

Birkbeck Garden History Group Newsletter



Summer 2016 No 43

BGHG Study Day

12 March

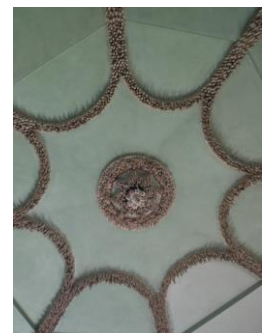
This year the theme of the annual BGHG Study Day was Sanderson Miller and the Amateur Designers. Professor Timothy Mowl opened the day with an effervescent cornucopia of visual and literary references exploring the notion of *Gentleman Amateurs, Architects and Dilettanti – Rococo-Gothick in the Eighteenth Century Landscape*. Focusing on the period 1740-60 and on landscapes between Nuneaton, Stratford and Banbury, we were asked to consider the amateur landowner's influence on garden design in the Rococo-Gothick taste created with the expertise of Sanderson Miller and his stonemason, William Hitchcox. Miller's designs incorporated views, arguably natural outside the property, and referenced the patriotic in the gothic detail in the buildings which he placed strategically around the owner's estate – themes that became so familiar in 'Capability' Brown's work. Professor Mowl's view was that underpinning the eclectic designs were notions of the British Isles mediated through pre-history, antiquities and history, celebrating nationalism in their execution. These designs were developed through their libraries and shared via a network of friendships. Their style was not in the pedantic Gothick promoted under the influence of Horace Walpole but had an element of fun and fakery.



Bathhouse at Walton Hall,
Warwickshire, attributed to Miller

Michael Symes followed with his presentation, *The Poetic Vision of William Shenstone*, about the literary and pastoral landscape at The Leasowes. William Shenstone (1714-1763) spent his formative years during the Augustan period when taste was influenced by the literary and strove for correct taste drawing on his friendships with Richard Jago, Richard Graves, both Oxford men, and William Somerville, a poet and letter writer. Lady Luxborough, living nearby at Barrells Hall, also became involved in the practical design. She is attributed to being the first to use the term 'shrubbery' in 1748. At the Leasowes an anti-clockwise circuit was designed around a working farm, reflecting the notion of both naturalness and the *ferme ornée*. Shenstone's taste was precocious, 'calling in the country' with eye-catchers such as Halesowen Church although lack of funds meant that brick and unworked stone were frequently used and the waterfall was 'in miniature'. The glades of oak, ash, beech and elm reflected an essential Englishness and friends were memorialized in the conspicuous placing of urns with inscriptions invoking a classical sensibility. This poetic and elegiac vision of landscape rapidly fell out of fashion and The Leasowes became neglected, although some restoration is currently underway.

I am very grateful to Vicky Price for her notes for these two final summaries. The intriguing title *Virtù at Bulstrode* was explored in Susan Darling's presentation on the friendship between two remarkable 18th century proto-blue stockings, Mary Delany, née Granville (1700-1788) and Margaret, known as Peggy, the 2nd Duchess of Portland, née Harley (1715-1785), based on a shared interest in *virtù* – the 18th century definition being a love of or taste for works of art or curios. Through their marriages they were able to pursue a love of gardening and collecting. The Duchess's childhood had been spent at Wimpole Hall where she had been exposed to both the intellect of her grandmother, the Duchess of Newcastle and also, through her grandfather and father, 1st and 2nd Dukes of Oxford, to their considerable collections of books and antiquities. On her marriage the Duchess redesigned the formal gardens at Bulstrode near Gerrard's Cross, incorporating a pleasure garden where several smaller enclosures were used to display the Duchess's passion for conchology, plants and animals.



Shell design in Walton
Hall Bathhouse probably
by Mary Delany

Similarly influenced by her time as a society intellectual during her first widowhood, Mrs Delany incorporated fashionable notions of landscape at the Delany's Irish home, Delville. The friends spent a period of 17 years together at Bulstrode where Mrs Delany designed a grotto and created her *hortus siccus* collection of paper mosaics, intricate, life-like collages of flowers and plants. The Duchess's collections were sold on her death; her name lives on in the names of a rose, moth, shrub and the Portland Vase to be found at the British Museum along with Mrs Delany's *hortus siccus* collection.

