



THE KENT GARDENS TRUST

NEWSLETTER

Working for Kent's Garden Heritage

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From the Editor

Hugh Vaux

Last year Capability Brown, next year Humphry Repton but this year has been the chance to visit a wide range of gardens which have been created over the past 400 years or so. Appropriately Caroline Lewis started the year with the Spring Lecture at Riverhill on 'The Purpose of Gardens' by making us think about why this tradition of cultivation has come about. Two of the gardens we visited date back at least three hundred years, Goodnestone and Squerryes Court, while even older are the gardens surrounding Canterbury Cathedral which we enjoyed one sunny morning. Moving to the twentieth century, another tour took us to gardens of Winchelsea where a micro-climate allows a spirit of innovation and competition to produce a riot of colour even when viewed in the rain. Finally we were transported, appropriately by high speed train, to the Olympic Park and the twenty first century.

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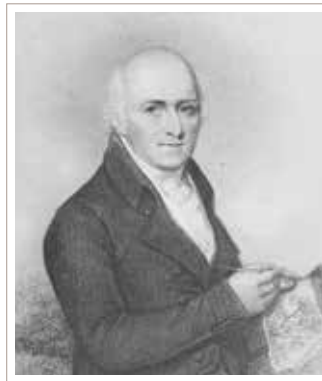
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Humphry Repton

1752 – 1818

The Bi-centenary of his death



Humphrey Repton after a miniature by Samuel Shelley

2018, will be the bi-centenary of the death of Humphry Repton, 'Capability' Brown's most notable and influential follower.

Repton, who was the first to use the term 'landscape gardener', began his career emulating Brown's style. When in the 1790s the advocates of the picturesque criticized Brown's landscapes with their 'torpid' rivers and shaven banks, as being dull and devoid of life and picturesque interest, Repton supported Brown. But he later departed from Brown's principles to advocate formality close to the house, flower beds and

other decorative features (he was unkindly described by John Claudius Loudon as having a 'tinsel kind of talent') and he frequently included picturesque elements in his designs.

The five sites within the present county boundaries of Kent where he is known to have advised on improvements, illustrate his mature style well.

The first and most important was Cobham Hall for Lord Darnley where Repton was involved for 25 years from 1790 until his death. He later recalled his work there with some pride: 'The house is no longer a huge pile standing naked in a vast grazing ground.... Its walls are enriched with roses and jasmines, its apartments are perfumed with odours from flowers surrounding it on every side and the animals which enliven the landscape are not admitted as an annoyance while the views of the park are improved by the rich foreground, over which they are seen from the terraces in the garden. ... all around is neatness, elegance and comfort.'

In 1797 Repton was commissioned by the paper magnate James Whatman to recommend improvements to the grounds of Vinters Park near Maidstone. Repton's report includes improvements to the entrance drive to provide glimpses of the house; converting ploughed land into parkland as being 'more in harmony with the residence of elegance and comfort'; ponds would be created in the valley to provide a 'glitter of water' from the house; and the valley would be embellished in picturesque fashion with a 'covered seat thatched like a Doric

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portico or a Swiss cottage'. James Whatman died in 1798 and we do not yet know how much of Repton's ideas were put into effect.

The commission from Earl Camden in 1806 to improve his estate at Bayham Abbey involved designing a new house. The site included the romantic ruins of the medieval abbey in a broad valley above the river Teise. Repton suggested (as surely Brown would have done) forming a lake from the small river and like Brown he advocated concealing its extent with trees. He identified a site for the new house on the north bank with picturesque views of the ruined abbey across the water. The lake was created by 1814 but the new house would not be built until 1870.

Jane Austen's cousin Francis Austen commissioned Repton to advise on the park and gardens of Kippington House near Sevenoaks and a short report on his proposals survives dated 28 July 1808. It includes suggestions for enhancing views of the church, improving the entrances to allow travellers on the main road to see a delightful glade within the estate and adding a portico to the house. A nineteenth century drawing shows that at least this last suggestion was carried out.



Humphry Repton's Trade Card.

