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Welcome to New Members

Susan Arnold, Maria Ashurst, Caroline Fox, David Lewis, Rosalys McNamara, Alexandra Michael, Corinne Michael, Lizzie Michael, Stuart Moul, Emily Panizzi, Ian and Joanna Panton, Gina Richards, Diana Walters and Goran Molin.

Condolences

We sadly report the death of Elsie Tongue and Sir John Cave. We offer our condolences to their families and friends.

Articles for inclusion in the next Newsletter should be sent to the Editor.
Copy deadline 4th January 2019.

Front cover: In the grounds of the University of Exeter © Dianne Long

From the Editor

As we move from a glorious summer into flaming autumn it is fitting to pause and reflect, whilst also looking to the future.

The theme of memorial features in articles on Exeter Dissenters Graveyard Trust and, marking one hundred years since the end of World War I, an overview of the National Memorial Arboretum by Anthony Pugh-Thomas. The latter is one of two articles in our collaboration with Somerset Gardens Trust, the other is by Clare Greener on icehouses, and both appear in the DGT and SGT Newsletters.

At the DGT AGM held at Powderham at the beginning of September, there was a lively and very constructive discussion prompted by the proposal to increase membership subscriptions and cease a life membership category for new members from April 2019. The proposal to increase subscriptions, aimed at maintaining subscription income in balance with the costs of membership services, was passed, but trustees will give further consideration to life membership in view of the useful comments and suggestions. Discussion ranged over a number of issues including encouraging more active volunteers, having more electronic communications and online event booking. Also, at the AGM the chairman outlined the strategy for the Trust developed by trustees over recent months (see page 4). There are some potentially exciting ideas to harness the tremendous wealth of expertise of DGT members to help in furthering the Trust's objectives, particularly in education and promotion; the more members who might be willing to give a little of their time, the bigger the impact we can have.

Welcome to new trustees Sarah Conibear and Shane Cormie, and to Marion Kneebone who has previously served on the Council of Management. We said au revoir, we hope, to Philip Darch and Ian Varndell who retired as trustees, both have served the Trust for many years, giving their time, energy and enthusiasm; we very much appreciate their commitment to and hard work for the Trust.

The events programme for the coming year has a slight, and unwitting, nineteenth century flavour with talks on the Cottage Orné, English Pleasure Grounds, and the work of George Stanley Repton in Devon, as well as looking at public parks at a time when financial constraints pose challenges for their management; and we give a preview of the visits for next spring and summer, some joint with neighbouring gardens trusts.

Dianne Long

Looking Ahead – DGT Strategy

DGT Council of Management has developed a strategy for the Trust for the next five to ten years, building on what has been achieved over the past thirty years. The strategy seeks to focus activity and make best use of the Trust's resources to promote and protect Devon's designed landscape heritage for future generations. Five interdependent strategic objectives have been agreed, and some of the specific objectives of each are detailed below.

Underlying the strategy is the aim of ensuring the charity's ongoing good governance and financial management to deliver its charitable objectives. For example, annual expenditure will be on a three-year rolling plan to predict better when expenditure (as opposed to commitment) might occur, and the aim will be to ensure that annual operational income and expenditure is in surplus such that investment income and fundraising is devoted to our charitable and strategic objectives. Projects and activity might be required to fund raise from sources other than DGT in order to achieve greater impact. The refined and quantified reserves policy was noted in the AGM papers.

There is some work to be done on the detail of the strategy, but there are potentially exciting and ambitious developments for the future. The more volunteers who become involved the more we can achieve.

Ensure that there is a body of knowledge on the historic designed landscapes in the county.

- Continue and expand research and recording, prioritizing sites at risk, under-researched, or currently omitted from both the DGT Gazetteer and Historic England Register.
- Increase the number of trees recorded (at least 50 per year).
- Look to maintaining a digital record of DGT's knowledge base.
- Promote awareness and increase understanding of Devon's historic designed landscapes through the DGT Journal and other publications.

Value our volunteers and members

- Deliver a programme of activities that increases their understanding, enjoyment of and engagement with Devon's designed landscape heritage.
- Make effective use of their knowledge, expertise and experience.
- Provide training to enhance their understanding and enjoyment.
- Communicate with our members regularly on DGT activities and other relevant matters of interest.

Protect the county's designed landscape heritage specifically that which might be at risk.

