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Welcome to New Members

Elizabeth Cooper and John White, Alan and Diane Fearnley, Jane Hammacott, and Rosemary Payne.

Articles for inclusion in the next Newsletter should be sent to the Editor.
Copy deadline 30th June 2019.

Front cover: Magnolia stellata on a period cast iron lamp post, one of 17 in the Veitch lamp post trail in Exeter © Shane Cormie

From the Editor

I never cease to be amazed at the extent of volunteer time and energy that is expended across the country in matters that touch every aspect of our lives. Four years ago, it was estimated that 14.2 million people volunteered regularly and gave on average of 11.6 hours once a month. (The Community Life Survey 2015/16 commissioned by the Cabinet Office)

DGT would not exist without the support of its members and tireless efforts of its volunteers; of course, the more who are willing to be involved in however small a way, the less the burden that falls to the few. There are many different ways to help, perhaps learn and it is an excellent way to meet new friends. Like those with no prior experience who came together almost a year ago interested to find out more about research and recording; supported by a programme of training, and with two or three working together, they have begun investigating a number of sites in the county which have had little research in the past. For example, Ginnie Parker and Rachel McGavin have found that Devon is surprisingly rich in butterwells (p. 10). In the coming year the volunteers will be preparing reports on the sites and we will learn more about them in due course.

The Conservation team has been busy as usual with responding to planning applications affecting designed landscapes but has also prepared the documentation for the Trust's recent application to Historic England to add Creedy Park to the Register of Parks and Gardens. (p. 4)

We are delighted to see Growing Devon Schools Partnership on a more secure financial footing for the forthcoming year. This will enable them to reach so many more teachers and help inspire them to include outdoor learning with their students. (p. 7)

In coming months, look out for a new-look DGT website and online event booking. Whilst the summer holds the promise of some garden visits with floral fireworks, there are two events this spring which give the opportunity to spend longer exploring with expert speakers and the head gardeners two of the county's nationally important historic landscapes, Bicton and Endsleigh.

Finally, congratulations to two DGT members: Michael Gee on the publication of his book *The Devon Orchards Book*, and Ruth Saltmarsh for being awarded the MBE for services to the community of Exeter in the New Year's Honours.

Dianne Long

Creedy Park

DGT has recently submitted an application to Historic England to add Creedy Park to the Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in England. This was the culmination of extensive research and consultation. The Trust commissioned Simon Bonvoisin of Nicholas Pearson Associates to undertake an assessment of the Creedy Park landscape and met with the residents and users of the Park to share the history of the site and the implications of registration.



Creedy, Seat of Sir John d'Arvie Bart., the Rev. John Swete, 1797 (DRO, 564M/F11/122)

Creedy Park is in a secluded valley just to the north east of Crediton and now comprises only a small part of the original 4000-acre estate sold off in lots in 1975/6 by the Davie family who had owned it for some four centuries. The current house, designed by Walter Sarel, was built in 1916-21 after the previous house was destroyed by fire. There is evidence suggesting a deer park enclosed by a wall in the mid eighteenth century, at which time there were four lodges, two of which survive as neoclassical lodges to control each of the former roadway entrances, the routes re-aligned to create sweeping approach drives. There was also a picturesque thatched fishing lodge (Kerswell Cottage) and pool, and three other ponds for watering the deer, a well-defined 'Wilderness Shrubbery' with perimeter walk allowing views out, a grand walled garden with axial gateway and summerhouse or greenhouse, planted clumps and scattered parkland trees. Polwhele noted in 1793



Creedy Park, the front of the mansion with the formal terraces in front, the walled garden to the top left and The Rookery behind.

that it 'is delightfully situated in a large park which is surrounded by a strong wall.' while Stockdale described it as 'a handsome spacious mansion very delightfully situated on a gentle eminence, in an extensive park about 3 miles in circumference'.

The design of this landscape remains largely intact, although there were later developments. A larger lake was developed, and formal garden terraces were built in the 1840s which have been attributed to W.A. Nesfield, who worked on other projects with William Burn the architect of the 1846 redevelopment of the house. Nesfield was in Devon in the late 1840s advising Isambard Kingdom Brunel at Whatcombe (now Brunel Manor).