The last of Repton's commissions in Kent was in 1812 for Lord Amherst for his estate, Montreal, in Sevenoaks. Repton recommended improving the views from the house to the pleasure grounds, lake and the obelisk erected by the first Lord Amherst to commemorate the British victories in the Seven Years War. A terrace and a broad level gravel walk into the garden were proposed.

We hope to do some more research into these sites and cast light on how much of Repton's advice was actually carried out.

KGT SPRING LECTURE 2017. By Dr Caroline Jessel

The Purpose of Gardens: Past, Present and Future

A Summary by Richard Stileman

Caroline gave us a veritable "tour d'horizon" of the purpose and value of gardens from ancient times to the present day.

Our journey began with the earliest gardens as areas for food production and security with the later addition of herbs for both medicinal and herbal purposes. From the 16th century onwards the larger parks and gardens became ornaments and expressions of power and influence for the few while from the late 19th century onwards, growing prosperity allowed gardens to become recreational and creative spaces for the many. Today, parks gardens may still be seen primarily as recreational areas but Caroline's argument is that henceforth they need also to be seen as providing important, indeed vital, therapeutic and environmental benefits. Her message was emphatic and persuasive.

Caroline summarised much recent evidence in support of her case, whilst acknowledging that in some areas more hard facts are needed to clinch arguments with sceptics.



Are there any eggs? Courtesy of Dandelion Time.

Recent studies on the health effects that green spaces have, suggested that:

- Multiple positive psychological and mental health effects demonstrated including for depression, anxiety, stress, dementia, children with ADHD and for psychosis (Kings Fund report)
- High blood pressure in pregnant women increased by 14% for every 300 metres away from green space (J. Env. Res. Public Health)



Hard at work. Courtesy of Dandelion Time.

Caroline suggested that it is not just proximity to green spaces and activity in gardens that helps but also the whole way of life and thinking – the "Green Mind" – that comes from involvement in many activities close to nature (from bird watching to surfing) or within communities (everything from book groups to dancing and bell-ringing) or with almost all kinds of craft.

Moving onto the environment, the twin concerns are firstly, climate change and secondly, the effect that development and changing agricultural practice can have on both animal and plant populations. The RHS is working hard to increase awareness and is encouraging us gardeners to consider, among other things to mow and dig less, and to manage our gardens with the needs of insects, small mammals and native birds in mind.

All in all, a stimulating and challenging afternoon, with much food for thought and some immediate prescriptions for (gardening) action!

The Olympic Gardens

By Richard Stileman

Our visit to the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park on June 28th gave us all an opportunity to see at first-hand how this once bleak and polluted stretch of the post-industrial Lea Valley in East London has been transformed into an enduring park with outstanding landscape and planting features. Our brilliant guide, Diana Kelsey, ensured that we were able to see the whole enterprise in its historical and environmental context. We were especially reminded that the park was designed from the outset with its legacy value in mind, and with the Games as a temporary event. The more detail we received from Diana, the more we appreciated the massive ambition and undoubted success of this, the biggest piece of urban regeneration in Europe.



Wild planting in the north of the park.

The whole park covers 560 acres. It is now 15 years since work began on the transformation. Much of the soil was polluted and had to be removed or cleaned, and – where the planting demanded it – replaced with soil more appropriate to the particular planting scheme envisaged. The River Lea was turned into a key feature and extensive water management procedures had to be introduced to control flooding from both the river and run-off from the existing – and planned – housing and office developments around the periphery of the park. This led to much of the planting being raised above the concourse level, a feature that gives it more prominence and softens the impact of the surrounding 'hard' infrastructure.

The north of the park has seen the most radical transformation since the games and now resembles parkland.

The basin off the River Lea, with associated wetland planting, is now more evident, the broad concourses have been narrowed, and the striking perennial meadows and tree and shrub planting have reached a satisfying maturity. The south and central areas – where we spent the largest part of our time – are where the well-known gardens are placed, almost a kilometre of them! There is a series of four gardens - the Europe Garden, the Prairie Garden, the Southern Hemisphere and then the Asian Garden. The designers wanted us to follow the progress of the introduction of plants to Britain, like a living timeline.