Phillip White's presentation introduced *Coplestone Warre Bampfylde - a gentleman of fine taste*, his premise being that Bampfylde's 'uncommon taste', developed with his painter's eye and his extraordinary network of friendships, led to the creation of the landscape garden at Hestercombe House, Somerset. Bampfylde was born in 1720 at Hestercombe House which he inherited in 1750. Related through his wife Mary to Richard Payne Knight and through a cousin to Uvedale Price – those purveyors of the picturesque – we also learnt that in 1769 Bampfylde was singled out as a man of taste by Shenstone. Bampfylde in turn honoured Shenstone at

Hestercombe by designing as Richard Graves writes in 1788 ‘one of the most beautiful cascades in England’ which involved some serious hydraulics to divert a copious stream to fall ‘impetuously sixty feet down the rocks’, a sight still admired today. A lifetime friendship with the artist Richard Phelps led to their collaboration on a number of projects in painting and design including advice to Henry Hoare at nearby Stourhead, amongst others. Bampfylde’s skills as an architect were also in demand and many of his designs for local projects ended up as the basis for eye-catchers at Hestercombe, whilst his reputation as a ‘paragon of taste’ meant that his approbation was sought for landscape improvements throughout the West Country.

Carmela Bromhead Jones

Bloomsbury Squares Study Day

7 May

This Study Day, titled Bloomsbury’s Squares: Pioneering Past, Uncertain Future, was jointly organised by the Association of Bloomsbury Squares and Gardens and the Birkbeck Garden History Group. On a warm sunny day, some 35 delegates were welcomed by Susan Jellis, Association of Bloomsbury Squares and Gardens coordinator and vice chair of the Friends of Brunswick Square and of BGHG. The day started with David Marsh’s overview of the history and development of the squares, David adeptly filling in for programmed speaker Todd Longstaffe-Gowan who was ill.

Letta Jones spoke about the planting of the squares and pointed out that trees, which provide longevity and scale, have been considered essential to planting in the squares since the Hoxton nurseryman, Thomas Fairchild, championed their use in his book *The City Gardener* in 1722. His advice was repeated by Humphry Repton, John Claudius Loudon and innumerable others over the subsequent 290 years. Before lunch, Letta conducted a tree walk while guided walks to Mecklenburgh and Brunswick Squares by Stephen Smith and Jennifer Daley and to Queen Square by David Marsh enabled people to experience the squares at close hand.

In the afternoon, local historian, author of *Tales of Brunswick Square: Bloomsbury’s untold past* and founder member of the Friends of Brunswick Square, Ricci de Freitas, spoke about the square’s history. This is bound up with the Foundling Hospital (founded 1739) and the 53 acres of land surrounding it. By the time the square gained protective status in the 1960s, all its original Georgian houses had vanished.

David Marsh returned to explore the gradual opening of London’s squares to the public and the day closed with a presentation by Camden Council Parks Projects Officer Shirley Blake and Harold Garner, recently appointed Head of Sustainability and Green Space. Funding for Camden’s green spaces has reduced 96% since 2010/11 and the Council’s *Rethinking Parks* project is attempting to identify new strategies for funding them. Their *Bloomsbury Squared Partnership Trust Funding Model* is currently out for discussion. It aims ‘to examine whether the formation of a Trust would enable increased investment in nine of the Bloomsbury Squares through funding obtained from external sources.’ The officers are hopeful that they will be able to solve the present financial dilemma.