There are likely family connections in the eighteenth century with the neighbouring Shobrooke Park and Downes, and there appears to have been some developments in the landscape in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries that utilised features in the neighbouring estates to enhance the picturesque views from one landscape to another.

Historic England currently does not have the resources to consider adding sites to the Register unless they are under some form of threat, including from development. There are two current potential threats to Creedy Park, one a planning application to build 65 houses on Higher Road, to which the Trust has written to MDDC to object, and the second is the 21-hectare area known as Pedlerspool identified as a contingency site in the Mid Devon Local Plan to provide residential, employment and leisure space; this site lies between Creedy Park and Shobrooke Park and is visible from both historic landscapes.

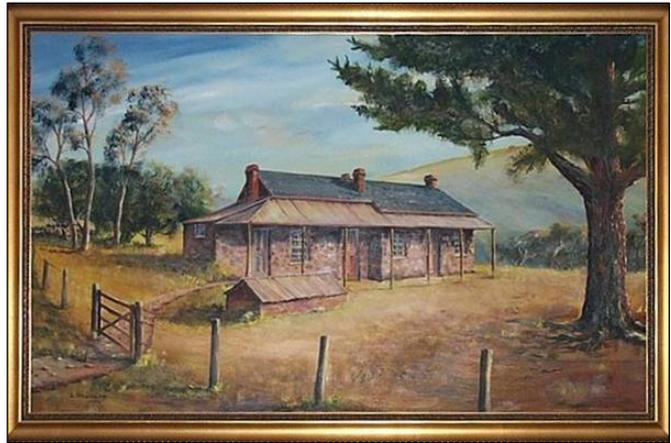
From Sheepstor to South Australia in a Jam Tin

The Trust receives all sorts of enquiries and recently one was about the provenance of an Aleppo Pine that arrived in South Australia in 1847 that sent some DGT members, including Caradoc Doy and Marion Kneebone, on a quest.

Michael Heath is an expatriate Englishman living in South Australia, who is chair of the local National Trust's Significant Tree Team of volunteers, which identifies and records trees of cultural and historical importance. He wrote to DGT about an Aleppo Pine that was brought to South Australia by Joseph Blandord Warne, who was born in Sheepstor, Devon, where he was recorded as a yeoman and in the 1841 Census he was shown as living at Vickridge House in Sheepstor. In Australia, Joseph became a successful orchardist and apple grower.

The Aleppo Pine arrived only 11 years after the foundation of the colony in 1836 and at 171 years old is possibly the oldest Aleppo in Australia – certainly the oldest on record.

But where did the pine cone or seed in the tin originate? Was there an Aleppo Pine growing in the Sheepstor vicinity, or did it come from a Devon nursery?



An early painting of the Aleppo Pine, by an unknown artist. The cottage, known as Barbary Cottage, was where Joseph Blandord Warne lived until John Barbary, his son-in-law, inherited.

The tree was introduced to England in 1663 and Hilliers gives an earliest known date of cultivation in England of 1683, so by the 1840s, potentially it could have been offered by any nursery growing conifers and it featured in *A manual of Coniferae*, published by Veitch in 1881. There are currently three Champion Trees in Devon: the Champion for height is at Exeter University at 13 metres high and the Champion for girth is at Bicton Park with a girth of 117cm., there is also a Champion at Knightshayes which is listed as a remarkable tree but is slightly smaller than the other two. There are no Champions listed for Cornwall.

Growing Devon Schools

Fundraising efforts have paid off for the Growing Devon Schools Partnership (GDSP). The group has been awarded grants from Heritage Lottery Fund 'Awards for All' and from the Ernest Cook Trust, which together with funding from DGT will enable an exciting programme of free outdoor learning training for teachers, teaching assistants and school volunteers.