- Work with planners to ensure DGT is consulted on all planning issues affecting historic designed landscapes in the county to protect them from inappropriate development.
- Work with owners, managers and community groups by providing advice, facilitating contacts, potentially developing a network of gardeners working in the county's historic landscapes.
- Provide financial support to conservation projects in support of larger funding bids and/or to leverage other funding.
- Explore the potential of engaging DGT members and others in practical 'restoration support' for a conservation project.
- Propose sites to Historic England for inclusion on the Register particularly where they may be at risk.

Promote understanding of the county's designed landscape heritage and the role of DGT.

- Be proactive and strategic in promoting understanding of the importance of the designed landscape heritage to key groups.
- Be proactive in promoting DGT and its role in protecting Devon's designed landscape heritage – e.g. through DGT website, leaflet, display, social media, talks to other organization
- Liaise with other organizations
- Continue to develop links with other like-minded organizations, links with students, gardeners, head gardeners and estate owners/managers, seek to engage and utilize the expertise and experience of DGT members and others in support of DGT's education and conservation activities.

Promote and support education (primary, secondary and tertiary), life-long learning and continuing professional development in historic designed landscapes.

- Support Growing Devon Schools Partnership
- Seek where possible to promote the importance of education and careers in historic designed landscapes.
- Seek to increase understanding of designed landscape heritage through life-long learning and continuing professional development.
- Provide grants to individuals or projects which further the study of historic designed landscapes or the knowledge and experience of those working in Devon's historic designed landscapes.

The National Memorial Arboretum

Anthony Pugh-Thomas

In 1988 Commander David Childs CBE, a retired naval Commander, proposed that a national “Centre” for Remembrance should be created and, following a meeting with Group Captain Leonard Cheshire VC, an appeal was launched in 1994 by the Prime Minister, John Major. The project became a reality when it was agreed that the new site would be the location for The Armed Forces Memorial, that the Ministry of Defence would make a significant grant-in-aid to allow for free entry and that the Royal British Legion would accept the gift of a suitable site. The National Lottery provided 40% of the funds needed and this was supplemented by thousands of donations from a wide variety of organisations both military and civilian.

Lafarge Aggregates, part of the largest building materials group in the world, gave the new charity the 150 acres site on reclaimed gravel workings bordered by the rivers Trent and Tame at Alrewas, near Lichfield, Staffordshire. A Friends of the National Arboretum group was formed, and the planting of trees, that now



© Anthony Pugh Thomas

number 50,000, started in 1997 with the support of the Forestry Commission and the National Forest. The site includes a reed bed and wetland and now hosts a huge variety of wild plants and wildlife including brown hares, skylarks, otters, green woodpeckers, lapwings and many others.

Visitors enter through the Remembrance Centre, part of which is the Millennium Chapel of Peace and Forgiveness where an act of remembrance takes place each day at 11am accompanied by the Last Post and Reveille. Although there are many military memorials throughout the Arboretum visitors will also find many commemorating those who have died while on civil duty: close to the Centre there are gardens for Fire Rescue and Ambulance Services, the General Post Office and the Royal Artillery.

A wide pathway, flanked with Victoria Cross commemorative paving stones, leads to The Armed Forces Memorial that commemorates over 16,000 personnel who have lost their lives in a conflict or as a result of terrorism since the end of the Second World War. Throughout the grounds there are memorials dedicated to the main branches of the British and allied armed Forces (such as the Poles and the Royal Norwegian Navy), but also to individual regiments recording their battle honours, and to many other organisations such as The Association of Jewish ex-service men and women; the Boys' Brigade; the workers on the infamous Burma Railway and the Royal National Lifeboat Institute. One of the most dramatic is to the Polar Bear Association, a tribute to the 49th Infantry West Riding Division who in the Second World War were stationed in Iceland and because they were snowed in under 20 feet of snow were called by their commanding officer "his Polar Bears".



One of the most moving memorials is to those shot for desertion or cowardice in the First World War, often boys of 19 or 20, who, it is now accepted, were suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder and who were granted a posthumous pardon in 2006.

Photo © Anthony Pugh Thomas



There is a most unusual memorial to the Showmen's Guild who have raised thousands for charitable causes and many of whose members died during the national conflicts.

Photo © Anthony Pugh Thomas

Many of the memorials that relate to particular war zones are grouped together in separate garden settings – for example the Mediterranean garden for those involved in the defence of Malta, the storming of Monte Cassino and the Cyprus Emergency are commemorated.

Visitors to the Arboretum can join a guided walk, a buggy tour, a land train ride or a free talk, many often conducted by one of a team of over 260 volunteers. In 2010 the Volunteers were awarded The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service and in 2018 the Arboretum was awarded the Gold Large Visitor Attraction of the year in Visit England's Awards for Excellence.

