was a collector – of information, books, catalogues and garden journals. Ever willing to share his plants and his knowledge, he liked nothing better than a discussion about his beloved nurserymen.

Sadly, Trevor died in 2012 and is still much missed by his family, friends and colleagues. However, he left an important legacy in his collection of printed material, much of which was donated to Devon Gardens Trust by his widow Caroline. His brother John was also kind enough to download many of Trevor's computer records on nurseries onto data-sticks and, in the years since Trevor's death, this research has become invaluable.

The computer records mostly consist of journal, newspaper, directory, archive and census references. His list of probably over 1800 nurserymen or nurseries he had researched extends to 147 pages containing almost 50,000 words, many with their own more comprehensive files. The list covers well-known names such as Lucombe & Pince, Veitch, Ford and Sclater of Exeter, Rendle and Pontey's of Plymouth. It also includes smaller provincial nurseries, many now forgotten, such as Godfrey of Exmouth, currently being researched by a DGT member, John Edwards of Bideford and Bartlett of Sidmouth. The first and last entries on his extensive list are reproduced in the box below.



Lucombe and Pince Letterhead. Courtesy of RHS Lindley Library.

It is difficult to think of anyone who equalled Trevor's research on Devon nurseries. For anyone doing research that might involve nurserymen and nurseries, however tangentially, or anyone who would like to take up Trevor's spade and continue digging into the history of nurserymen in the county, then the DGT would be happy to share the information it holds. Please contact Clare Greener

email [clrgreener276@gmail.com](mailto:clrgreener276@gmail.com) to see copies of the DGT library list and of any computer files relevant to a particular nursery or nurseryman, or to arrange a visit to the office.

**Abbrook Nurseries** 1951-4: Sidney G Gibbs was a nurseryman at Abbrook Cottage, Five Lanes, Kingsteignton. 1957: also at Abbrook Nursery, Exeter Rd, Newton Abbot. c1954: Sidney G Gibbs, Abbrook Nurseries, Exeter Rd, Newton Abbot. 1988: Abbrook Nurseries, Sandygate, Newton Abbot; pot plants, etc; no mention of Gibbs.

**Zealley, A.** *Devon & Exeter Gazette* 5 Sep 1902: Mr. A Zealley declining his nursery business & is selling by private treaty 4 nurseries, about 4 acres, containing apple trees in variety, table & cooking; & the goodwill of his nursery business; viewing the nurseries contact Mr A Zealley, Chardstock, Devon.

Notes.

*The Garden* Vol VII 1875 quotes from a Blue Book return the following acreages in Devon for 1874: orchards 24,312 (often in dual use as arable); market gardens 913; nursery gardens 416; woods (coppices & plantations) 66,191.

*The Garden* Vol XVII 1880: Nursery ground in Devon between 300-400 acres.

**Postscript:** I was intrigued by ‘Zealley, A.’ in Chardstock, my local village. I contacted a friend who runs the Chardstock Historical Records Group to see if there was any more information. Arthur Zealley appears to have been the last person to run the mill (in which my friend had lived for many years!) giving up about the same time as he gave up the nursery. So, a new research quest is on to investigate nurseries around Chardstock, first stop the archives of Trevor Wood. Editor

## New Books

*Shades of Green* by John Sales (Unicorn, March 2018)

*Humphry Repton in Hertfordshire*, edited by Susan Flood and Tom Williamson (Hertfordshire Gardens Trust, March 2018)

*Repton in London: The Gardens and Landscapes of Humphry Repton (1752-1818) in the London Boroughs*, by London Gardens Trust (April 2018)

*Humphry Repton in Norfolk*, edited by Sally Bate, Rachel Savage and Tom Williamson (Norfolk Gardens Trust, May 2018)

*On the Spot: The Yorkshire Red Books of Humphry Repton, Landscape Gardener*, by Patrick Eyres and Karen Lynch (New Arcadian Press, May 2018)

*Gardens and Green Spaces in the West Midlands since 1700*, by Malcolm Dick and Elaine Mitchell (University of Hertfordshire Press, May 2018)

*Life in the Garden*, by Penelope Lively (Penguin, 2017)

## Devon History Organizations and Their Publications

DGT members will be familiar with the DGT Journal, published approximately every two years and containing garden history related articles on people, sites, plants, buildings, conservation issues and similar of varying lengths. We are planning to publish Journal 6 in 2019 and those interested in contributing should contact the editor, Dr Clare Greener at [clrgreener276@gmail.com](mailto:clrgreener276@gmail.com).