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. The funding will mean that during 2019 there will be four Forum Days and fifteen Twilight Sessions. Forum Days are practical day workshops designed to help teachers plan and prepare outdoor learning, for example about seeds and seed sowing; the first is in March at Whip Barton Junior School, Exeter. DGT member Saul Walker, head gardener at Stonelands, and DGT bursary awardee, Rosie McNamara who is also a WRAGS (Work and Retrain as a Gardener Scheme) trainee, will be sharing their experience at the event. In addition, there will be fifteen Twilight Sessions, short after-school events, that will take place in Teignmouth, Widcombe, Okehampton, Colyton, and Exeter, that will look at matters like integrating food growing and wildlife into the school year, and links with the curriculum.

DGT has been involved with GDSP for several years. Supporting and working with this enthusiastic and knowledgeable group of teachers is a very effective way to meet the Trust's aim of promoting the importance of gardens for health, well-being and heritage and encouraging future generations to become more involved in horticulture.



Growing Devon Schools

Growing Devon Schools Forum Day

Friday 15th March 2019, 9:30 - 3:30
Whipton Barton Junior School, Exeter, EX1 3JP

A practical day for teachers, TAs and volunteers exploring:

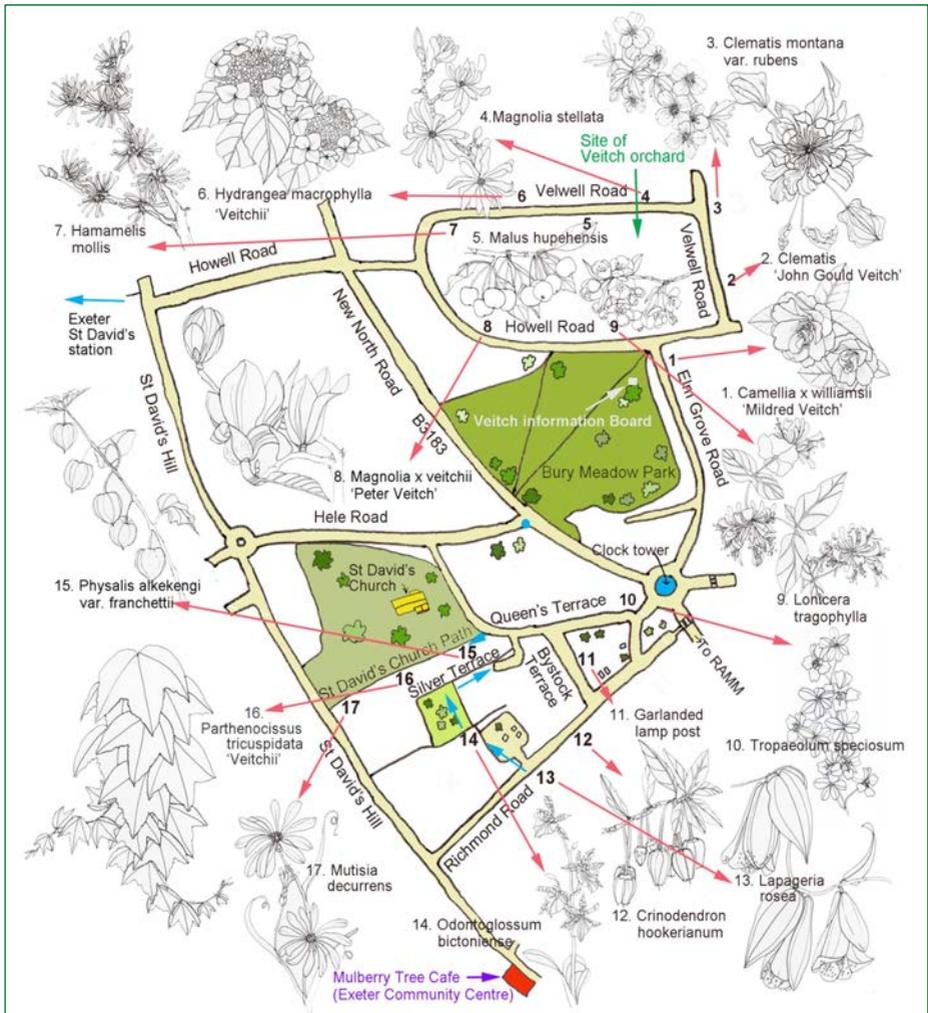
- Planning and preparing outdoor sessions
- Inspiring the next generation of gardeners
- Learning about and sharing seeds

A free CPD event with a free lunch.
For information and to book email:
info@growingdevonschools.org

Floral Lamp Posts

Anyone walking in Exeter may be forgiven for thinking that there is a new form of elegant graffiti. Cast iron period lampposts in the St James and St David's neighbourhoods of Exeter have botanical paintings twisting round their columns.

