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### Welcome to New Members

Henry Weekes and Georgina Richards, Caroline Wood, Margaret (Val) Anderson, Caroline Bell, Mark and Suzanne Darley, Annie Earle, Jane Elliott and Jon Lawrence, Charlotte Grezo and David Wilson, Susan Harwood, Linda Jameson, Suzanne Jones, John and Sarah Maunder, Andrew McKeon and Hilary Neville, Jenny Ridd, Alison Thomas.

### Condolences

Sadly we record the deaths of Lady Anne Berry and Veronica Chesher. We send our condolences to their family and friends.

**Articles** for inclusion in the next Newsletter should be sent to the Editor. Copy deadline 30<sup>th</sup> March 2020.

*Front cover:* The restored Victorian fountain in the oval rose garden at the Tracey Estate. Photo © John Clark.

A warm welcome to 2020.

We are thrilled that April Marjoram's book *W. J. Godfrey (1858-1927) Exmouth Horticulturist*, was published just before Christmas. It is the culmination of painstaking research and gives fascinating insight into the life of a nationally renowned horticulturist and prominent Exmouth citizen. (See p. 4)

The Trust has recently received a legacy from John Wilson who died in 2019. John Wilson was an architect and a member of the Trust, known particularly to those involved in conservation for his long-term interest in and his extensive research on the Singer family and Oldway Mansion, Paignton. The bequest to the Trust is for conservation with specific reference to the Oldway landscape that was designed by Achille Duchêne. The Trust will be considering how best to use the funds.

This issue gives details of all the events through to June, including a potential coach trip to Caerhays timed, weather permitting, to enjoy magnolias and camellias. Booking for all events is now available online via the DGT website or direct via Eventbrite. If you can, please do book this way as it saves administration for our volunteers and saves you a cheque and postage.

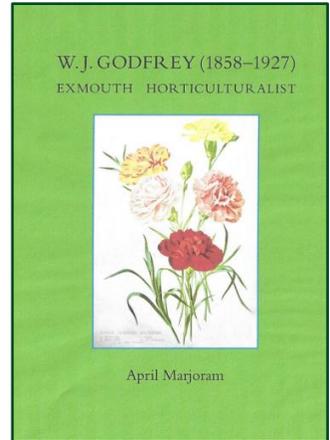
We are sad to record the passing of two founder members of the Trust, Lady Anne Berry and Veronica Chesher.

Lady Anne Berry (1919-2019) died in September three months before her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. She created the original eight acres of gardens surrounding the house at Rosemoor where she established unusual trees, collections of Hollies (*Ilex*) and Dogwoods (*Cornus*), and started a small nursery. She was a founder member of the NCCPG (now Plant Heritage) and for some years was chair of the International Dendrology Society. In 1988 she offered Rosemoor to the RHS and in 1990 went to live in New Zealand with her husband, fellow dendrologist, Bob Berry who had established Hackfalls Arboretum near Gisborne.

Veronica Chesher, who died in January 2020, was a member of the Trust's first council of management. Veronica's academic interest was in the vernacular architecture of Devon and Cornwall and she was a tutor in the Extra Mural Studies Department of the University of Exeter in the 1970s and 1980s. She assisted Todd Gray with DGT's publication, *The Garden History of Devon*, and Todd recalled that she was a keen gardener, 'it was from her love of plants that she became involved in the creation of the Devon Gardens Trust. She worked closely with Mary Clarke and was supportive of moves to undertake original research into the history of Devon's historic gardens.'

## New DGT Book Published – *W. J. Godfrey (1858-1927) Exmouth Horticulturist* by April Marjoram

Devon Gardens Trust has published a new book, *W. J. Godfrey (1858-1927) Exmouth Horticulturist* by DGT member April Marjoram. This traces the life of William Godfrey, a horticulturist and nurseryman of national renown who also played a prominent part in the civic life of Exmouth, including campaigning for allotments. He introduced some 200 new varieties of chrysanthemums, regal and show pelargoniums, oriental poppies and Canterbury bells, exhibited at shows around the country and won many national prizes. Godfrey was a contributor to gardening journals, involved for many years with education in the town and a member of the Council, including being Chairman of Exmouth Urban District Council. The book is an interesting glimpse into the life of the time. It has been meticulously researched and includes a list of Godfrey's plant introductions together with description, the majority were named after family, friends and local gentry and aristocratic garden owners.



April Marjoram retired to Exmouth in 2004 having been a senior lecturer at Bournemouth University. She has a deep, abiding interest in the history of the town and during the last ten has researched the lives of notable Exmouth people. Articles by April have been published by The History of Parliament, The Devonshire Association, The Devon History Society, Devon Gardens Trust and The Environment Agency. Several years ago she offered to help on a Devon History Society WWI project to research RHS expert advisors whose role was, 'to serve on the local food production committees, to give expert advice to allotment holders, cottagers etc and to lecture on food cultivation.' William Godfrey was one of those individuals. 'I am fascinated by those who are experts in their field,' explained April, 'so W J Godfrey was an attractive proposition and fairly early on I came across a quote from one of his contemporaries which said that Godfrey had 'a quality of fearless outspokenness', from that point on, nothing would stop my investigation!'

Details of the book launch will be available soon, but copies are available to purchase, priced £6.99 plus £1.99 postage and packing per copy.

# Great Trees in the Clyst Valley - A Celebration

Richard Soans

Great Trees in the Clyst Valley is a partnership of nine organizations encouraging the public to explore, record and restore the heritage of trees in fields, hedges, parks and orchards across parishes in the Clyst Valley of East Devon.

The Clyst Valley is in the midst of a rapidly growing population east of Exeter, including the new town of Cranbrook. Whilst some parts of the valley are well known, for example Killerton House and Park, others are inaccessible and await discovery. The partnership will help to define an ambitious 25 year vision for the fledgling Clyst Valley Regional Park whose aims are to

- link up existing rights of way and create new trails, giving people access to the countryside
- create new accessible, high-quality green spaces to take recreational pressure off our most precious European habitats and species
- strengthen the landscape through the restoration of wildlife-rich habitats such as native trees, hedges, parklands, orchards, and wetlands
- restore and provide access to the built heritage
- create new educational and visitor facilities so that people can enjoy and understand the countryside

The Great Trees project, which received some funding from DGT, has already achieved much through involving the local communities; all ages from small children upwards. The volunteers have recorded hundreds of ancient trees for the national Ancient Tree Inventory maintained by the Woodland Trust. They have surveyed thirteen historic Clyst Valley orchards for the People's Trust for Endangered Species and last winter seventy volunteers and sixty two primary school children planted three new woodlands. This was a total of 1.38 hectares and 2700 native trees and shrubs.