All four zones consist of vibrant yet unusual mixtures of herbaceous plants designed to peak in July (hence a big 'Chelsea chop' takes place in May), but to be interesting from April to November. Clever uses of some long lasting bulbs (we were especially struck by *Tulberghia violacea*), and grasses help to extend the interest period.

The overall concept was devised by Nigel Dunnnett and James Hitchmouth of the University of Sheffield who were able to persuade the Olympic Delivery Authority that the park should be an expression and a celebration of forward looking horticulture and design as well as a demonstration of what a sustainable and ecologically-orientated park could be. The detailed planting schemes and execution of gardens was carried out by some of our leading contemporary garden designers including Sarah Price, Piet Oudulf, and James Horner (of the High Line scheme in Manhattan).



Olympic parkland.

'From the Editor' continued from page 1



Squerries Court from the east. Members of KGT compare the present planting to the 1719 drawing of Thomas Badeslade, during a very enjoyable visit.

Accounts of these visits are to be found in the following pages and, hopefully these will whet your appetite for next year when we will be taking part in the national celebrations to commemorate the bicentenary of the death of Humphrey Repton. County Garden Trusts countrywide will be holding events and we are hoping to have two joint days with SussexGT, one at Cobham Hall and one at Brightling. Details of these will be finalised early next year, together with other visits and our Spring Lecture at Riverhill which will be given by John Phibbs, a national expert on Repton.

Humphry Repton initially saw himself as Capability Brown's successor but became the founder of the 'gardenesque' movement leading to the design of many of today's gardens. Elizabeth Cairns writes about some of his ideas and achievements but Brown is not forgotten. The exhibition at the Kent History and Library Centre, Brown in Kent, may have finished but we hope it will be seen in Bexley and Dover. And Dover is where the research group's hard work on the parks and gardens is coming to an end when they complete their reports in December. We thank Cilla Freud and the research volunteers for all their hard work.

Apart from all this activity you will have been aware of a lot of change among the trustees and administration of KGT. There is too much to cover in an editorial and this is explained on the last page of the newsletter. Suffice it to say here, to those who are leaving, we are extremely grateful for all your hard work and to those who are joining us, a big welcome.

Canterbury Cathedral Precinct Gardens.

KGT visit, June 13th 2017. By Richard Stileman

We gathered outside the main gates of the Cathedral precincts to be collected by Philip Oostenbrink who preceded our tour of the five private 'canonical' gardens with an illustrated talk in the Cathedral lecture theatre on the history of the gardens, their evolution, and their current management. Fascinating pictures from the archives and library were shown, including images from the Jerrard's herbal of the 1550s.

Philip explained that he has team of 4 gardeners who look after both the 5 private gardens as well as the public gardens within the precinct area. He gave the impression of being given a lot of gardening freedom by the clergy! All the gardens look cherished with many innovative features.

We started the tour itself in the walled Memorial Garden. The stone war memorial sits in the centre and on the city wall side is the hidden Bastion Chapel. We were a little too late for the wisterias, but the roses and mixed borders were in full bloom. Next we entered the Canon Treasurer's garden with its spectacular copper beech, and a large herbaceous border on its southern flank ; and this was followed by Canon Clare's charming small walled garden embracing a vegetable patch and a blue and white border with views of the cathedral immediately behind.



The Archdeacon's garden.



The Deanery garden.

It has to be emphasized that one of the joys of visiting these gardens in ancient spaces is that whenever one's eyes are lifted from the gardens themselves, there is the magnificent cathedral looming above, presenting a slightly different aspect from every vantage point. This is especially true of our next two gardens, the Deanery and the Archdeacon's garden. The Deanery gives a sense of being cut off from the rest of the precinct, indeed cut off from the world! It is a large space with marvellous roses, wildflower planting, a vegetable garden and wild area with a stream and wildfowl enclosure. The Archdeacon's garden contrasts traditional and modern planting features – an ancient mulberry and large yew tree set in the lawn that was mown with a concentric pattern. The architectural planting provides a hint of formality, with traditional herbaceous plants infilling around, and then a quiet secluded area with a distinctly Japanese feel.