These are all part of the Veitch lamppost trail celebrating the family that lived and worked in Exeter for several generations. The seventeen lamp posts were painted by botanical illustrator Kate Wilson, each with a different plant associated with the Veitch family and nursery.





The lamp post trail starts in Elm Grove Road where Robert Veitch, and later Peter Veitch, lived. The trail continues along Velwell Road past the location of the Veitch stock orchard and follows the perimeter of Bury Meadow park where there is a Veitch information board. Then past St David's Church and concluding on St David's Hill. Some of the lamp posts were made by local iron founders like Garton and King, Willey & Co. and unusually one by Sheppard. Along the trail there are also locally-made cast iron gulleys and drain covers. Peter and Harriet Veitch, 'Iron Sam' Kingdon, founder of Garton and King iron foundry, and Frederick Willey are buried in St

David's churchyard where there are some newly-planted, named variety, apple trees. James Veitch and Robert Toswill Veitch are buried in St Leonards Cemetery, now part of Higher cemetery. For more information and to download a trail leaflet go to: <https://veitchlampposts.wordpress.com/about/>

Plants depicted on the lamp posts are:

Camellia x williamsii 'Mildred Veitch'
Clematis 'John Gould Veitch'
Hydrangea macrophylla 'veitchii'
Malus hupehensis
Clematis montana var. *rubens*
Magnolia stellata
Hammamelis mollis
Magnolia x veitchii 'Peter Veitch'
Lonicera tragophylla
Tropaeolum speciosum
Crinodendrum hookerianum
Lapageria rosea
Odontoglossum bictoniense
Physalis alkekengi var. *franchetii*
Pathenocissus tricuspidata 'veitchii'
Mutisia decurrens



Celebrating the Revd. William Keble Martin

Carolyn Keep

Many members will have a copy of *The Concise British Flora* on their shelves. The clergyman author was a life-long botanist and artist but had many other interests. For example, the church at Milber, Newton Abbot, is the extraordinary realisation by his architect brother of a building seen by the Revd. Martin in a dream. He retired with his wife to Woodbury, near Exeter, and is buried in the village churchyard. From the Revd. Martin's bestselling book, a group of Woodbury ladies worked over 100 kneelers for St Swithun's church in petit point needlework. The beautiful designs for the kneelers will be the focus of a Flower Festival there on 12-14 July; there will be a plant stall and refreshments. This is part of a wider celebration of his life and work to coincide with the 50th anniversary of his death. The 'Woodbury Wide Awake' website will advertise these events, starting with a talk on herbal medicine on 11 April. Walks, classes in painting wild flowers, exhibitions and even a concert are being planned.

Have you Seen a Butterwell?

Ginnie Parker

English Heritage comment that butterwells are very rare nationally but once relatively common in Devon. Butterwells are not features of historic gardens but generally to be found in farm complexes or hamlets and villages. Their construction of large granite slabs or granite rubble and slate in Devon and Cornwall may explain why so many have survived in this part of the country or is it that more were built in the first place? The construction of the butterwell as a small, rectangular, building usually less than a couple of metres square and built over a spring or stream means that any wood used in the building has rotted away and little remains to actually date them. Those listed by English Heritage are usually considered to date from the 18th or early 19th centuries but some could be much earlier. Butterwells were used for the storage of butter prior to being sent to market or used locally, however little has been recorded about precisely how they were used and how the butter was stored.



Restored butterwell at Alleron House near Loddiswell

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

'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 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 in houses and gardens. 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.