The Arboretum has been planted with native species such as Black Poplar and the Service tree together with groups of trees from temperate regions such as North American Oaks that often have small plaques with details of their donors and those they are commemorating. There are stands of Douglas firs and Giant Redwoods. Although the trees are still young they already define certain areas; for example, a

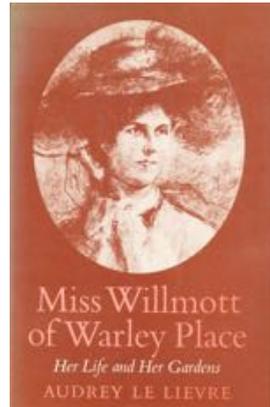


long avenue funded by all the Police forces of the United Kingdom is planted with Horse Chestnuts as the first police batons were made from that very durable wood. The Arboretum has formed a partnership with the Bedgebury Pinetum in Kent and hopes as the trees mature to offer seeds of threatened species such as the Grecian Fir and the Serbian Spruce to their native countries where their survival is at risk.

Miss Willmott and her Devon Biographer

A new biography of Ellen Willmott is in the offing and the author would like to reflect the contribution of her only biographer to date, Audrey Le Lievre, a DGT member who lived in Topsham and died in 2005.

Ellen Willmott was a prominent horticulturist, who, in 1897, was one of the first sixty recipients of the RHS Victoria Medal of Honour together with the likes of George Maries, Joseph Hooker, Henry Elwes and the only other woman, Gertrude Jekyll. She cultivated thousands of plants, developed three gardens– Warley Place in Essex, at Aix-les-Bains in France and Ventimiglia in Italy – and sponsored plant hunters. A number of plants are named after her, for example *Cerastigma willmottianum*, and *Eryngium* ‘Miss Willmott’s Ghost’ (syn. *Eryngium oliverianum* ‘Willmott’s Ghost’), whose seeds she reputedly scattered in the gardens of those she disliked.



Miss Willmott of Warley Place: her Life and Her Gardens by Audrey Le Lievre was published in 1980. Audrey’s painstaking research included personal stories from people who knew Ellen Willmott. The hunt is on to discover Audrey’s papers, and it has been suggested that they were deposited with a local museum or archive. If anyone has information or memories of Audrey Le Lievre. Please contact chair@devongardenstrust.org.uk and we will pass on to the author.

Picturesque Landscapes around the Clyde - 15 - 21 June 2019

At the end of the 17th century travellers were making a special journey to view the Falls of Clyde and Cora Linn, one of its spectacular waterfalls. Sublime and picturesque natural landscapes were recognised and valued in Scotland long before the enlightenment theorists of the mid 18th century became excited in England. This tour looks at romantic and Picturesque landscapes and gardens which sprang up around Glasgow taking advantage of both the sea and inland wild scenery. It will include New Lanark, Chatelherault in the Clyde Valley, Mount Stuart on the island of Bute, Kelburn Castle and Ardgowan looking west over the Firth of Clyde, Benmore botanic garden and Glenarn in Rhu, the newly restored Hermitage Park in Helensburgh and weather permitting a boat trip to Inchmahome on the Lake of Menteith, one of the most romantic of all picturesque island settings.

Walking may be strenuous and uneven in places on this tour. For further details please contact Kristina Taylor on wowkristina@hotmail.com

New life for an old burial ground

Ian Varndell

Hon. Treasurer, EDGT

When, in 2013, the DGT agreed to give a grant to help conserve the Dissenters' graveyard in Magdalen Street, there was little confidence that it would be saved from developers let alone that it would open its doors to the public some 160 years after it was closed to burials. The grant enabled the newly formed Exeter Dissenters' Graveyard Trust (EDGT) to leverage funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund and other donors amounting to almost £85K. A 4-year project ensued, involving several specialist contractors (stone masons, blacksmiths and builders with historic building experience) and almost 80 volunteers. Reports of the work have appeared in previous issues of the DGT Newsletter and progress has been recorded on the EDGT's website (www.edgt.org.uk) and its social media pages. Public support for the project, received principally at Open Days but also from visitors who "popped in" when the gates were unlocked during work sessions, has been overwhelmingly positive and the conservation work has attracted media attention with pieces on television, radio, online and in local newspapers.