A celebration was held at Poltimore House at which Jon Freeman, the project officer, outlined all the achievements of the project so far. He also announced that they had obtained further funding for another six months. I found his talk and all the work that has been done inspiring and was glad that the DGT had been able to support the project. Jon's talk was followed by the most excellent tea. A truly magnificent array of sandwiches, cakes and other delights. After much eating and socialising Caradoc Doy led us outside to look at some of the magnificent trees at Poltimore. Just as the walk concluded it began to rain. Driving home along the A38 in an absolute downpour was not the perfect end to a very enjoyable afternoon.

# The Tracey Estate

John Clark

The Tracey Estate dates back to the twelfth century when part of Ivedon Manor passed through marriage to William de Tracy (one of the four knights who, at the instigation of Henry II, assassinated Thomas a Becket), and was renamed Tracey Hayes. In the eighteenth century a house was dramatically sited on the hillside with extensive views over the Otter Valley and was subsequently enlarged. The estate had several owners including one who engaged Luccombe, Pince and Co. of Exeter to redesign the gardens, but after World War II death duties unfortunately absorbed funds which could have been used for repairs to the house. Tracey House was left empty and decaying for many years, finally being demolished as a dangerous structure in 2003. The important inter-relationship between the house and its grounds has been lost, but the grounds remain as a designed landscape of considerable significance within the Blackdown Hills AONB. Tracey Estate is on the Devon Gazetteer of Parks and Gardens of Local Historic Interest.

The original formal terrace below where the house once stood remains and a lower terrace overlooks the parkland with its many fine specimen trees, including Wellingtonias, Sequoias and Lucombe Oaks. The carriage drive from the lodge survives, as do the secondary entrance piers and gates to the west of the house. To the east is a woodland garden with rides, specimen trees and at a much lower level than the house, a charming formal oval garden with a large Victorian fountain.

In 2011 the Furnival family inherited the estate and started an ambitious project to restore the garden and parkland. The original walks and rides through the garden were identified and have been opened up, large areas of laurel and *Rhododendron ponticum* have been removed, the long flight of steps down to the formal oval garden has been rebuilt, a Yew circle has been restored, and a long section of the walls to the large walled kitchen garden has been rebuilt. Two natural pools have been uncovered, one to collect the water, the other for bathing. Devon Garden Trust awarded a grant towards the restoration of the



The Victorian fountain and pool prior to restoration. Photo © John Clark.

Victorian fountain that is the centrepiece of the formal garden which now provides a romantic setting for many a wedding. The Furnivals are continuing with their plans to restore the Tracey Estate and DGT members will have the opportunity to learn more and explore the extent of the restoration during a visit in May.



The oval garden with original poles that held festoons of roses and the restored Victorian fountain and pool. In the foreground the top of the steep flight of steps that has also been carefully restored. Photo © John Clark.

## Mapping the city's trees

A new project has been launched by Exeter City Council working with Treeconomics, a group based at the University of Exeter, to map Exeter's current tree canopy. The city of Exeter has higher than average tree coverage, put at 24.5% when last mapped in 2006, but it is suspected that has declined slightly. Tree pests and diseases, increasing development and climate change are potential threats. The long-term aim is to create a sustainable Urban Forest which benefits the local economy. The project is involving volunteers who are helping with the surveying.



Ludwell Valley Park in Exeter.  
Photo © ECC.

## Growing Devon Schools

With funding from DGT, Awards for All and the Ernest Cook Trust, Growing Devon Schools Partnership(GDSP) has had a very successful year, potentially reaching over 10,000 pupils across Devon.

The aim of GDSP is to support teachers to develop and deliver outdoor learning related to the school curriculum that helps to inspire the next generation of gardeners, food growers and farmers. It does this through a programme of free training for teachers, teaching assistants and school volunteers. GDSP was established in 2013 and throughout 2019 delivered a series of training sessions for teachers, other school staff and volunteers. The training provides practical skills and ideas for use in school gardens, for growing food and enhancing wildlife friendly environments.



Photo © GDSP.

The team organised fourteen events, raised both the numbers of individuals and schools engaged, as well as the depth of engagement, with many people attending multiple training days, building their confidence and skills. More than fifty schools and eighty people have been involved during the year and it has been estimated that the impact of GDSP training could reach up to 10203 pupils across Devon. (Estimate based on the number of pupils enrolled in the schools that have engaged with GDSP activities.)



Photo © GDSP.

GDSP ran four Forum days at Farms for City Children at Nethercott House, Whipton Barton Primary School, Holsworthy, and Foxhole Community Garden, Dartington; Twilight sessions in each of three terms at Okehampton, Teignmouth, Colyton, Exeter, Widecombe, and an additional one at St John's Primary, Totnes. They held a session on sustainability for trainee teachers from Exeter University and a

continuing professional development training session at Exeter Symposium. The content of the events has included seed sowing and learning about seeds; making paper pots; pricking out and watering; propagating, growing and using herbs, including making tea bags and lavender bags; gardening for wildlife; harvesting and enterprise projects; seed saving, composting and harvest festivals – as well as creating inspiring school gardens and responding to specific questions and topics as they arise.



Photo © GDSP.

They participated in various other conferences like the Peninsula Research in Outdoor Learning conference, Plymouth; SOLID (Sustainable Outdoor Learning in Devon) conference, Buckfast; Devon Development Education/ International Tree Foundation training day; Healthy Food, People and Planet, and a Training Course delivered by THRIVE on social and therapeutic horticulture for children and young people. Workshops were delivered for up to 50 students for Devon Youth Parliament.

Throughout the year GDSP has worked with several ways to build peer to peer support groups between schools, which has included building on the Facebook Group with regular posts and increasing membership to 205 members, setting up a What'sApp group, creating an interactive email list through which participants can share ideas and ask and respond to one another.