We concluded our visit with the Medicinal Herb garden, and then a gentle walk back through the cloisters to the main entrance and the 'hubhub' of present day medieval Canterbury – a joy to have had two peaceful hours in the horticultural oasis that are the precinct gardens.



In the Deanery garden.

The Kent Men of the Trees.

By Peter Blandon

The Kent Men of the Trees may be unfamiliar to readers of the KGT Newsletter. However, like the KGT, it is a charity that has an interest in parks and gardens. However, as our name betrays, our interest in gardens has a specific focus.

But first, maybe an explanation of our seemingly politically incorrect name might be in order. "The Men of the Trees", as a national organisation, was established in 1931 by Richard St Barbe Baker, on his return from working as a forest officer in Africa. There, in response to the deforestation he witnessed, he established Watu wa Miti (Swahili for "Men of the Trees") to encourage the local tribesmen to take an interest in trees and their planting. The organisation was successful and he hoped to replicate its success in Britain. Soon, county-based "Men of the Trees" organisations were established. Now only a few survive, Kent's being one.

Our charity has a number of aims. We undertake tree planting and have created a number of woods. There are also many individual trees in parks, schools and other areas that we can lay claim to. We run an annual 'Trees in the Village Competition', where villages are judged on the care and maintenance of their existing trees and on any planting initiatives. We publish a magazine three times a year and also organise outings for our members.

Our outings are usually to gardens in Kent, or occasionally East Sussex. Quite naturally they concentrate on trees, although we do allow ourselves to be diverted by rhododendrons; in fact, this year one of our members was awarded the RHS's A.J. Waley medal for outstanding work in the growth of rhododendrons. Of late our visits have included Sharsted Court and Sandling Park which were timed to coincide with the rhododendron flowering season. Recently we visited Canterbury



A tranquil scene.

Cemetery, where there is a collection of trees that is developing into one of the most significant in Kent.

Every year we organise the "big trip" lasting a number of days. It is usually planned for late summer or early autumn and this allows us to enjoy the autumn colour. The last one was to Ireland. There, we visited a number of gardens, mainly chosen for their arboreta. During this trip, we visited Glasnevin Botanic Gardens, Emo court, Coolcarrigan House, Kilmacurragh Botanic Gardens (see photo), Powerscourt House and gardens and Mount Usher Gardens. The latter is 22 acre estate established in 1868 by descendants of the Walpole family. It contains a magnificent collection of trees and shrubs and was recently voted Ireland's premier garden by no less an authority than the BBC. And we still found time in the evenings for an Irish whiskey or two. Our next big trip will be based around Hergest Croft, a well-known arboretum in Herefordshire.

Membership of KMOTT is open to all. If you would like to know more please send me your postal address to kmott@blandon.co.uk and I will send you a copy of our magazine Arbor.

A rainy but enjoyable day in Winchelsea. *By Peter Cobley*

Alice Kenyon welcomed us to the Well House with coffee and a tour of her outstanding garden, including a lovely Hibiscus and unusually large Acer Griseum. Alice told us the history of her garden demonstrating, as with the other gardeners, the amount of hard work and the dedication essential to gardening success. We moved on to Kings Leap where we were introduced to the garden by owners Phillip Kent and Findlay Wilson and shown the immaculate lawn, borders and terraced planting. A raised greenhouse and garden room gave us a good view of both the garden and across the Brede estuary to which a steep slope leads eastwards from the garden; here the original medieval wharves and a medieval boat still lie buried in the mud.



Clerodendron at South Mariteau.



A little corner at Rye View.

By way of contrast but important to the history of the town, we visited one of the 33 known cellars in Winchelsea, this one under Salutation Cottages. John Spencer, an ex-mayor, showed us round enthusiastically and explained their use as wine cellars.

We then visited Gilly Tugman's beautifully kept garden, Strand Platt, carefully tended to ensure optimum colour in late July. The New Inn provided us with a very good lunch and me a good pint of bitter as well as shelter from the rain.