© John Clark 2013

Although the graveyard is only around 1/6th acre in size, this has been a successful remediation of a historic landscape – once an eyesore, now an asset. It has demonstrated that several small groups (in this case the DGT, Exeter Civic Society, Exeter Historic Buildings Trust and St Leonard’s Neighbourhood Association formed the initial Steering Group) can work together as long as there is a shared vision and clear, but flexible, plan. Relatively small donations can be used as matched funding to convince larger bodies (such as HLF) to invest significant amounts of cash to achieve realistic goals. Communication is key. EDGT has done a great deal to involve the local community, ward councillors, and wider stakeholders using press releases, website and social media, interpretation boards, leaflets, seminars, talks by trustees and, most recently, a booklet (see enclosure) to publicise the relevance of the project and its progress; the importance of the graveyard and the 1500+ people buried there to the history of Exeter in the 18th and 19th centuries, and the significance of heritage assets in modern cityscapes.

The trustees of EDGT are very grateful to the DGT for both financial and physical support and hope that this will continue as the excitement of a conservation project transitions into a long-term sustainability project requiring landscape maintenance, routine repairs and general caretaking.



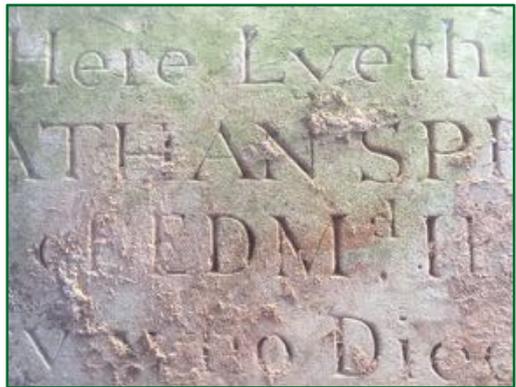
The mystery of Nathan Sprigg Jeffery

Ian M. Varndell

During the conservation work at the Exeter Dissenters' graveyard, stonemason Andy French noticed that one of the large stones he was replacing on a rebuilt tomb commemorating the Bielfeld family had an engraving on the undersurface. It was not possible to photograph the entire inscription, but we were able to crawl underneath and record it:

Here Lyeth the Body of
NATHAN SPRIGG JEFFERY
(So)n of EDM^d. JEFFERY of this
(C)ity Who Died JAN^y. Ye 5th 1756
Aged 9 Months

Analysis of the available burial records for the period 1748-1854 has revealed, sadly but perhaps unsurprisingly, that almost 20% of the 1500+ buried at the site were infants under the age of one year. Nathan Sprigg's father, Edmund Jeffery, was baptised at the Mint Meeting by Joseph Hallett on 16 October 1728. He was a Fuller and Hotpresser¹ who joined the Guild of Weavers, Tuckers and Shearmen in 1753 with premises in Baker Lane². Edmund served as Master of the Guild in 1787.



Part of the inscription on the underside of the stone. © Ian Varndell

Edmund married Mary Sprigg of St Martin's Exeter on 16 July 1754³. The witnesses were John Jerwood and James Bowden both of whom were later buried in the Dissenters' graveyard. Their first child, Nathan Sprigg Jeffery, was born in 1755 but no birth or baptism record has yet been found.

It is not known why the inscription to Nathan lies on the underside of the Bielfeld family tombstone as there does not appear to be a family connection.

It seems that someone, presumably the child's parents, considered having a walled grave and commissioned a stone inscribed with details of his short life. There is no mention that the child was buried in a walled grave or vault, and the

stone would probably not have been suitable to mark a simple earth grave. The engraving shows little or no weathering and the stone appears never to have been installed. Perhaps the stonemason was not paid for the work and he retained the inscribed slab, re-selling it to the Bielfeld's many years later, or maybe the family simply decided in the end not to mark their infant's resting place.



Andy French restoring the Bielfeld tomb.

It is intriguing that Nathan Sprigg Jeffery was buried in the Dissenters' graveyard and yet his parents and younger brother, who was also named Nathan Sprigg Jeffery⁴, were buried in St Lawrence's Church⁵. Was this a case of an unbaptised infant being denied burial in an Anglican churchyard, or did their friends John Jerwood and James Bowden (who was a schoolmaster at the Dissenting Charity School then situated in Paris Street) influence them? We will probably never know, but at least little Nathan is not forgotten.

References

1. The London Commercial Dictionary (1819) defines a hot-presser as someone who smoothes and folds woollen goods for sale; a fuller cleans and thickens wool.
2. Baker Lane no longer exists but would have been close to the current Cathedral Yard.
3. Find My Past accessed 30 September 2016.
4. In the 17th and 18th centuries it was not unusual for children to be named after a deceased sibling or relative (known as necronyms).
5. St Lawrence Churchwardens Account Book. DHC 300A/PW/1 page 33 (Easter 1799-Easter 1800). St Lawrence's Church was severely damaged during the bombing raid on 4 May 1942 and was demolished shortly afterwards. The Church was located on the High Street close to Castle Street.