Michael Ann Mullen

Houghton Lodge and Longstock Park

BGHG Visit 25 May

Both of these quite different gardens sit on the river Test in Hampshire, near Stockbridge. At Houghton Lodge, the owners Sophie and Daniel Busk, conducting the house tour, said that in the early 18th century the land here was a ‘malarial swamp transformed into water meadows by Dutch engineers’ which accounted for the fact that no large houses had been built here. The land was cheap and those aspiring to emulate the wealthy could build their rural idyll. Built circa 1793, the Lodge is a good example of a *cottage orné* or rustic retreat. (Research by M.B. Readhead, not mentioned by Mr Busk, shows the house dated at no later than 1799 when it was advertised for sale in the *Morning Chronicle*). The tiled roof with small, steeply gabled dormer windows was originally thatched, hence the tall decorated brick chimneys.

On three sides of the ground floor there are pointed French windows allowing views and access onto the grounds. On the east side is a bow with a frieze of quatrefoil openings; the room has a painted domed ceiling, marble chimneypiece with ogee-topped frame in Blue John, mirrors with coloured glass, and an iron veranda. The quatrefoil motif is repeated in arches, e.g. to the staircase and in the dining room. The house is lived in, loved and full of curios. From the windows, lawns sweep down to the Test and the extensive grounds have fine trees, water meadows, a topiary peacock garden, 300-foot herbaceous border, walled garden with fan-trained fruit trees and a herb garden. We walked on mown paths through the wild garden among trees to a topiary dragon puffing a fine ‘smoke-like’ spray and on to the summer house,



Houghton Lodge

back across the lawn with views up to the white Lodge, through spring bulbs to a pond and on across the Test to see the Alpacas.

After lunch in the Tea House we moved on to Longstock Park Water Garden where Rob Ballard, Gardens & Grounds Manager, gave us a brief outline of the history and maintenance of the water gardens then we were

free to roam. First sight of the Water Garden was a delight. The water appeared still and unruffled, mirroring the waterside plants and trees. Here were swathes of plants including *Iris sibirica*, *Smilacina racemosa*, *Primula japonica*. A tall *Taxodium distichum* seemed to form its own island of knobbly air roots. An adjacent deep seam of geologically-present peat provides conditions for camellias and rhododendrons, at the time of our visit, in full bloom forming canyons of rainbow colours. The planting was exquisite and beautifully maintained.

When John Seddon Lewis purchased the estate in 1947 the lake area was neglected and the ground waterlogged. It took six years to establish the lake which became a five-acre archipelago of small and large islands. It is fed by the Test and drops discreetly by three levels to return to the river, controlled by sluice gates which stop the golden carp from escaping. Jim Saunders, then Head Gardener, oversaw the work while Lewis was advised by Botanist Terry Jones on the design and planting, creating a gradual shift in mood from formal at the centre to natural areas at the edges. The thatched summer house where Lewis liked to sit was installed by a previous owner.

Our last stop was for refreshment at Longstock Park Nursery set in the original walled kitchen garden. And some of us succumbed to the temptation of the extensive range of plants, fruit and vegetables.

Patricia Jarman

Woburn Abbey

BGHG Visit 13 June

The most striking aspect of Woburn Abbey and estate in Bedfordshire is its sheer scale. Everything about the estate is supersized. The landscaped garden is 28 acres; the Deer Park is 3,000 acres excluding the Safari Park. There are two vast stable blocks. Even the grand cedar of Lebanon in the north courtyard is enormous.

Our guides for the garden tour were Martin Towsey, Estates Gardens Manager, and Keir Davidson, landscape designer and co-author of the recent book, *Woburn Abbey: The Park and Gardens* (2016). The focus of the tour was the 19th century gardens, which have been in the process of restoration since 2004.

Our tour started in the Chinese Dairy built by Henry Holland in 1787, with its beautiful painted and etched windows overlooking a lake. Repton had suggested changes to the outlook, as we could see from his Red Book for Woburn, but most of his plans for this part of the garden were not implemented at the time. His rockery, for example, which he placed at the edge of the lake was built much further away. We walked on past the American Banks and Erica Parterre to the Camellia House (Wyatville 1822), draped with a huge wisteria. As well as a superb collection of camellias, the house now includes a number of exotics which would have been collected by the 6th Duke. We went on to the hidden Cone House, a rustic platform in a picturesque setting looking over what was once the Menagerie. Repton had planned that visitors would approach the hut through a formal Doric temple façade and then be surprised by the totally picturesque interior and view beyond; the stone Doric façade is being replaced this year. On the hill is a hornbeam maze designed in 1831 with a Chinese pagoda at the centre. The hornbeam is cut back to waist height and Martin explained that it was designed for children as a calling maze not a hidden maze, so parents outside could guide their children through it.