# Poltimore Gardens and Park, Development between the 1680s and 1830s

Ted Hitchings, Poltimore Estate Research Society

One of the major areas of interest of the Poltimore Estate Research Society (PERS), which exists to promote the study of the history of Poltimore House, a Grade II\* listed building on Exeter's north-eastern edge, and of the estate previously owned by the Poltimores, is the history of its gardens and park. The story of Poltimore House itself is in Jocelyn Hemming's book *The House that Richard Built* (2013). Changes during the nineteenth century swept away much of the earlier gardens, roads and outbuildings, as well as substantially enlarging the park. These works began with the implementation of a 'bypass' plan of January 1835, and, apart from an adjustment at the southern end to accommodate the M5, this established the route of the current road from West Clyst to Poltimore village.<sup>1</sup>

This article examines the changes to the gardens and park over some 150 years from circa 1680 to circa 1830 and is based on some useful sources of information in the form of drawings and maps, in particular the Ordnance Survey Surveyors' Drawing (OSD) of 1801. The Poltimore Estate Research Society (PERS), with the support of the Devon Gardens Trust, has supplemented these sources with a small archaeological project, as well as taking account of geophysical surveys and other evidence collected as part of the Poltimore Community Landscape Project that ran for two years from 2010.

Development and change at Poltimore was always intimately associated with the fortunes and enthusiasms of the Bampfylde family, later ennobled as the Lords Poltimore. The evidence, supported by family history, suggests a burst of development and redevelopment in the late seventeenth century. After the Civil

War the second baronet, Sir Coplestone Bampfylde, inherited money from his mother's estates in Plymouth, as well as lands in North Molton, Poltimore and Somerset. He succeeded his father at the age of about eighteen in 1651, a young man with plenty of money who liked spending it.

Sir Coplestone Bampfylde died in February 1692. His eldest son Colonel Hugh Bampfylde had died in a riding accident only a year or two



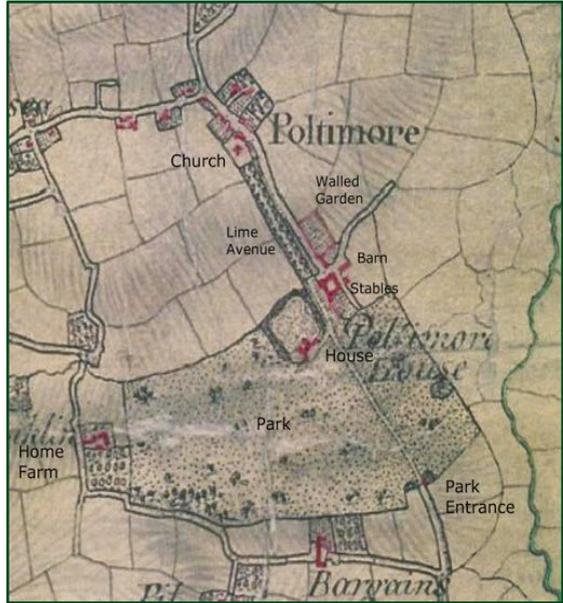
Close to the southern end of the road are the re-sited 'bowles' (carved granite pillars), one bearing the date 1681, a key date in this account. Photo © Ted Hitchings.

before, so that his heir was his grandson, three year old Coplestone Warwick Bampfylde. It is reasonable to assume that all major projects came to an end at least until his heir came of age. Indeed, little of significance appears to have happened to the park and gardens for the next 140 years. It is known that Sir Coplestone made many improvements to the house, rebuilt the staircase in the turret, raised the level of the first floor in the north range, refurbished some of the rooms. He may also have made changes to roads, stables, other ancillary buildings and the gardens.

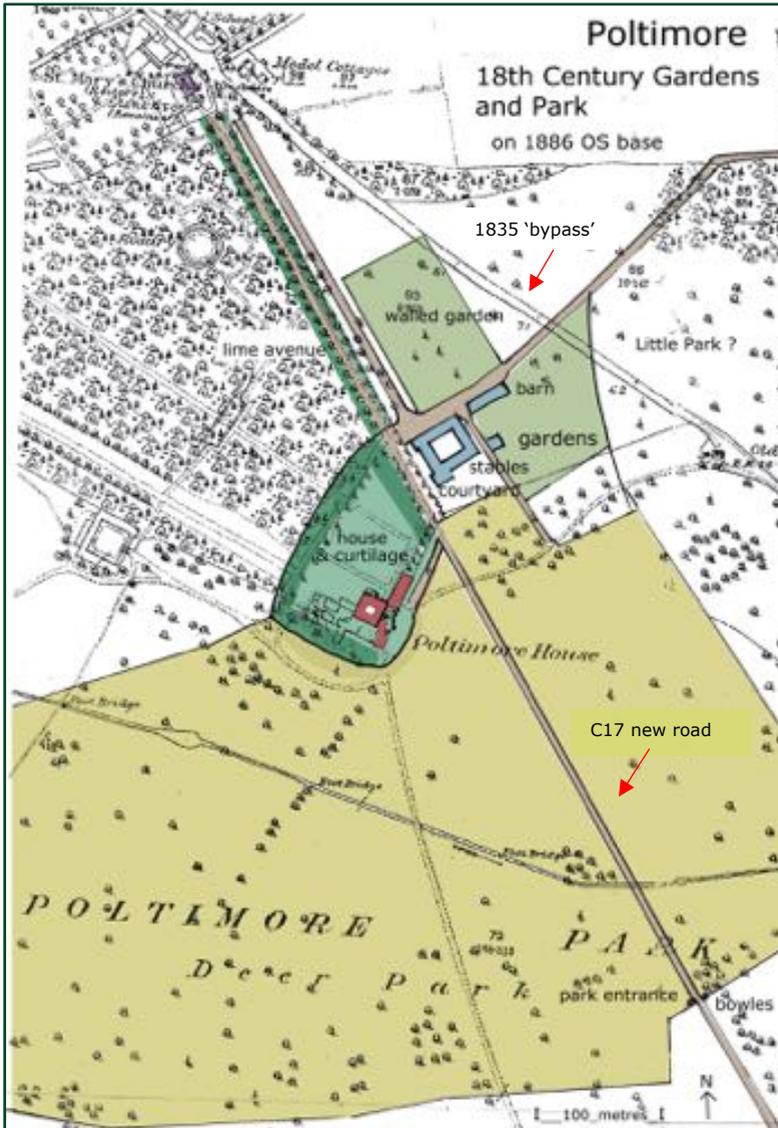
The most comprehensive guide to the layout of the house and gardens at the end of the eighteenth century, is

the Ordnance Survey Surveyor's Drawing by Thomas Budgen dated 1801. It is followed by the same plan superimposed on the second edition Ordnance Survey 1:2500 scale plan, based on the 1886 survey.