Looking for a new home

4.5 m. of box hedge, height 40cm.

Ring 01395 232318 to offer to dig up and take away!

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

Cottages Ornés

Talk by Roger White with associated guided walk around the cottages ornés of Sidmouth. A joint event with the Sid Vale Association.

Wednesday 14th November 2018 Guided Walk by Nigel Hyman at 11 am starting from the Sidmouth Museum, Church Street, Sidmouth, EX10 8LY.

Talk at 2.30 pm at the Manor Pavillion, Manor Road, Sidmouth, EX10 8RP

Cost: £5



Despite the rather French name, the cottage orné is an architectural genre invented in England in the middle years of the 18th century. It spread rapidly to other parts of the British Isles and then to the Continent before arriving on distant shores such as Cape Colony, Australia, New Zealand and the United States. Uniquely, it spans the entire

social spectrum, from little cottages for members of the working class right up to large and elaborate examples for royalty. The heyday was the late-Georgian period, and Sidmouth is arguably now the best place in which to sample this delightful episode in Georgian taste. Roger White is a professional architectural historian specialising in the Georgian period, and his definitive book on cottages ornés



was published in 2017 to uniformly warm reviews.

Nigel Hyman, DGT member, has lived in Sidmouth since 2006, is curator of the Sidmouth Museum, leads town walks, gives talks and writes articles about the town.

An invitation to join members of the Somerset Gardens Trust.

Following in the Footsteps of Wilson in China

Talk by Tony Kirkham, Head of Arboretum at the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew.

Thursday 15th November 2018 at 6 pm

Williams Hall, Dark Lane, Stoke St Gregory, Taunton, TA3 6EH

Tickets £15 includes tea/coffee and biscuits.

Please apply to Mrs S Hatherell, Moolham Mill, Ilminster TA19 0PD.

Tel 01460 52834. Email: suehatherell@btinternet.com

Tony Kirkham and his team manage some 14,000 trees. He has been on plant-collecting expeditions in East Asia, including South Korea, the Russian Far East, China and Japan, and recently featured in a television programme talking trees with Dame Judi Dench.

Payment may be made by cheque made out to ‘Somerset Gardens Trust’ or by bank transfer Sort Code: 20-85-26, Account Number: 90818224. Please add DGS & Your Surname as a reference.

Great Trees in the Clyst Valley Photography Competition Trees Four Seasons www.clysttrees.org.uk/competition

Send your photographs of the beauty of trees in East Devon’s Clyst Valley to jfreeman@eastdevon.gov.uk for the chance to have your photo made into a professional postcard.

Entry deadlines:

Autumn 1 December 2018, Winter 1 March 2019, Spring 1 June 2019

DGT is supporting the Great Trees in the Clyst Valley project. For more information go to <https://www.clystgreattrees.org.uk/projects/clyst-valley-regional-park/>

Christmas Lecture and Lunch

In Praise of Head Gardeners: the under-appreciated guardians of British (horti)culture

Talk by Ambra Edwards

Tuesday 4th 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 Non-members/Guests Includes refreshments on arrival, talk, three-course lunch, glass of wine/soft drink.

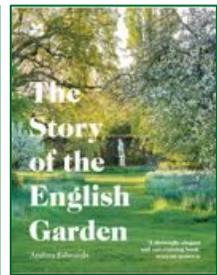
‘It’s difficult to imagine a class of people who have such tremendous skills, who contribute so much to society, and who are so thoroughly undervalued.’ *Mike Calnan, Head of Gardens, National Trust*



Ambra Edwards is an award-winning writer with a special interest in garden history. Three times named the Garden Media Guild’s Journalist of the Year, her work appears regularly in the *Daily Telegraph*, the *Guardian* and all the leading garden journals. Ambra has written and contributed to a number of books, notably *Head Gardeners*, published to widespread acclaim in 2017 and voted Inspirational Book of the Year. Her *Story of the English Garden*, a popular history written for the National

Trust, was published this summer, while a worldwide history is due for publication next year. She lives on Dorset’s Jurassic coast, where her ramshackle garden keeps a large population of local wildlife well fed.

Ambra will be bringing copies of her books for sale – a great Christmas present!



Bring and Buy Book Stall to be held at the Christmas Lunch

The proceeds of all books donated for sale will go to DGT conservation and education work. Bring your unwanted garden history, horticultural, and related gardening books.