We ended the tour on a flat expanse of lawn where Wyatville's immense glasshouse once stood. From here we could see the restored rockery topped by its Chinese pavilion. Martin noted that the complete *Hortus Woburnensis* of 1833, which contains a catalogue of plants in the gardens, a description of the gardens and detailed instructions on how to manage the different areas of the huge kitchen garden, is available online.

All this to take in before we even started on the 22 rooms of the house, full of books, paintings, porcelain and silver. It was a fascinating day and gave us a real impression of how Woburn Abbey and its gardens would have looked in the early 19th century.

Joan Pateman

Wotton House

BGHG Study Visit 26 April

BGHG opened its 2016 visits programme with a Study Visit to Wotton House, Buckinghamshire, home of the Grenvilles in the 18th century. The Grenvilles also owned Stowe and after working at Stowe, Lancelot 'Capability' Brown turned his attention to Wotton. We were welcomed by Wotton's current owner, David Gladstone, who explained that he had inherited the property which in 1957 had been saved from imminent demolition by his mother-in-law. Over the next 40 years she bought back much of the 400 acres known to have made up the original estate which had been sold off to neighbouring landowners after WWII. David stressed there was little to go on regarding the history of the estate and Brown's involvement that could be pinned to documentary evidence, a theme that was continued by our first lecturer, garden historian Johnny Phibbs

Johnny Phibbs, instigator of the Brown Tercentenary Festival, presented a new, and maybe unexpected perspective on Brown, purporting that Brown was a modest man who sought anonymity – perhaps one explanation for the dearth of evidence he left behind about his work. Johnny believed Brown did not need to push himself forward as his reputation alone was enough; his work would speak for itself and was a sufficient legacy. He was aided in this search for anonymity by the many garden owners who played down what Brown had achieved for them; not so much due to his class but to his lack of a classical education – not having done the Grand Tour, nor as Sir William Chambers believed necessary, been educated in the grand masters. When Chambers launched his attack on Brown's work in 1772, whilst both Horace Walpole and William Mason felt obliged to respond, Brown did not, presumably secure in his own abilities and able to rise above such squabbles.

Johnny explored some of the key features of Brown's work, instancing sites that demonstrate how Brown's early designs were strongly geometric and over time became primarily linear. Changes occurred as the decades progressed as did his attitude to the presence of buildings within the landscape: early in his work buildings were either removed or screened from view whilst later designs retained old buildings – cottages, churches, mock chapels – as part of the landscape. Was this Brown looking back to the medieval, reaching back into an ideal England: in doing this, did he define our idea of what is England, seeing villages as beautiful and 'painting ordinary England' as part of the natural landscape?

Steffie Shields spoke about the complex waterscape at Wotton. Steffie contended that Wotton is significant to Brown, helping her understand his creativity with water engineering. She also noted the intertwining network of landscape gardening and politics, with leaders such as Pitt and Buckingham running the country while remodelling their estates and corresponding not only with each other but with Brown.

Brown, called the 'Shakespeare of Garden Arts', was inspired by the bard. The dramatization of landscapes such as Wotton became clear when Steffie detailed the water arrangements from evidence shown in Richard Grenville's *Bargain Book* in December 1742 (where the problems of Wotton Brook feeding all the lakes involved Brown visiting with a carpenter and a plumber). His approach to ongoing maintenance and improvement of his designs, supported by the use of his favourite devices such as rotundas and well-placed



Grotto Island at Wotton

seating, ensured that owners and their guests appreciated the framed views so beloved by Shakespeare. She spoke of the water engineering's relationship to those of Stowe, the need for different levels and bridges, leading the eye to imagined landscapes beyond those visible, and providing a mask for the machinery of sluices and water levels. She concluded her interesting, well-illustrated and varied talk, saying that the huge dams and water works, although subterranean, were still working, providing tranquillity, drama and security; it was 'her idea of heaven'.