Passing Spike Milligan's grave (inscription, 'I told I didn't feel well') as we crossed the churchyard of St Thomas on the way to Greyfriars where we were fortunate to be able to visit the ruined medieval chapel which lies peacefully in the garden. Next to Sally and Graham Rhodda's carefully 'colour - coordinated' garden at Cleveland Place. At South Mariteau Robert and Sheila Holland gave us a welcome drink and tour of their extensive garden. So many plants, shrubs and trees of interest, and especially a fine Hoheria and Echiums standing sentry at several locations.

The final garden, Rye View, was at the foot of the hill and immediately adjacent to the River Brede. Owners David Page and Howard Norton allowed us to wander at will enjoying their marvellous creation, recently given prominence in the RHS magazine The Garden.

In spite of the weather, it was a very successful day, ending with tea and cakes at village hall kindly made and served by Robert and Sheila Holland together with Alice Kenyon.

Many thanks to the gardeners and Richard Stileman for setting it up.



KGT visit to Winchelsea in July.



Strand Platt.

KGT visit to Goodnestone Park Gardens

By Paul Lewis

Fourteen KGT members visited Goodnestone on May 30th. A gloomy morning did not bode well but the clouds cleared during our lunch in the café to give us a sunny temperate afternoon wandering the gardens. The light lunch was excellent both in quality and in value.

Francis Plumtre now runs the Gardens. His mother Margaret, who died eighteen months ago, was a formidable gardener and played a large part in the renovation of the garden which had been devastated by the troops billeted in the house during the war. Francis concentrated particularly on showing us the Woodland Garden in which the cornus were in spectacular flower. We saw some of the outstanding trees: the Cedar of Lebanon used by children as an exciting climbing frame, a tulip tree in full flower and an enormous ancient Spanish chestnut.

The walled garden, which has been described as the finest in Kent, was demonstrated to us by Paul Bagshaw the head gardener. The roses and paeonies were at their very best and the herbaceous plantings vigorously looking forward to high summer. Paul was immensely informative about the plants and the general management of such a complex series of beds.

Margaret Fitzwalter would undoubtedly be proud of the way in the gardens continue to be cared for and developed for the future.



The twin borders at Goodnestone Park.

Pears in the Garden

By Tom La Dell

It is easy to forget that growing fruit in your garden was an important part of what a garden was all about – a pleasure to be in and an escape from the wider world.

Fruit was first banished from the ornamental garden when Louis XIV created the Potager du Roi at Versailles. The Potager is completely separated from the vast main gardens but is still probably the grandest kitchen garden ever created and it set the standards for the future of fruit growing. The English Landscape gardens of the 18th century may have been a reaction against the formalism and autocracy represented by Versailles but, like Versailles, the kitchen garden did not fit in with the grand, sweeping views over parkland. The necessary walled garden could similarly be kept well out of the view. Is this what you do in your garden, maybe behind a hedge?

Pears were the pride and joy of fruit growing as they are trickier to cultivate than apples and are, famously, perfectly ripe only for a short time. There were hundreds of varieties which had been developed over the centuries. Black Worcester, a medieval pear, is on the Worcester City Coat of Arms. Luckily, we now have the definitive guide to pears and their history of cultivation in the new book by Joan Morgan, the fruit and garden historian. Many will be familiar with her *The New Book of Apples*.

The link to Kent is The National Fruit Collection at Brogdale, near Faversham. From the collection Joan describes 500 varieties of pears in great detail and she has tasted them all! The more than 40 colour paintings by Elisabeth Dowle help to bring all this to life – they look so good you could eat them off the page.



Pears trained as baskets and pyramids at West Dean in West Sussex.

For garden historians the first 160 pages are about the history of growing fruit, with a focus on pears. Take our local garden and park at Knole. In the wonderful 'West Prospect of Knole' by Thomas Badeslade in 1715 the gardens are full of dwarf apples and pears in the ornamental garden and there are orchards of standard trees beyond. All these were soon swept away for newly introduced exotic trees and shrubs and parkland with grazing sheep and deer.

We learn that pears developed in the near east where several species hybridised and larger, sweeter fruit was cultivated. (Unlike apples which arose from a single species in southern Kazakhstan.) In fact pears were cooked in various ways, rather in the manner of the 'pears in burgundy' we still eat today. From



Book Review

Landskipping. Painters, Ploughmen and Places. Anna Pavord.