Public Paradise - the story of the public parks renaissance and its uncertain future.

Talk by David Lambert.

Tuesday 29th January 2019 at 2 pm

at Southernhay Church Hall, Dix's Field, Exeter, EX1 1QA

Cost: £12 DGT Members £15 Non-members/Guests Includes refreshments.

This talk will tell the story of our wonderful heritage of nineteenth-century public parks. From their origins in the nineteenth century, through their decline in the late 1970s and 80s, their renaissance funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, to their now uncertain future. Director of the Parks Agency, David Lambert has been involved in the campaign for public parks since the 1990s. In 1993, he co-authored one of the earliest reports on the state of parks and has been an adviser to the HLF since 1996. He wrote two books on the parks of Bristol and Weston-super-Mare and was part of the team which carried out the survey of public parks and gardens in London which has now become www.londongardensonline.org.uk. Most recently he edited the Gardens Trust report, *Uncertain Prospects; public parks in the new age of austerity*, 2017.



Save our Parks

The Mail on Sunday has launched a campaign to save Britain's parks and has an online petition seeking to ring-fence funding for parks, provide a legal duty for all green space to be managed to a good standard, new rules to ban development or inappropriate use of parkland, and the provision of an emergency fund to help parks most at risk.

Have a look at <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/229894>

Exploring the English Pleasure Grounds, 1800-1840

Talk by Dr Jane Bradney.

Tuesday 26 February 2019 at 2 pm

at Southernhay Church Hall, Dix's Field, Exeter, EX1 1QA

Cost: £12 DGT Members £15 Non-members/Guests Includes refreshments.

This talk takes a look at what was happening in English Pleasure Grounds during the early decades of the 19th century. Years that tend to fall betwixt and between the influential titles published by Mark Laird (*Flowering of the Landscape Garden 1720-1800*) and Brent Elliott (*Victorian Gardens*). The years in which the economic pendulum swung from Napoleon's embargo of British ports to the decadence of George IV's coronation. A time when pleasure grounds were responding to an increasing range of imported exotics successfully tended by ever more skilful nurserymen and commented on by a new band of horticultural journalists.



Jane Bradney is a freelance garden historian. Her focus being the first half of the 19th century. In 2012 she co-authored with Tim Mowl the twelfth volume in the Historic Gardens of England series devoted to her adopted home county of Herefordshire. She has written about the garden works of Sir Charles Barry, Humphry Repton, John Nash, and the Victorian gardener, Donald Beaton. In 2012 she became Archivist to the Enville and Stalybridge estates. She also teaches Garden History at the Institute of Historical Research within the University of London.

Pleasure ground: A phrase commonly used in the eighteenth century for a designed area, usually, but not exclusively, close to the house with cultivated lawns, ornamental plantings and architecture, intended for enjoying on foot, in contrast to the less intensively planted and managed park which was designed to be experienced on horseback or from a carriage. Although the term 'pleasure garden' was sometimes interchangeable with pleasure ground, it also referred specifically to the private commercial gardens, like Vauxhall and Ranelagh in London, that from the mid seventeenth to mid nineteenth centuries became a popular socially diverse meeting place with entertainments, fireworks and spectacle.

Those Arts which have given celebrity to the name of Repton': the work of George Stanley Repton in Devon

Talk by Dr Rosemary Yallop

Thursday 28th March 2019 at 2.30 pm

Southernhay Church Hall, Dix's Field, Exeter, EX1 1QA

Cost: £12 DGT members £15 Non-members/Guests Includes refreshments.

2018 has been the celebration of two hundred years since the death of Humphry Repton with many events throughout the country. However, the work of Humphry Repton's sons is rather less well known than that of their father, but DGT member and architectural historian, Dr Rosemary Yallop, has been researching the work of George Stanley Repton in Devon and finding some interesting connections. He was an architect who initially worked with John Nash, with commissions in Devon including Kitley, Peamore and Sandridge. Later in the summer there will be a visit to Sandridge Park. (More details in next DGT Newsletter.)

A Date for the Diary

An Exploration of Endsleigh

Saturday 18th May 2019 11.30 am to 4.30 pm

A special day at Repton's great creation on the River Tamar with Keir Davidson and Ben Ruscombe-King. Keir Davidson is the author of *Woburn Abbey: the Park and Gardens*, who is currently working on a biography of the sixth Duke and Duchess of Bedford, the builders of Endsleigh. Ben Ruscombe-King, Endsleigh's head gardener has been rediscovering and renovating areas of the garden. A joint event with Cornwall Gardens Trust.