Prior to 1835, the primary road access to Poltimore House from Exeter via Pinhoe, ran directly across the park and gardens, terminating at the edge of Poltimore churchyard. There was a short link from it to the rear (south side) of the house. Running straight for over 1 kilometre, with no deviation to take account of any existing buildings, the only section of this road still visible is the length through the northeast edge of the gardens. The final 300 metres of this section is now an avenue lined by lime trees. Current thinking is that this road was constructed circa 1675-80 and that its construction was commemorated by the pair of 'bowles' one dated 1681. Previous access to the house and village from Exeter is thought to have followed one or more routes on higher ground to the southwest, less direct but avoiding marshy ground. It is likely that these 'bowles' would have been sited at the new entrance to the original park, which was then about 400 metres southeast of the house near the crest of a low ridge. This entry point is shown on the 1801 OS drawing, including a red dot indicating some kind of built structure on the east side, possibly a lodge.



Ordnance Survey Surveyor's Drawing for Bickleigh by Thomas Budgen, 1801. British Library. Built structures are in red and key features are identified.



Ordnance Survey First Edition, scale 1:2500 based on the 1886 survey. With overlay. Devon Heritage Centre.

The 1801 plan, combined with the 1835 plan for the new 'bypass', shows that the stables for the house, the kitchen gardens (including a walled garden) and ancillary buildings were to the northeast of the road leading to the church. From the stable yard, a link to the village ran parallel to the spine road, leaving the final 300 metres of that road as a formal approach to the church. Although the 1835 road plan was

inaccurate in plotting features distant from the new road line, its plan of the pre-1835 stables, barn and gardens, was very similar to the 1801 OSD. The road plan also had the advantage of identifying the uses. The 1835 bypass cut across part of an area of about 20 acres with a parkland character, much of which may have been used as a grazing area for the horses (there are documentary references to 'Little Park' that may refer to it). This area and fields to the northeast were accessed by a track at right angles to the late seventeenth century spine road, as shown on the OSD and the tithe map of 1838.<sup>2</sup> The geophysics undertaken for the Community Landscape Project broadly confirms the road route across the park and the features in the fields to the northeast of the house. A small archaeological investigation by the same project identified the old road close to where it crosses the existing access road to the house.

It is significant that the orientation of the stables, other buildings and gardens that adjoin it, all reflect the route of the spine road. This strongly suggests that these were either contemporary with or later than the late seventeenth century new road.

No documentary evidence has been discovered that firmly dates the new road, outbuildings and gardens. The lime avenue that lines the final 300 metres of the approach to the church has also not been firmly dated. Such avenues were common in the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries. This one may have been a tribute to the accession of William III and Mary as joint monarchs in 1689. This was an event initially welcomed by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Baronet, although he had later reservations. Another possibility is that the avenue was planted by his grandson, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Baronet, either when he married in 1716, and/or as tribute to the accession of George I in 1714. Neither explanation rules out the earlier 1681 date on the bowle as marking the construction of the road.

There is a painting of the house (by the architect John Hayward (1807-1891), exhibited at the Royal Academy in 1837, described in their catalogue as a 'proposal drawing'.<sup>3</sup> This painting includes a glimpse of the adjacent stables building prior to its demolition. The corner tower feature is in a very characteristic seventeenth century style. The location of ancillary buildings, including stables, before 1680, has not been identified.



Painting of Poltimore House by John Hayward exhibited 1837 at the Royal Academy. Reproduced by kind permission of the 7th Baron Poltimore.

In 1780 a thorough inventory was made of the contents of Poltimore House as part of the settlement of the estate of the late Richard Bampfylde.<sup>4</sup> The surveyor listed the contents of the house room by room starting on the ground floor and ending in the garrets in the roof. He then visited a building referred to as the 'Pond House', which contained over 50 barrels of various sizes, followed by the Stables, the Linhay, and finally the Gardens where he found, amongst other items, 'six 3-light hot-bed frames and one 2 light frame'. It seems reasonable to conclude that the stables, the linhay and the gardens are the stables, barn, and walled garden identified on the 1801 and 1835 plans. The Pond House is more of a mystery. Was it part of the Stables group, and, if so, where was the pond? A pond in this area is not unlikely. The land southeast of the stables, was, and is, marshy. A more likely explanation, given all those barrels, is that the name is a corruption of 'Pound House'; a building housing a cider press.

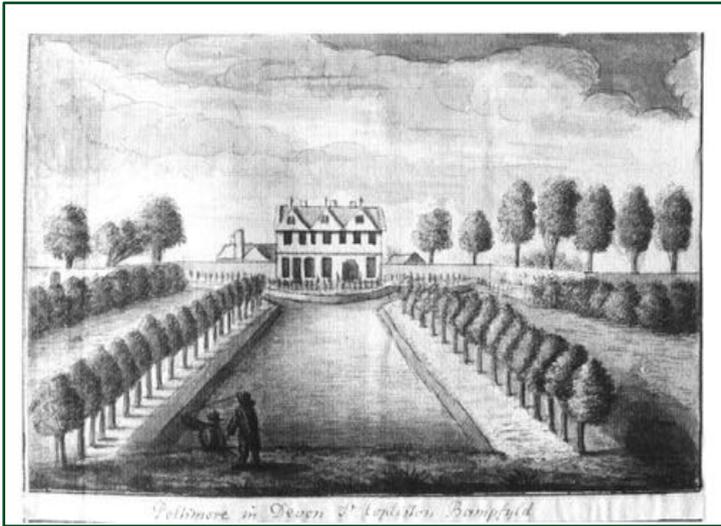
The 1801 OS Surveyor's drawing, which plotted the lime avenue leading to the church, also clarified that the garden area associated with the house, as distinct from the kitchen garden(s), was a modest area mainly in front of the house (which then faced northwest) with a belt of trees on three sides. To the northwest were agricultural fields, the area later to become a Victorian arboretum. Although the 1801 surveyors only sketched field boundaries, they would have plotted any significant non-agricultural features in this area.