Published by Bloomsbury
Paperbacks, 2017.

ISBN 978-1-4088-6895-5.

RRP £9.99



Appearing in hardback in 2016 and now in paperback, 'Landskipping' by Anna Pavord must be the only publication talking about 18th century landscape not to mention Capability Brown. Most of the British countryside is man made (assisted by sheep) and was created out of the need for food which was produced by farmers. How it looked was not important and the word landscape was not used until the 17th century, initially being applied to paintings which, up until then, had been mainly portraits with background. During the following century, the popularity of the Grand Tour meant that more and more travellers discovered the Italian painters whose work they came to appreciate as representations of the ideal as defined by Edmund Burke in his essay on 'the Origin of the Sublime and the Beautiful'. They wished to translate this into an interpretation of the living landscape on their own estates when returning to England.

However, Pavord points out that by the end of the century although travel in Europe had become restricted due to the Napoleonic wars, in England it had improved with the new turnpike system allowing the connoisseurs of landscape to discover the Lake District, North Wales and Scotland. She

sees the landscape partly through the eyes of painters and poets; we are taken on the British grand tour by, among others, Constable, Turner and Paul Sandby. But, perhaps because his pictures of the North Downs reflect most clearly the landscape of Dorset where she now lives, it is Samuel Palmer who is the favourite. But she also follows in the footsteps of William Cobbett, clearly one of her heroes and who is not only a practical assessor of the countryside but shares her love of sheep and rooks, 'the two creatures more intimately associated than any other with the English landscape, its moods and seasons'.

This book is not just about the past but also the present and future; about changes taking place in the countryside now. There is a recognition that while market forces will always determine land use, there must be a balance between the views of environmentalists and agriculturalists. The point is made that although the search for renewable energy changes the countryside, the latter is itself artificial, even hedges are not natural. Landscape has to be managed; left to itself, land will revert to scrub.

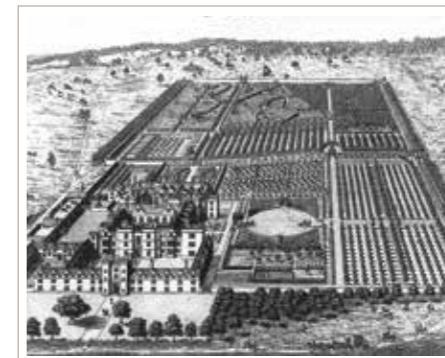
Anna Pavord's book is a fascinating travel through time with incidental sidetracks but always reflecting her love and her concern that change is managed and managed in a way that future generations will be able to continue to appreciate this marvellous country of ours. This is not just a history of landscape but an assessment of the current pressures, environmental, economic, social and political, which affect it. This read is a must for all who care about landscape.

By Hugh Vaux

the intensive cultivation and the striving to produce fruit fit for the Sun King at Versailles, dessert pear varieties were developed over the next three centuries. These came in an astonishing range of flavours and textures – when, of course, they are eaten at perfect ripeness. In the 19th century the Belgians and French led the way, with the British not far behind as the great Victorian nurseries developed varieties for walled kitchen gardens. One of the greatest of these was Bunyards nursery west of Maidstone. It is nice to know that the modern equivalent of Bunyards is not far to the west at Keepers Nursery at East Farleigh, which has an amazing range of varieties of fruit.



A fan trained pear at Gaasbeek Castle, south west of Brussels.



The 'West Prospect of Knole' by Thomas Badeslade 1715.

USEFUL REFERENCES

Joan Morgan, *The Book of Pears*, London, Ebury 2015.

Joan Morgan, *The New Book of Apples*, London, Ebury 2002.

For photographs of all the 500 pear varieties described in the *Book of Pears*, go to:

www.thebookofpears.fruitforum.net

For events at Brogdale see:
www.brogdalecollections.org

For more about the National Fruit Collection see:
www.nationalfruitcollection.org.uk

For a huge range of fruit varieties see:
www.keepers-nursery.co.uk

Changes in the management of KGT.