Michael Symes, speaking about Thomas Whately and the English landscape garden, gave us an interesting if abbreviated precis of the main points in Whately's original book *Observations on Modern Gardening* (1770). This is the standard 18th century work on theory and practice of landscape gardening, with a mixture of the objective, didactic and subjective, which enables us to understand how picturesque landscapes were viewed at the time and allows us to return to the mindset and ways of *experiencing* the garden. Michael explained the transition from pre-1750s gardens as 'Emblematic' ('Temple of Venus') to later ones as 'Expressionistic' ('ruins') where imagination was pre-eminent, although this was not a new theory as it had been pre-empted by Addison. He pointed out that Wotton supports this theory, as one is expected to imagine what happens when the water goes out of sight.

Michael asserted that Whately's approach was sophisticated; the change from Augustan literary to visual with images of places underpinned by the foundation of the Royal Academy, and by landscape painting gaining much greater status. The structure of Whately's book was original as he codified taste and showed how landscapes could be experienced emotionally, without giving a 'guide book' approach. However his descriptions were somewhat jumbled and incomplete, for example he rhapsodises about Wotton's late afternoon light and the setting sun, but does not attribute the gardens to Brown.

Following the final lecture Wotton's Estate Manager, Michael Harrison, led members on an informative tour of the extensive Wotton estate, accompanied by David Gladstone and the speakers. This was exciting as the speakers were able to illustrate on the ground points they had been making in their talks, giving us a much better understanding of Wotton and its landscape.

Barbara Deason and Francine Gee

News

Letters from Gertrude Jekyll

The RHS Lindley Library holds a collection of letters from Gertrude Jekyll to a client, actress Amy Barnes Brand in Holmbury St Mary, Surrey, written between 1926 and 1932. Despite being in her 80s, Jekyll supplied plants and planting schemes, and gave advice about colours, size of beds and proportions. The letters include personal messages, such as 'These bits of tarragon I am sending (for love) for you to pot'. The catalogue includes 'ghost records' of Jekyll's workbook of drawings and album of campanulas, which are held in the Lindley Library art collection. However the workbook of drawings is currently awaiting conservation and not available to view. Digitised images of the volume can be accessed in the Research Room by appointment. The descriptive catalogue is available online via the Archives Hub at <http://archiveshub.ac.uk/data/gb803-jek>

Institute of Historical Research MA

This MA course started in the autumn 2014 and led by Dr Barbara Simms is recruiting for the 2016 session. The course is run on a full-time basis for one year with teaching one day a week for two terms, the third term being dedicated to dissertation writing. Optionally the dissertation can be completed in the second year. The first module is about researching garden history. This will showcase the huge variety of resources available to study garden and landscape history from archaeology, architecture, cartography, horticulture, manuscripts, paintings and other works of art, from the 16th century to the present day. The module in the second term on the culture and politics of gardens will consist of six optional units of which the student must choose three. The module will look at Historiography, theory, the connection between culture and politics in landscape making and the expansion of the skills of the first term across regional boundaries. Further details can be found at www.history.ac.uk/study/ma-garden-history.

Other Garden History Courses

In addition to the Introduction to Garden History course run by David Marsh, Letta Jones and Stephen Smith starting on 26 September at the Institute of Historical Research, London, they will also be running a 12 week course on the History of Botanic Gardens starting on 20 September. This will include guided visits to three botanic gardens and a behind-the-scenes tour at Kew. Details will be available on the IHR web site in the near future.