The best evidence of the gardens in front of the house is the drawing of 1727 by Edmund Prideaux. Here the artist was viewing the house from what appears to be



Poltimore in Devon by Edmund Prideaux. 1727. Reproduced by kind permission of P J N Prideaux-Brune Esq from the collection at Prideaux Place.

a low wall. The garden contains serpentine features, with statuary and topiary. Closer to the house there is a more formal garden at a slightly higher level defined by a low wall, decorated with urns. The original arched entrance to the house no longer appears to be in use, which would be consistent with the 1680 road layout. There are no remaining surface features of this formal 1727 garden, apart from the plinth of a statue that may be that shown in the 1727 drawing, although this is not in its original position. The drawing also shows ranges of buildings either side of the rear of the house. The use of these buildings, which can also be seen on the 1801 OS Surveyor's drawing, is not known.



Poltimore in Devon by Edmund Prideaux. 1716. Reproduced by kind permission of P J N Prideaux-Brune Esq from the collection at Prideaux Place.

A drawing by Prideaux of 1716 depicts a water feature lined by small trees, that divides to form a 'Y' closer to the house. This drawing includes two boys fishing. The 1716 date falls within a period when the 'Glorious Revolution', associated with the accession of William of Orange and Mary, encouraged a fashion for a Dutch style of formal gardens with water features, but this style was a passing fashion, soon replaced by the more naturalistic style of the English landscape garden.

Starting in 2016, an investigation, substantially funded by the DGT, sought to determine whether the 1716 drawing showed an implemented scheme, or was simply the artist imagining how it might look as a water garden. In later phases of the development of the house much of this old frontage was covered in outbuildings, and some of the rest in mature trees, limiting the area available for investigation. A ground survey was carried out with levels taken at 2 metre intervals. The levels showed a fairly even slope with a cross fall across the site of

about 1 metre. This slope did not rule out the possibility of a pond, but not one of any substantial size without extensive retaining works, for which there was no evidence. A small trench was opened in a position opposite the centre of the original house. This contained some loose fill over a fairly shallow natural clay layer. When extended, a solid bank of stone was encountered. This was initially thought to be the foundation of a pond wall. Ground penetrating radar was also used over the available garden area, but this revealed very little of interest.

In September 2017, Oakford Archaeology was asked to undertake a fuller investigation. The original trench was expanded and a further four trial trenches opened.<sup>5</sup> These failed to uncover evidence for buried archaeological features and deposits associated with the water feature shown in the Prideaux drawing. The stone encountered in the earlier work proved to be a natural rock band running diagonally across the site. There was a general lack of pottery or other dating evidence. The only feature of interest was two possible undated planting holes which could date from any historical planting layout. The conclusion is that Prideaux's drawing related to a proposed alteration and not an implemented scheme.

As part of its work programme review, PERS will be considering Oakford Archaeology's recommendation that that an application should be made to the National Heritage Lottery Fund for a community project. With the support of professional archaeologists this could provide a properly managed excavation involving the local community, archaeology students and interested amateurs. The aim would be to enhance our knowledge of the gardens from the late 16<sup>th</sup> to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

## References

1. 'Poltimore and Broadclyst, Diversion of roads near Poltimore House', 1835, QS/113A/158/1, Devon Heritage Centre.
2. Poltimore and Huxham Tithe Map, circa 1838, Devon Heritage Centre.
3. Detail of John Hayward's painting exhibited 1838, Reproduced by kind permission of the 7<sup>th</sup> Baron Poltimore.
4. 'The 1780 inventory of the contents of Poltimore House undertaken as part of the settlement of the estate of the late Sir Richard Bampfylde,' by kind permission of Sir Hugh Stucley Bt. from information supplied by Stephen Hobbs, Hon. Archivist, Hartland Abbey.
5. Marc Steinmetzer, 'Archaeological evaluation in the north garden', (Oakford Archaeology, May 2018).

**Ted Hitchings** is a retired town planner with an interest in mapping the history of the estate as a whole, in particular the farmsteads and the expansion of the deer park and gardens.

## Victorian Walled Garden Restored

The hard work has paid off to restore the Victorian walled kitchen garden at Farms for City Children's Nethercott House, Iddesleigh. The garden was officially opened last summer at a celebration that involved children on that week's course leading tours of the garden. The charity was founded by Sir Michael and Lady Clare Morpurgo in 1976, Nethercott House being the first farm, now joined by two more in Gloucestershire and Pembrokeshire. The aim was to help children from urban areas learn about growing and where their food comes from. Some 100,000 children have been to one of the three farms.

With support from a National Heritage Lottery grant and funding from DGT, the walled garden now boasts fully restored walls, paths and glasshouse. DGT member and former trustee, Penny Hammond, a professional horticulturist, helped with the project, including supporting the gardener. 'It has been a privilege to help with the restoration of the Walled Garden at Nethercott, being part of a team of great people who have achieved a great deal in a relatively short period of time. They have worked so hard, making such progress whilst carrying on with their daily activities - it's such a joy to see the children getting so involved and learning where their food comes from, along with the issues of sustainability. The project is so worthwhile.' Penny intends to continue her links with Nethercott.



The restored walled garden at Nethercott House. Photo © Penny Hammond.

Booking for all events can be done online via the DGT website or Eventbrite, but for those wanting to book by post and by cheque a form is included with this Newsletter. Any queries please email: [events@devongardenstrust.org.uk](mailto:events@devongardenstrust.org.uk)

## *Sir William Temple and 'sharawadgi': Poetics of Variety and Pleasure*

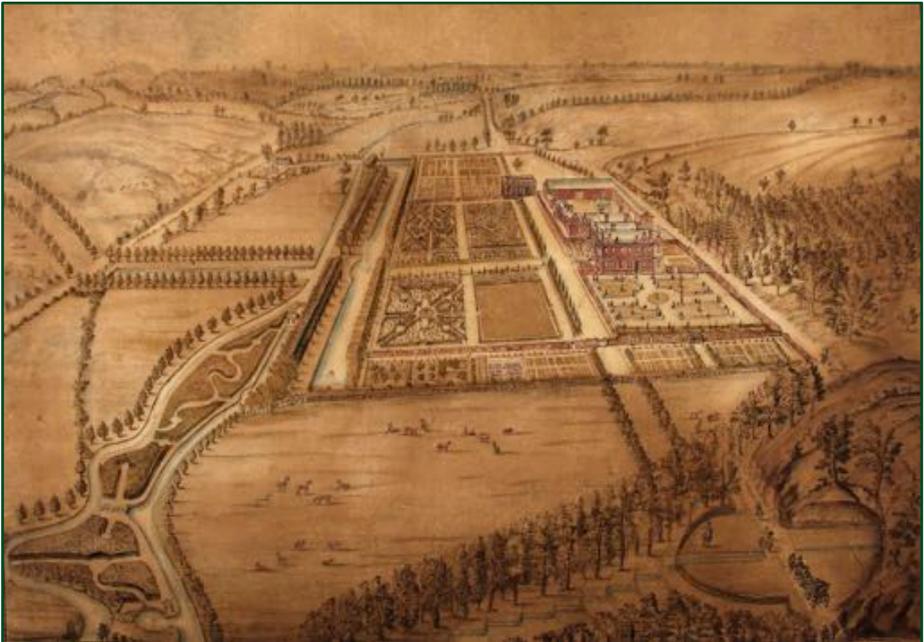
### **Talk by Dr Yue Zhuang**

**Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2020 at 2.30 pm**

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

Cost: DGT members £12, non-members £15. Includes refreshments.