Peamore House in the parish of Exminster, Devon, watercolour dated June 1794, Rev. John Swete (d. 1821), Devon Heritage Centre DRO 564M/F1/227.

Bicton: History and Plant Collections

Tuesday 30th April 2019 10.30 am - 4 pm.

Bicton College and Bicton Botanical Gardens

East Budleigh, Budleigh Salterton, EX9 7BH

Cost: £20 DGT members £25 Non-members Includes refreshments, not lunch.

A day exploring the history and plant collections of the Grade I registered landscape at Bicton, heralded in the mid-nineteenth century as one of the most important gardens in the country. The day will begin with a welcome at the college and an introduction to the history of the landscape by Kim Auston, landscape



architect and consultant until recently with Historic England, followed by a tour with College gardener, Adrian Jencks through the adjacent arboretum with its otter pool and on to the walled garden and its restored glasshouses. Bicton Botanical Gardens curator, Neville Evans will introduce the pleasure grounds with the many listed structures and one of the finest collections of trees in the country, including 25 champions, and extensive Pinetum. Caradoc Doy will talk about the Veitch connection with Bicton. Tours will include the Italian Garden laid out in the 1730s, the American garden developed a hundred years later, the fernery and Shell House, the unique domed palm house built some twenty years before that at Kew, the church by Pugin, and a rare treat will be the opportunity to look inside the Victorian Hermitage clad entirely in cedar shingles with its floor composed of deer bones. The 18-inch gauge Bicton Woodland Railway may be used to reach some of the grounds. This is a joint event with Dorset Gardens Trust.

10.30 Coffee

11.00 Welcome

11.10 Introduction on history of the landscape by Kim Auston

11.30 Tours of grounds around mansion

12.30 Transfer to Botanical Gardens

13.00 Lunch – Not included in price. Those booking will be sent options to pre-book lunch in the restaurant, or a picnic can be eaten in the grounds.

14.00 Talks by gardens curator, Neville Evans and Caradoc Doy, Veitch expert

14.30 Tours of Botanical Gardens

16.00 Close, but free to wander further in the gardens.

An Exploration of Endsleigh

Saturday 18th May 2019 11.30 am to 4.30 pm

Hotel Endsleigh, Milton Abbot, Nr Tavistock, PL19 0PQ

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

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



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. There is so much to discover in this wonderful picturesque landscape, including the magnificent terrace, shell grotto, the children's garden, rockery and grotto, arboretum and the valley garden. Fabulous trees, serenity and, weather permitting, bluebells and cascades!

A joint event with Cornwall Gardens Trust.



Tour of Tiverton Castle and Gardens

By kind permission of Mrs Alison and Mr Angus Gordon

Monday 10th June 2019 2 pm – 4.30 pm.

Tiverton Castle, Park Hill, Tiverton, EX16 6RP

Cost: £12 DGT members £15 Non-members Includes cream tea.

Our private tour with owner Alison Gordon will take us through 900 years of history, into the old part of the Castle and the private house (part 1680s, 1790s, and 1860s). We will hear about the castle's past inhabitants including the medieval Earls of Devon and Princess Katherine Plantagenet. There is a fine collection of Civil War arms and armour (some can be tried on!), interesting furniture, pictures and medieval loos, but good modern ones too. The gardens



surround the castle and stretch down to the River, with roses and wisteria clambering over the old walls, and different areas to explore, including a walled kitchen garden. Next door the Grade I listed St Peter's Church is well worth a visit.

Visit to Sandridge Park

By kind permission of Mr Mark and Dr Rosemary Yallop

Monday 8th July 2019 2.30 pm

Sandridge Park, Stoke Gabriel, TQ9 6RL

Cost: £8 DGT members £10 Non-members Includes refreshments.



Formal gardens, sweeping lawn and woodland walks reaching down to the river surround the Regency villa designed by John Nash for Lady Ashburton in 1805. Following on from her talk in March, Rosemary Yallop will introduce the history of Sandridge Park and describe the four-year restoration project of both house and grounds which was completed in 2010. Gardener, Adrian Robinson, will be on hand to lead tours round the formal gardens, kitchen garden and grounds in a setting which has lovely views over the River Dart.