The RHS has launched a new six week course starting on 16 September called Exploring Garden History, led by David Marsh. Over six weeks for two hours a week, participants will be taken on a chronological journey through the main themes of over 500 years of garden history. In addition to the taught aspect of the course, each session will include a unique opportunity to see at first-hand relevant original material from the collections of the RHS Lindley Library. Participants will be able to view and study rare books, manuscripts, garden plans and artwork that will bring to life the topics covered each week. Expert Library staff will be on hand to show the material and answer questions. See <https://www.rhs.org.uk/shows-events/viewevent?EFID=13700&ESRC=CRM> for further details.

The City Lit will be running a 12 week course starting on 21 September on the gardens of medieval and Tudor England, titled Monks, Merchants and Money. It will cover the medieval garden and its legacy; Herbs and early gardening books; garden theory and practice; garden design and its relationship with architecture; the symbolism and importance of gardens in Tudor society; early plant introductions; and a detailed look at some major gardens.

More New Books

Capability Brown in Kent by Elizabeth Cairns and Cilla Freud, Kent Gardens Trust (2016).

Lancelot Brown and the Capability Men: Landscape Revolution in Eighteenth-Century England by David Brown and Tom Williamson, Reaktion Books, due out July 2016.

A Brush with Brown: the Landscapes of Capability Brown by Tim Scott-Bolton, Dovecote Press (2016).

The Hampton Court Albums of Catherine the Great: Containing drawings, mainly of the palace and its surrounds, by Capability Brown's draftsman and surveyor, John Spyers, purchased by Catherine the Great by Mikhail Piotrovsky and Mikhail Dedinkin, Fontanka (2016).

Capability Brown & Belvoir: Discovering a Lost Landscape by the Duchess of Rutland with Jane Pruden, Nick McCann (2015).

Observations on Modern Gardening, by Thomas Whately: An Eighteenth-Century Study of the English Landscape Garden by Michael Symes, Boydell Press (2016).

The Wonders of the North: Fountains Abbey and Studley Royal by Mark Newman, Boydell Press (2015).

Lancelot Brown Walks in Hertfordshire

The Hertfordshire Garden Trust have devised ten self-guided walks around Brown sites in the county to celebrate his tercentenary. Sites include Ashridge, Beechwood, Brocket Park, Digswell Park, Kimpton Hoo, Newsells, Panshanger, Pishiobury, Woodhall Park and Youngsbury. Descriptive leaflets with maps can be found on their web site at <http://www.hertsgardenstrust.org.uk/hgt-events-and-outings.html>. This link also contains a note on the background to the choice of walks and an overall map of the location of all their landscape walks.

Garden Trips Abroad

The Gardens Trust is organising a six day trip to gardens and cultural landscapes of eastern Sicily at the end of April next year. Details are to be finalised by September 2016. Please contact Robert Peel for further information: rma.peel@btopenworld.com.

Letta Jones is planning a study tour of gardens of the Loire valley in September 2017. Contact ACE Cultural Tours to register for details by telephone 01223 841055 or by email to gill@aceculturaltours.co.uk.

Events

BGHG Programme 2016

18 July	Westonbirt and Stancombe Park, Gloucestershire
10 August	Ashridge, Hertfordshire and Ascott, Buckinghamshire
8 September	Gardens of Hastings, East Sussex
20-21 September	Wales: National Botanic Garden, Aberglasney and Gellideg gardens, Camarthenshire
4 October	London: Winfield House, Regent's Park (half day)
13 October	London: the Strand and Embankment Landscapes (half day)
November	Annual Lecture

Capability Brown Festival 2016

The large number of events, lectures, study days, conferences and exhibitions are listed on the Festival web pages www.capabilitybrown.org under Events. Do not miss out!

RHS Lindley Library London Exhibitions

7 July – 12 August *A Garden Behind Barbed Wire – Ruhleben Horticultural Society.*

5 September – 28 October *A Capable Businessman: 'Capability' Brown and his accounts.*

3 November – 20 December *The City Gardener*
80 Vincent Square, London SW1P 2PE, Tel: 020 7821 3050, Email: library.london@rhs.org.uk, www.rhs.org.uk/libraries.