There are other organizations in Devon which produce publications on matters historical. Authorship is not restricted to membership of the organizations concerned. So, for any budding authors, Dr Todd Gray has recently compiled a list of these organizations.

**Devon & Cornwall Notes & Queries** publishes two issues annually containing articles, queries, and reviews, up to 3,000 words, relating to the history, archaeology, biography and antiquities of the two counties.

Editor: John Draisey at [jdraisey@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jdraisey@hotmail.co.uk)

**Devon & Cornwall Record Society** publishes an annual volume of edited manuscripts. For contribution details see

<http://www.devonandcornwallrecordsociety.co.uk/p/editors.html>

General Editor: Professor Andrew Thorpe at [A.J.Thorpe@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:A.J.Thorpe@exeter.ac.uk)

**Devon Archaeological Society** publishes an annual volume of original articles (*Devon Archaeological Society Proceedings*) with no word limit, and also has an Occasional Papers and a Monograph series for longer contributions.

Editor: [dashonsec@devonarchaeologicalsociety.org.uk](mailto:dashonsec@devonarchaeologicalsociety.org.uk) or Devon Arch. Society, c/o Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Queen Street, Exeter, EX4 3RX

**Devon Buildings Group** publishes an annual volume of articles, up to 3,000 words, book reviews, notes and queries about the buildings of Devon.

Editor: Lizzie Induni at [lizzieinduni@gmail.com](mailto:lizzieinduni@gmail.com)

**Devon Family History Society** publishes a quarterly journal (*The Devon Family Historian*) in February, May, August and November of articles, notes and comments ideally about Devon people or places. Articles of 600-1,200 words are more easily and generally sooner placed than longer articles.

Editor: Sally Skilton at [Editor@devonfhs.org.uk](mailto:Editor@devonfhs.org.uk) or by post 2 Crockwells Close, Exminster, Exeter EX6 8DL

**Devon History Society** publishes an annual volume (*The Devon Historian*), containing original articles of approximately 4,000 words in length on any aspect of the county's history. Guidelines for contributors can be found by clicking on the link at

<http://www.devonhistorysociety.org.uk/journal/>

Editor: Mike Sampson at [mjs@blundells.org](mailto:mjs@blundells.org)

**Devonshire Association** publishes an annual volume (*Reports and Transactions of the Devonshire Association for the Advancement of Science, Literature and the Arts*) of edited original material normally up to 8,000 words. For further details see [www.devonassoc.org.uk](http://www.devonassoc.org.uk)

Editor: Professor Malcolm Hart at [M.Hart@plymouth.ac.uk](mailto:M.Hart@plymouth.ac.uk)

## Contacts

**Patron:** The Countess of Arran

**President:** Michael Hickson VMH

**Chairman:** Dianne Long

(01460 220810) email: [dianne\\_long.devongt@icloud.com](mailto:dianne_long.devongt@icloud.com)

**Honorary Treasurer:** Penny Hammond

(01626 368948) email: [penny.hammond2@btinternet.com](mailto:penny.hammond2@btinternet.com)

**Membership Secretary:** Shirley Tamblyn

(01626 888282) email: [shirley.tamblyn@gmail.com](mailto:shirley.tamblyn@gmail.com)

**Chair of Education Committee:** Iain Park

(01392 725531) email: [i.d.park@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:i.d.park@exeter.ac.uk)

**Chairman (interim) of Conservation Committee:** Dianne Long

(01460 220810) email: [dianne\\_long.devongt@icloud.com](mailto:dianne_long.devongt@icloud.com)

**Conservation Officer:** John Clark

(01392 873912) email: [jcgardenhistory@gmail.com](mailto:jcgardenhistory@gmail.com)

**Chairman of Research and Recording:** Barbie Moul

(07734 843972) email: [barbara.moul@googlemail.com](mailto:barbara.moul@googlemail.com)

**Chairman of Tree Register:** Marion Kneebone

(01566 784238) email: [marionkneebone@gmail.com](mailto:marionkneebone@gmail.com)

**Events Co-ordinator:** Post vacant

**Newsletter Editor:** Dianne Long

(01460 220810) email: [dianne\\_long.devongt@icloud.com](mailto:dianne_long.devongt@icloud.com)

## Devon Gardens Trust

### Registered Address

Exeter Community Centre, St David's Hill, Exeter, Devon, EX4 3RG

Company Registration No. 2277427 (Limited by Guarantee).

Charity Commission Registration No. 800540.

The Trust is a member of The Gardens Trust.

[www.devongardenstrust.org](http://www.devongardenstrust.org)

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