Visit to St Brannocks

By kind permission of Colonel Jeremy and Mrs Priscilla Smith-Bingham
Wednesday 14th August 2019 2.30 pm

St Brannocks House, St Brannocks Hill, Braunton, EX33 1HN

Cost: £8 DGT members £10 Non-members Includes refreshments.

Be transported to the tropics in North Devon! Commanding the immaculate vegetable garden at St Brannocks House is a magnificent and unusual tiered glasshouse. It has been the home for Jeremy and Priscilla Smith-Bingham's increasing collection of unusual and semi tropical plants, a passion for the past twenty-five years. The gardens are a delight with more unusual plants, roses, hydrangeas and a variety of magnificent Echiums, and a holy well. Our visit in August is timed to experience the glasshouse at peak flowering.



AGM 2019

Arrangements for the Trust's AGM 2019 are being finalised. Details will be sent to members in due course.



Sandridge Park

Gardens Trust's Historic Landscape Assembly

In November 2018, Peter Folland, gardener at Castle Drogo (National Trust), attended three events in Yorkshire and Derbyshire, part-funded by a small grant from DGT. One event was the Gardens Trust's Historic Landscape Assembly. Peter has a particular interest in twentieth century gardens and in the conservation of gardens and landscapes for amenity and enjoyment. Here are Peter's observations from the Assembly.



Mid to late 20th century designed landscapes are often overlooked and undervalued. Post Arts and Crafts gardens have not always been well appreciated; even though the Modern, Modernist, and Late Modern gardens of the last century offer great design and planting to be admired. Heritage should not be confused with nostalgia for an age now past. Landscape and architecture can become of heritage

interest at a relatively 'young age'. Indeed, in the past the National Trust has acquired significant Arts and Crafts properties only a few decades after their construction.

Concerning the Late Modern; the hanging gardens at 1970's Mountbatten House in Basingstoke by James Russell are particularly fine. The Campus West, at the University of York by Frank Clarke, (a student of Christopher Tunnard), feature a central lake and muted palette of native trees, creating a beautiful setting for the buildings and student life.

Many such designed landscapes are registered, but registration does not normally include the actual plants themselves and this can lead to loss of amenity, (in the Elysian sense of a 'pleasant place'). The University of Aberystwyth, once noted for its academic excellence in botany, recently removed much of Brenda Colvin's artful planting from around its Grade II* listed landscape. Mature shrub borders were grubbed out and replaced with turf, destroying the sylvan setting of the buildings that gave the campus its character. A historic planting plan creates a specific 'sense of place' to be conserved.

Key note speaker Kim Wilkie gave an inspirational talk to round off the assembly. He offered a vision of the future of a new English landscape movement delivering agricultural, environmental, flood relief, sewerage treatment and leisure opportunities based around a bucolic wood pasture system. A noble vision that may well secure society's future wellbeing; however, the challenge as ever will be implementation.



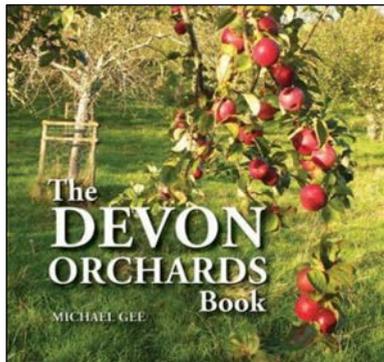
The Hospitium, venue for the Historic Landscapes Assembly.

Our public designed landscapes, parks, gardens, urban and rural are under threat. Seemingly endless talk and reports of evaluation, inventories, impact assessments, natural capital, ecosystem services, health cost benefit analysis, lottery funded management plans and so on keep landscape professionals busy. However, the general decline of the civic environment continues due to a lack of funding for the designed green spaces we as a nation profess to value so highly. A new paradigm of action for the conservation and development of designed landscapes, historic and contemporary is needed; backed by brave funding initiatives to reap the benefits that have been so well researched.