City Lit

Wednesday 27 July 10.30 am – 5.00 pm Letta Jones *Discovering London's Cemeteries.*

Saturday 13 August 10.30 am – 16.30 pm *City of London Gardens: their history and botany.*

Wednesdays 11 January – 29 March 10.15 – 12.15 am *Plants, politics and philosophy: English gardens from the age of Elizabeth to the Restoration.* Keeley Street, London WC2B 4BA, further information Tel: 02 7492 2652, Email humanities@citylit.ac.uk, Enrolment Tel: 02 7831 7831, www.citylit.ac.uk.

Fulham Palace Walks

Thursday 28 July 6.45 – 8.30 pm Lucy Hart *Evening walk with the Head Gardener* held in the Walled Garden

Saturday 13 August 2.00 – 3.00 pm *The History of Bishop's Park* Putney Bridge entrance to park. Bishop's Avenue, London SW6 6EA, Tel: 020 7610 7162, Email: functions@fulhampalace.org, www.fulhampalace.org. Book online via Eventbrite.

South London Botanical Institute Lectures

Tuesday 2 August 1.30 – 4.30 pm Letta Jones *Life and Times of Joseph Paxton.* 323 Norwood Road, London SE24 9AQ, Tel: 020 8674 5787, Email: info@slbi.org.uk, www.slbi.org.uk.

Chelsea Physic Garden Tour

Thursday 4 August 11.30 am – 1.00 pm *Behind the Scenes at the Chelsea Physic Garden.* 66 Hospital Road, London SW3 4HS, Tel: 020 7353 5646, Email: enquiries@chelseaphysicgarden.co.uk, www.chelseaphysicgarden.co.uk.

Denman College Course

8 – 10 August Letta Jones *Three Famous Gardeners.* Marcham, Abingdon, Oxfordshire, OX13 6NW, Tel: 01865 391991, Email: info@denman.org.uk, www.denman.org.uk

Missenden Abbey Adult Learning

15-16 August Letta Jones *The Golden Age of Plant Hunters.* Buckinghamshire Adult Learning, Gallery Suite, Walton Street, Aylesbury HP20 1UU, Tel: 01296 383582, Email: adultlearningbucks@buckscc.gov.uk, www.adultlearningbcc.ac.uk.

London Parks & Gardens Trust Summer Walks

Sunday 21 August 1.30 – 4.30 pm Mal Mitchell, *Beckenham Place Park.*

Wednesday 14 September 2.15 – 5.15 pm Sarah Couch, *Pitzhanger Manor and Walpole Park.* Email: office@londongardenstrust.org, www.londongardenstrust.org. Book via the website.

Painshill Park Trust Morning Lecture Series

Thursday 8 September 11.00 am – 12.30 pm Sue Barnard *Whatever happened to our London pleasure gardens?* Portsmouth Road, Cobham, Surrey KT11 1JE, Tel: 01932 868113, www.painshill.co.uk.

Oxford University Department for Continuing Education Courses

21 September – 2 December Barbara Simms *English Landscape Gardens: 1650 to the Present Day.* **Online Course.** Tel: 01865 280973, Email: onlinecourses@conted.ox.ac.uk, www.conted.ox.ac.uk.

The Garden Historians Courses

Thursdays 22 September for 10 sessions 10.30 am – 12.30 pm *Italian Renaissance Gardens.*

Thursdays 22 September for 10 sessions 1.30 – 3.30 pm *European Gardens – Holland & Spain.* Burgh House, London NW3 1LT, Tel: 07786 810554, Email: info@thegardenhistorians.co.uk, www.thegardenhistorians.co.uk. Book via the web site.

Cambridge University I. of Continuing Education

Sunday 6 November 10.00 am – 4.45 pm Caroline Holmes *Gardens with Gainsborough Perspective.* Madingley Hall, Madingley, Cambridge CB23 8AQ, Tel: 01223 746262, www.ice.cam.ac.uk, Email: ice.admissions@ice.cam.ac.uk.

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