Talk, two-course lunch, guided tour, tea and biscuits.

Cost: £40 DGT and CGT members £45 Non-members/Guests

Some Highlights for Summer 2019

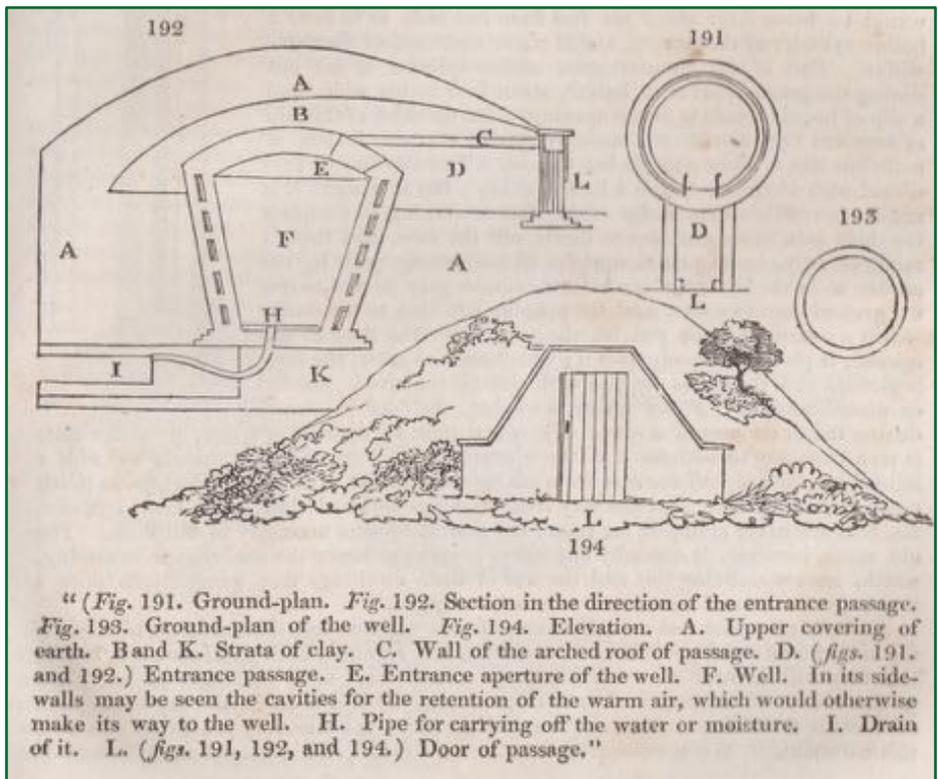
- Private Tour of Tiverton Castle and Grounds with owner (and DGT member) Alison Gordon.
- Sandridge Park by kind permission of Dr Rosemary and Mr Mark Yallop.
- St Brannocks, Braunton, with its amazing glasshouse, by kind permission of Mr and Mrs Smith-Bingham.

Icehouses of the South-West

Dr Clare Greener

Before refrigeration ice was important in the storage and preservation of food, for cooling drinks and for the creation of luxury iced sweets such as sorbet and ice cream. From the seventeenth century there were purpose-built icehouses in Britain for commercial use, and by the eighteenth century, owners of estates built icehouses on their land. These were a statement of wealth as there was a substantial investment in building materials as most were sited underground with thick walls and drainage at the bottom of a deep pit.

John Claudius Loudon, in his *Encyclopaedia of Gardening* of 1822, suggested that for even a small icehouse it was necessary for it to be at least six feet in diameter and up to ten feet deep. Usually a mound was built above the pit to provide insulation, covered further with earth, and an entrance with a double door system to help keep



From: J. C. Loudon, *An Encyclopaedia of Gardening* (London, 1822), p. 383.

the ice cold. Not all icehouses were built to this design and some were incorporated into other buildings such as under the Dairy at Endsleigh, Milton Abbot, or under the octagonal game larder at Coryton Park, Kilmington, both in Devon. At Halswell Park, Somerset, the icehouse is in the mound surmounted by the rotunda built in the mid-eighteenth century.