Sir William Temple (1628-1699) was a diplomat and essayist who, among other achievements, negotiated the marriage of William of Orange and Mary, the daughter of James II, who were to succeed James to the English crown in 1689. It was in one of his essays, 'Upon the Gardens of Epicurus' (1685), that he introduced the word 'sharawadgi' and described his interpretation of the Chinese garden although he had never been to China. This is seen as the turning point from



Sir William Temple's garden at Moor Park near Farnham in Surrey. Watercolour painting c. 1690, attributed to Johannes Kip. Surrey County Council.

the formal garden to the naturalistic. It was Sir William's comment on the Chinese irregular garden layout that has fuelled the controversy about whether the English landscape garden was influenced by the Chinese. Instead of focusing on the apparent difference between these two garden traditions (i.e. the formal and the informal), this talk investigates how Temple's reception of the Chinese was shaped by their parallels, namely how both English and Chinese gardens, like poetry, evoke and balance the passions and help to attain true pleasure. Dr Yue Zhuang teaches Chinese studies, art history and visual culture at the University of Exeter. She is the co-editor of *Entangled Landscapes: Early Modern China and Europe* (2017).

## ***The Arts and Crafts Garden***

**Talk by Jonathan Lovie**

**Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2020 at 2.30 pm.**

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

Cost: DGT members £12, non-members £15. Includes refreshments.



In this talk Jonathan Lovie will be exploring what characterised the Arts and Crafts garden. It was a style which sought a more naturalistic aesthetic in

reaction to the high Victorian formality of most of the nineteenth century particularly with respect to planting design. The great partnership of Edwin Lutyens and Gertrude Jekyll, along with designers like Thomas Mawson and Harold Peto were amongst its exponents. The talk will be an excellent prelude to the visit to Coleton Fishacre in the summer, and possibly another Devon Arts and Crafts garden. Jonathan Lovie is a garden historian, landscape consultant and DGT member; he is well-known to many members and has extensive knowledge of the gardens of the south west.

Wood, South Tawton. Photo © Dianne Long.

## Visit by coach to Caerhays, Gorran, South Cornwall

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2020

Caerhays is one of the country's great gardens; the moist and misty atmosphere adding to the luxuriant tumbling landscape that is reminiscent of south west China where many of the plants originated. Owned since the 1870s by members of the Williams family, the best known of whom, J C Williams, was a great supporter of the plant explorers George Forrest and E H Wilson. He was also a keen hybridiser, renowned for his work with camellias (*x williamsii*), rhododendrons and daffodils. Spread over a hillside facing to the sea, the garden of over 100 acres contains more than 80 champion trees as well as a host of rare and exotic shrubs, notably magnolias which should be at their best this early in the year.

DGT members will have a special guided tour with the head gardener and his



Caerhays. Photo © Caerhays Estate.

assistant. We may also be able to enjoy a tour of the Castle which was built about 1801 to designs by John Nash, this would be an additional cost of £4.00 per person and numbers may have to be limited.

A coach will leave from Heathfield (near Newton Abbot) where cars can be left at about 8.30 am, and would collect passengers at Exeter (Sowton), Okehampton and Launceston. The cost of coach, admission, garden tour and coffee will be about £40, depending on numbers. Picnics can be taken, but there is also a large café. We require early expressions of interest to gauge whether the trip is viable. Please email [events@devongardenstrust.org.uk](mailto:events@devongardenstrust.org.uk) to register your interest.

## Visit to Agroforestry Research Trust Forest Garden Project, Dartington

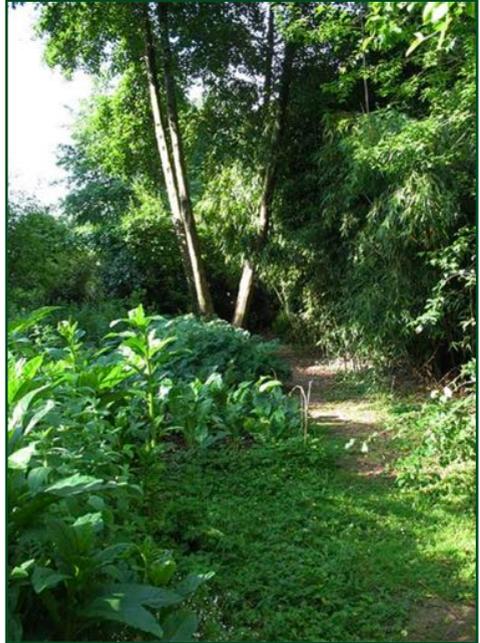
Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2020 at 10.00 am.

Agroforestry Research Trust (Forest Garden), Dartington, Totnes, TQ9 6JT

Cost: DGT members £12, non-members £15.

Converted from a 2.5 acre field in 1994, the forest garden is a self-sustaining garden of trees, shrubs and ground cover all yielding useful products. The careful choice of plants ensures they are self-fertilising and the diversity of species gives high resilience to pests and diseases. DGT members will enjoy a private tour by founder and director, Martin Crawford, who has published a number of books on forest gardening, what plants to choose, harvesting, cooking and preserving the produce. Martin runs a number of courses and has been described as, ‘a frontiersman, a pioneering teacher and an inspiration. Both his work and his garden are national treasures.’

Numbers for the tour are limited, but if there is high demand a second tour will be possible in the afternoon at 2.00 pm. If there is interest we may also organize a guided tour of the historic gardens at Dartington.



The Forest Garden at Dartington. Photo  
© Agroforestry Research Trust.