Peter also attended an Arts and Crafts Garden History Workshop at Goddards house and garden in York, and Yew Symposium at Elvaston Castle near Derby.

The Devon Orchards Book by Michael Gee

Michael Gee's devotion to orchards is not unknown to DGT members. His latest book is the culmination of years of research and is a fascinating examination of orchards in Devon, not a promising county for fruit growing. It delves into their history, the ups and downs of cider production through to the current renaissance and interest in locally grown and artisan products. The book ranges from traditional methods to modern techniques. An excellent and informative read that is beautifully illustrated featuring Devon growers and orchards. Michael initiated what became Orchards Live in 1990, originally a campaign designed to save North Devon orchards; he also helped to establish the orchard on Landkey's Millenium Green and in 2013 was awarded a BEM for services to orchard conservation. Available from booksellers (RRP £14.99).



Gardens Trust Annual Conference 2019

The Baroque splendour of The Queen's College Oxford is the setting for the Gardens Trust Annual Conference 2019 from Friday 6th to Sunday 8th September. Talks will cover Oxford's college gardens with a special focus on new research by Toby Parker, walking visits to Christ Church's private gardens, including the rarely-open Deanery Garden (where the Cheshire Cat appeared), with the head gardener, and Worcester College's gardens. The New Research Symposium's presentations of new research in garden history will be followed by the Trust's AGM. The guest speaker at the Conference dinner will be Robin Lane Fox, Emeritus Fellow of New College Oxford and the Saturday Financial Times' resident garden writer. There will be tours of the Oxford Botanic Garden, early evening reception and exhibition in the College's elegant private rooms and Fellows' garden, and visits by coach to the gardens of two important Oxfordshire private estates. First to Nuneham Courtenay to see William Mason's iconic flower garden, the Palladian church and walk the historic drive to the Harcourt Arboretum. Second to Shotover for a guided house tour and a self-guided tour of the garden.

Further details and booking is available via the Gardens Trust events website: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-gardens-trust-annual-conference-6-9-september-2019-tickets-54748640658>

Sir Francis Henry Drake (1723–1794): Letters from the Country, Letters from the City

A forthcoming book edited by Charity Scott-Stokes and Alan Lumb; with an introduction by the editors and by Dee and Mike Tracey, Todd Gray and John Crellin.

In 1740, at the age of 17, Sir Francis Henry Drake of Buckland and Nutwell succeeded his father as Baronet, and in due course followed him as MP for Bere Alston. This volume presents 320 letters written to Sir Francis between 1740 and 1778 by his Devon overseer Nicholas Rowe, and by his London agent William Hudson, who was a well-known apothecary and botanist and author of *Flora Anglica* (1762).

The early letters from Devon have much to say about elections and related property dealings in the pocket borough of Bere Alston, while the later ones centre on Sir Francis's reshaping of Nutwell Court and its gardens. Health matters are an issue throughout, and the letters from London are a rich source of



information on eighteenth-century medical practice in the city as well as in the country. They also informed Sir Francis about London society and parliamentary business during the months he spent in Devon. Taken as a whole, they offer a rich insight into eighteenth-century life both in Devon and London.

Due for publication in December 2019, copies can be pre-ordered at £16.50 (RRP £30), which will come with annual membership of the Devon and Cornwall Record Society, by contacting The Hon. Secretary, Devon and Cornwall Record Society, Devon Heritage Centre, Great Moor House, Bittern Road, Exeter, EX2 7NL. Email admin@devonandcornwallrecordsociety.co.uk

Update on the 'Lost' Gardens of Ashcombe, Simonsbath

Some members will recall the fascinating talk in 2017 by Rob Wilson-North about John Knight of Simonsbath and a few explored the site of the gardens in the summer of 2018. A new trust is being established to take care of the gardens at Ashcombe created by John Knight. Also, a volunteer group has now been set up to work on these 'lost' gardens, if any DGT members are interested to get involved they would be most welcome. Contact Rob Wilson-North, email

RWilson-North@exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk

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