This is necessary in all organisations as old hands leave for other duties allowing newcomers to bring fresh ideas and new suggestions. After nine years as Chairman of Kent Gardens Trust, Elizabeth Cairns announced in the last newsletter that she would be stepping down.

‘Elizabeth didn’t just chair meetings: she represented the Trust at innumerable events and meetings within and beyond Kent and on national bodies such as the Gardens Trust. The number of activities arranged for members has increased and she continued to attract speakers of a high calibre. Elizabeth produced and edited the newsletter and led the discussions which resulted in its new format and a new badge for the Trust.

The major achievement during her chairmanship was the instigation of the Research Reports on Kent gardens of historical interest. This was largely Elizabeth’s initiative and she played a key role in obtaining funding for this important project. The Kent reports are widely acclaimed and used as models of historic gardens research and publication by other counties and scholars. From the research groups developed the Trust’s book *Capability Brown in Kent* and the seminar at Chilham Castle to mark the 300th anniversary of the great man’s birth last year. We shall not lose Elizabeth’s expertise since she is chairing the Trust’s Repton group to mark the 200th anniversary of the death of Humphry Repton next year.

It is true to say that she seems to be irreplaceable since none of the existing trustees is in a position to devote the time and attention to the Trust that Elizabeth gave. As members know, the chair is shared on a rota basis but we hope that someone will soon emerge prepared to don Elizabeth’s mantle’.

Cilla Freud joined the research group for the Medway project and has gone on to chair the Dover project which she will continue to manage for which we are extremely grateful. As a trustee she was invaluable in helping to organise the study day at Chilham Castle but has had to step down because of family commitments.

Beverley Howarth has also resigned as a trustee. She and Paul Howarth both joined the research group when we were investigating Sevenoaks. They have proved indispensable and tackled each project with enthusiasm and tenacity as well as carrying out individual work at Dalby Gardens in Margate. Their combined skills were an enormous help in producing the KGT book, *Capability Brown in Kent*, which they were able to promote with lectures and the exhibition at the Kent History and Library Centre. Paul was responsible for setting up the KGT website and we are lucky that he is kindly continuing to run it until we can find someone to take over.

Paul Lewis is another trustee to move on. He has been a stalwart not only in researching in Medway and Dover but also in organising visits for KGT members.

Lynn Phillips has very kindly agreed to take on the role of secretary in addition to her work as treasurer. We are very grateful to her but it does mean that she has to stand down as a trustee to avoid any conflict of interest. This post needed to be filled following the resignation of Pauline Coppard.

We welcome two new trustees and look forward to their contributions.

Sarah Morgan who is primarily a Garden Designer in the UK and abroad, specialising in all aspects of applied horticulture, plant science, landscape design, historical landscapes and management plans. A graduate of Wye College, Sarah’s professional life has been very involved in the training of landscape consultants and designers both at the University of Kent and Hadlow College and more recently at Greenwich University.

Sarah is actively involved as a registered member and Vice-Chair of the Society of Garden Designers, representing the college perspective; a member of the Chartered Institute of Horticulture, and a Trustee with the Cobham Hall Heritage Trust.

Theresa Zbyszewska who after teaching abroad for twenty-five years, has been delighted to rediscover the diversity and beauty of English gardens. Terri is more of a garden enthusiast than a gardener. She has been a member of the KGT historical research team for three years, involved in the projects looking at gardens such as Bishopscourt in Rochester (Medway) and Fredville Park in the Dover District. As a trustee, Terri hopes to encourage more people to appreciate our wonderful Kentish gardens.

Don’t forget ‘Capability Brown in Kent’. Copies are still available.

The book has 116 pages and is fully illustrated. It is available for **£9.50 (£8.00 for members of Kent Gardens Trust)**.

Obtaining your copy:

At your local bookseller, through Amazon or other online supplier or from Kent Gardens Trust at richstileman@btinternet.com

‘Let us applaud Kent Gardens Trust researchers who have pieced together remnant evidence to re-evaluate his major contribution to the liberating design story of the English landscape in Kent.’
Steffie Shields