## Devon Medley and Restoration of the Tracey Estate, Honiton

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2020 at 11.00 – c. 16.00.

Tracey Estate, Awliscombe, Honiton, EX14 3NW.

Cost: DGT members £12, non-members £15. Includes light lunch.

A day in two parts, the first is a selection of short talks about Devon gardens and projects. This will be followed by an opportunity to hear about the history and restoration of the landscape at the Tracey Estate being undertaken by the Furnival family and then to explore what has been achieved to date. More details to follow.

## Cocktails at Coleton Fishacre, Kingswear

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2020 at 6.00 – 8.30pm

Coleton Fishacre, Brownstone Road, Kingswear, TQ6 0EQ

Cost: DGT members who are also National Trust members come free.

Those who are not National Trust members, £15. Includes cocktails.

DGT members will be exclusively entertained at Coleton Fishacre, the country retreat developed by Dorothy and Rupert D'Oyly Carte with its Arts and Crafts house and the wonderful gardens in a valley stretching down to the sea. Features include a wide range of tender and interesting plants set around Arts and Crafts terraces, rill garden, and by the stream that leads down to the bathing place at Pudcombe Cove. As well as their involvement in the operettas of Gilbert and



The Rill Garden at Coleton Fishacre. Photo © Derek Voller, CC BY-SA 2.0.

Sullivan, the family also owned the Savoy Hotel and cocktails taken from the hotel cellar book will be served as we wander around the house and garden at a time when it is normally closed to the public. What could be nicer on a mid-summer evening? 1920s dress optional!

## Thorn Gardens with conifer conservationist

Thursday 30th April 2020 10:30 - 16:30.

Many members may remember visiting the gardens of DGT members Eva and John Gibson at Thorn House near Wembury and discovering its wonderful collection of unusual plants. In April they are holding a special day with conifer conservationist Martin Gardner who will be giving a lecture and guided tour through the gardens. Martin has worked at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh for more than 25 years and coordinates the International Conifer Conservation Programme, he was awarded the MBE in 2013 particularly for his work on Chilean plants, and in 2014 the Veitch Memorial Medal by the RHS. The formal gardens surrounding the house at Thorn have stunning vistas down to the River Yealm; informal planting includes a number of Chilean plants. The day event will include talk, refreshments and guided tour. For full details see the Thorn House and Garden website <http://thornhouse.co.uk/> or email [events@thornhouse.co.uk](mailto:events@thornhouse.co.uk)

## The Devon Nigel Temple Archive

Carolyn Keep May 2019

In Summer 2002 the Devon Gardens Trust newsletter carried an article entitled 'A wonderful gift'. An account followed of an anonymous donor who was giving the Trust an album of high quality copies of historic Devon postcard images. The donation turned out to be two albums; one of houses with designed landscapes and the other containing images of public parks and tea gardens. The tea garden images could form the basis of an in-depth study, supported by research into contemporary guides to coastal resorts and local newspaper advertisements. Suffolk and Surrey have looked at their tea gardens: any offers to do so for Devon? There was also a separate set of copies of drawings of Devon landscapes, many from the *Polite Repository*. All these have now been put into a digital catalogue to help researchers by David and Carolyn Keep and Clare Greener; the original paper index was compiled by Judith Betney.

It seems appropriate therefore to acknowledge now the Trust's indebtedness to the donor, Nigel Temple. Nigel was a man of many interests and talents: artist, collector, historian (especially of Georgian architecture and landscapes), author and lecturer. More details of his life can be viewed at [nigeltemple.co.uk](http://nigeltemple.co.uk) His collections of Victorian children's books and architectural postcards were of national importance and he ensured that all his many collections went to suitable institutions after his death in 2003. Many of the postcards are in the Historic England Archive (formerly the National Monuments Record) and the Devon ones can be viewed at:

[https://archive.historicengland.org.uk/results/resultsaj.aspx?t=advanced&io=false&c=Devon&rn=PC\\*&l=all](https://archive.historicengland.org.uk/results/resultsaj.aspx?t=advanced&io=false&c=Devon&rn=PC*&l=all)

## News from the Gardens Trust

Devon Gardens Trust is a member of the Garden Trust, the national charity dedicated to the conservation of designed landscapes, parks and gardens in England and Wales, to researching their history and campaigning on their behalf. You can find out more at [www.thegardenstrust.org](http://www.thegardenstrust.org) It relies on the support of County Gardens Trusts (CGTs) and individual members in order to carry out its essential work. The Gardens Trust (GT) has recently introduced a new membership rate for members of County Gardens Trusts, and Dr Jim Bartos, GT Chairman, gives further details below. After two very successful celebrations marking the tricentenary of the birth of Capability Brown in 2016 and the bicentenary of the death of Humphry Repton in 2018, over the next few years the Gardens Trust with CGTs will be promoting the theme of 'Unforgettable Gardens', to highlight that historic parks and gardens are under threat of being lost for whatever reason, but that groups such as the GT and CGTs are working to prevent this, and other people can help too; more news on this in the future.

## Letter from the Gardens Trust Chairman, Dr Jim Bartos



Dear County Gardens Trust member:

I am writing to tell you about the national Gardens Trust, and to encourage you to join at our new special reduced membership rate, which is now reduced for people who are already members of a County Gardens Trust.

### **Protecting historic parks and gardens**

You probably already know that County Gardens Trusts work hard to protect historic parks and gardens in their counties by offering conservation advice and commenting on planning applications that may have a detrimental effect, but did you know that this work carries particular weight because of the national Gardens Trust's position as the statutory consultee for registered parks and gardens, therefore with a legal role in the planning process? Our dedicated conservation officers work closely to support volunteers in the County Gardens Trusts to make sure that local landscapes are protected.

### **Campaigning**

There is a county Gardens Trust in every part of England, and similar groups in Scotland and Wales. By bringing everyone together with one voice, we try to ensure that proper attention is given to shared issues close to all our hearts, from the survival and proper maintenance of public parks, to recognition for undiscovered 20<sup>th</sup> century landscapes, to making sure that historic parks and gardens can be enjoyed by people from all across our diverse society.

## Education, events and research

The Gardens Trust supports excellence in research and its dissemination through the GT Newsletter and Journal as well as a very active programme of research symposia, lectures, conferences and visits, some undertaken with partnering organisations, such as the Garden Museum or a partnering CGT. We organise lectures in London, Bath and Birmingham; an annual Research Symposium, showcasing new research, that is part of the AGM conference weekend; and garden trips within the UK and abroad. We run courses in garden history and host a weekly garden history blog.