Mamhead icehouse with mansion just visible in background Photo © Dianne Long

Ice was obtained from nearby shallow ponds, often specially constructed and kept clear of

plants and wildlife. It was one of the annual winter tasks of the gardeners and estate labourers to fill the ice house, especially as winter was generally a quiet period. At Killerton, in 1809, it took thirty men more than five days to fill the new ice house which was built the previous year under the guidance of John Veitch. Ice was broken and dragged to the side of the pond with long hooks. The aim was to carry up to one ton of ice per day over a period of three to four days, which was heavy



Tapeley Park, showing the entrance leading to the curved dome. Photo: © Carolyn Keep

and cold work, however the men were rewarded by additional wages and cider or beer. Ice was shovelled down into the icehouse and packed down tightly or left to settle under its own weight. The more tightly packed the ice, the longer it took to thaw. A thick layer of straw or sawdust was then placed over the ice as insulation. A well-stocked ice house could keep the ice frozen for two to three years, so a mild winter did not mean an estate would run out of ice.

From the end of the nineteenth century icehouses were more frequently filled with ice from refrigerated ships transporting ice from North America or Norway, rather than from an estate source. It was only when refrigerators became more popular that the icehouse declined in use. Some were reused for other purposes such as

cold storage for game or for a rubbish tip, others were dismantled or were simply left to decay. The former icehouse at Avishays, Chaffcombe, Somerset, of unusual cruciform plan internally whilst octagonal externally seems to have become a summerhouse.

As most icehouses were underground, they have been easily lost or forgotten. Sometimes the only sign that an icehouse still exists is a mound, frequently covered with scrub and trees; although once cleared it is obvious that the mound concealed an ice house.

Provisional lists have been compiled for known icehouses in the region. However, there is little information available even about the icehouses that we know still exist. Research into these garden features could be the basis of a regional project in the future.

Icehouses in Devon

Bicton: at side of 'Italian garden'.

Buckland Filleigh House, Buckland Filleigh: no longer there [sale catalogue, 1864].

Castle Hill, Filleigh: 1790, icehouse set into a hillside known as Ice House Hill; gone.

Combe House, Gittisham: 18th century, 250 metres east of house.

Coryton Park, Kilmington: octagonal game larder over ice house.

Court Hall Farmhouse, Hockworthy: late 18th century.

Dartington: remnant.

Endsleigh, Milton Abbot: Dairy, with icehouse and salmon larder below, (Wyatt, c1814).

Escot Park, Talaton: early 19th century, Grade II.

Glenthorne, Countisbury: remains of.

Greenway: elliptical-shaped pool possibly re-uses structure of previous icehouse.

Halsdon, Dolton:

Hazelwood, Hennock: buried in north-west corner.

Hembury Fort House: 'icewell' [sale catalogue, 1923].

Holcombe Court, Holcombe Rogus: recently excavated.

Killerton, Broadclyst: restored. 183 metres west-north-west of house. Built into hillside, brick-lined, constructed c1808 under guidance of John Veitch. Large enough to store 40 tons of ice.

Lew Manor, Lew Trenchard: cylindrical icehouse.

Lyneham House, Yealampton: 170 metres east-south-east of house, vaulted, 18th century, Grade II.

Mamhead Park, Kenton: 90 metres south-east of the church, circular, domed roof, 18th century, Grade II.

Icehouses in Devon continued

Maristow House: in East Wing section.

Membland Hall, Holberton:

Oldstone Hall, Blackawton: Possible icehouse or boathouse, late 18th century, Grade II

Parke House, Teignbridge: Cooling house, early to mid-19th century.

Salston House, Ottery St Mary: vestiges of.

Stover, Teigngrace: 80 metres north-west of Higher Lodge, built c1780, Grade II.

Tapeley Park, Westleigh: 150 metres east of the house, late 18th, early 19th century, Grade II.

Thornham House, Ermington: 19th century. Built attached to west end of north side of Thornham Bridge.

Ugbrooke: late 18th century ice house known as 'old lime kiln'.

Weare Gifford Hall, Weare Gifford: brick ice house survives.

Wylam House, The Lincombes, Torquay: 'tunnel' [sale catalogue, 2007].

Icehouses in Somerset

Babington, Kilmersdon: to south-west of house, 18th century, Grade II listed.

Chaffcombe: Possibly 18th century

Crowcombe Court: remains of by stream, 150 metres north of house, late 18th century.

Dillington House, Ilminster

Halswell Park: icehouse under mid-18th century rotunda, Grade II listed.

Hatch Court, Hatch Beauchamp

Lydeard House

Marston House, Selwood: built c1740

Montacute House, Montacute: in north-west corner of the garden.

Nynehead Court, Nr. Wellington

Orchard Wyndham

Shapwick House: with domed roof, late 18th century, Grade II listed.

Standerwick Court: North side of house, mid-18th century.

Calling all Authors - DGT Journal 6

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 an article should contact the editor, Dr Clare Greener at clrgreener276@gmail.com.

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Charity Commission Registration No. 800540.

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