## Training

We have become the sector leader in providing training for volunteers and others on conserving historic parks and gardens, making sure that research and recording work is as useful as possible, networking amongst CGT volunteers and the heritage sector, sustaining and growing the efforts of County Gardens Trusts, and encouraging the sharing of historic parks and gardens with wide audiences.

The Gardens Trust is a charity, and although we are fortunate to receive grants from Historic England and other organizations, we cannot survive without the financial support of our individual membership, or indeed obtain grants without that support. Please consider joining us to support the work that we do.

On joining the Gardens Trust you will also receive several benefits for yourself, including the Gardens Trust News magazine, the twice-yearly Journal *Garden History*, a regular e-newsletter if you wish to receive it, and reduced price offers. You may wish to attend the AGM weekend conference and one or more garden visits, lectures, or conferences. However, even if you cannot attend these events, individual membership is crucial to the survival of the Gardens Trust, and I hope you will consider joining to help ensure that our charitable work can continue into the future.

You can join at <http://thegardenstrust.org/support-us/>, at the new reduced rate of £25 for people who are already County Gardens Trust members, reduced from the normal rates of £35 for a single membership and £43 joint. Or you may request a joining form by telephone, 01787 249286, email [membership@thegardenstrust.org](mailto:membership@thegardenstrust.org), or write to The Gardens Trust Membership, 47 Water Street, Lavenham, Sudbury, Suffolk, CO10 9RN.

I do hope you will consider joining the national Gardens Trust in support of our unique endeavors conserving and championing designed landscapes, parks and gardens as an important adjunct to your support of your County Gardens Trust. Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

Dr James Bartos, Chairman, The Gardens Trust

## New Books

*A Compulsive Gardener* by Mary Benger, (Exeter: Short Run Press, 2019)

This beautifully illustrated book is subtitled *The Story of Burrow Farm Gardens* but it is far more than that. In the *Introduction*, the garden writer and designer Noel Kingsbury makes the very perceptive point that this is a garden that has ‘evolved organically, gradually and gently flowing and flowering over the curves of its landscape’. He contrasts such trial and error by an owner, feeling their way to a unique and always evolving reaction to the local situation, with the recognisable response of a garden designer, too often regardless of the setting. As another owner of an evolving garden and a war baby like Mary, I identified happily with her use of rescued materials and the need to compromise with the soil, climate and demands of family and work.

After a brief overview, each chapter covers a different area of the garden, explaining its history, special character and planting. People and animals, especially the dogs, are essential players in the story, reflecting Mary’s outgoing and modest character. The book inspired me to return to one of the best gardens in Devon, which has been opening for the NGS for forty years and is also home to two nurseries and a landscaping business, as the gardening gene has continued down the family. If you have never seen Burrow Farm, make a visit top priority in 2020. Carolyn Keep

*An Economic History of the British Garden* by Professor Roderick Floud (Allen Lane, Penguin Random House, 2019)

Professor Sir Roderick Floud is an economic historian who, with a passion for gardens, has turned his attention to the economics of gardens and gardening. He contends that garden historians ‘almost entirely ignore money’ and other historians have equally ignored the economics of gardening. Certainly, economics has not been the focus of garden historians, but costs are sometimes noted where available; and this extensive study giving context to the economics of gardening is a welcome addition to the literature. The thrust of Floud’s argument is that the contribution of gardening as an industry to the UK economy is not sufficiently recognized. The book spans a period of over 350 years so to ensure that the reader might appreciate the present day monetary value of every cost cited, each has been translated using average earnings as the measure. In some cases this might not be the best measure, but it does mean consistency and it highlights some staggering expenditure on gardens. So, for example, total capital expenditure on the gardens at Wrest Park in Bedfordshire over the period 1660-1760 was approaching £40 million plus annual costs of nearly £500,000. As far as plants were concerned, rarity and novelty and perceived or real propagation or cultural difficulty/expertise, would affect price; in 1614 the earliest recorded price for a peach was £640, whilst in 1775 a rhododendron was sold for £1,142 and in 1734 a 25-foot Liriodendron tulipifera was bought by Frederick Prince of Wales for his new garden at Carlton House in

London at a cost of £38,120. The earnings of designers and working gardeners reveals that Repton was paid £150,000 plus expenses for a visit to Endsleigh in 1814 and that head gardener to Alfred de Rothschild at Halton, Buckinghamshire, might have received as much as £8 million commission on the £33 million plus contract that Veitch had for completing the gardens.

Understandably much of the data comes from well-known large aristocratic gardens and parks which is more readily available than that for smaller sites and urban gardens, but as DGT researchers know, it is surprising what can be found. The book covers a huge range from the cost of garden construction, earnings of gardeners and designers, price of plants, nurseries, kitchen gardens, public parks and technology; whilst its focus is the economics, there is much else to savour including the social history.

Dianne Long

## Devon in the 1920s – New History Project

A new project to look at distinctiveness of Devon in the 1920s will be launched in March. It is to be spearheaded by Devon History Society with Devon Family History Society, and the South West Heritage Trust, but collaborating with other Devon organizations, community groups and individuals. It is envisaged the project will encompass several themes, such as:

- Legacy of the First World War
- Growing up
- Rural Life
- Progress and new technologies
- Holidays and Leisure

Devon Gardens Trust will be involved in the project. Gardens were an important feature in the county's 1920s history, including the changes that occurred in the gardens of the great estates, the longer-term impact on the cultivation of vegetables after the initiatives of WWI, the measures local councils took for residents and visitors with municipal gardens, and the growth of domestic gardening particularly as suburbs grew.

Anyone interested should contact Dr Julia Neville, Devon in the 1920s Project Manager, [j.f.neville@btinternet.com](mailto:j.f.neville@btinternet.com), or Dr Clare Greener, [clrgreener276@gmail.com](mailto:clrgreener276@gmail.com)

## Plants Needing a Home

Carolyn Keep has been clearing some flower beds. A large quantity of tough herbaceous clumps, grasses and a few shrubs and bulbs in pots and in the ground are available, preferably to a school or community group but do apply if you can give some of them a home. Telephone 01395 232318  
email [c.d.keep183@btinternet.com](mailto:c.d.keep183@btinternet.com)

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

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