



THE KENT GARDENS TRUST NEWSLETTER

Working for Kent's Garden Heritage

ISSUE 42

WWW.KENTGARDENSTRUST.ORG.UK

WINTER 2015

From the Chairman

Elizabeth Cairns

I would like to thank everyone who has helped to make 2015 a memorable year for the Trust.

We have succeeded in raising nearly £12,000 to celebrate the tercentenary of the birth of Capability Brown (see below) and to further our research work. Grateful thanks are due to Hugh Vaux who has done such an admirable job in chairing our research group for the last four years, and completing the project to research and record sites in Medway. Now Dover District Council has commissioned us to undertake a review of sites there and Cilla Freud has kindly agreed to take over from Hugh and plans are already underway to get the project going and begin to train some new volunteer researchers.

Tom La Dell has used his expertise as a landscape architect to redesign the garden at the Archbishops Palace in Maidstone which is managed by the Trust. It is already looking very attractive and once the new plants

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Quex Park Garden

By Sue Harris



Quex garden staff 1887 with Head Gardener James Cornford (far left).

Photo courtesy Powell-Cotton Trustees

The walled garden at Quex Park is being brought back to life. Head Gardener Sue Harris explains.

The gardens at Quex Park in Birchington on the Isle of Thanet have a wealth of history pre-dating the Georgian Mansion & Powell-Cotton Museum to which they now belong. The museum manages approximately 8 acres of formal grounds, much of which is park land with specimen trees, giving the Mansion a fine setting with views across the lawns to a sunken pond and woodland beyond.

Tucked away in the corner of this garden is a small $\frac{3}{4}$ acre walled garden, constructed mainly in the Victorian period. It is this walled garden which is the particular focus for a restoration project including conservation work to secure the large glasshouse structures which are still present.

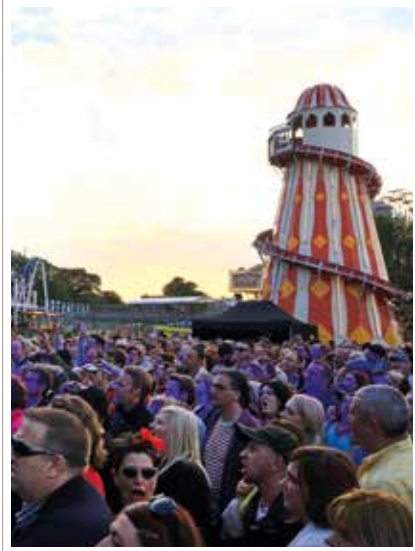
The shelter provided by the walls of a garden have been noted over the centuries and appreciated by visitors to Quex when a Tudor Mansion stood in the grounds. In 1736 the historian Lewis described its pleasant situation as having 'handsome gardens about it, walled in, with a pretty vineyard and good fruit'. Few features of the original layout survive from this time, the outline of the older walled garden is still present, but one wall of the current walled garden belongs to the early Tudor Mansion garden – in part at least, as the Tudor bricks built into it

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Sue Harris Sue has been Head Gardener at Quex since 2013. Before that she worked at Walmer Castle. Her earlier career was with English Heritage and she looked after Richborough Castle for 18 years. She has a degree in Landscape Management from Hadlow College and has a great interest in and knowledge of historic landscapes.

'From the Chairman' continued from page 1

have established will provide a charming and peaceful green space in the centre of the town. Funding and support has been provided by Maidstone Borough Council, Entrust and Groundwork South and Viridor.



Dreamland, Margate, Kent

We have had a brilliant programme of visits during the year including another day at the seaside at Margate and our guide, Nick Dermott, reports here on the hopeful signs for a revival of this early holiday resort. Our spring lecture by Susan Campbell on walled gardens was followed by a visit to the old walled garden at Riverhill and we all hoped that somehow it might be brought back to life like the Lost Gardens of Heligan. Finally a talk by Marian Boswell on how twentieth century artists influenced the design of gardens provided a stimulating and thought provoking end to the year.

The events committee is planning some equally interesting visits and talks in 2016. Our flagship event next year will be the trip to Chilham where we will celebrate the life and works of Capability Brown. Also next year we hope to run two lectures one in the spring with the other in our regular spot of November. Other trips will include another day at the seaside, at Broadstairs this time, as these events have proved to be very popular and informative together with a visit to Lullingstone World Garden followed by a walk along the Darent Valley to the Mount Vineyard in Shoreham.

A detailed programme will be published early next year.

Elizabeth Cairns, Chairman

follow a variety of patterns & bonds and in places appear to have been recycled from elsewhere.

Presented with the task of writing a feasibility study for a bid to HLF garden historian Philip Masters has come to some interesting conclusions about this garden and the other two walled gardens which still feature at Quex. Using the Museum archive and estate records he has helped piece together a picture of how this garden developed. The old walled garden, now part of the pleasure grounds of the Mansion, was superseded by the Victorian built one – started in 1840. It is this garden which has seen so many alterations, reflecting aspects of the changes in horticulture from the early glass structures and pits, to the large vineries & orchid houses which became used for show & display. From 1883 and for the following forty years James Cornford was Head Gardener and his time at Quex saw the biggest changes. In 1925, after Cornford's retirement, the area was considered an unviable part of the estate & was shut off and rented out as a market garden for a short time before being brought back into the estate. Further commercial glasshouses were added and by the end of its useful life almost the entire space was covered by glasshouse structures. The garden had produced cut flowers for the London market as well as Tomatoes and soft fruit, before cheap imports made this unprofitable.

What has fascinated the consultant and has intrigued many, is how



The Walled Garden

many layers of its development are still present – some only as 'ghosts' of the old glasshouses seen now in the low brick walls but others fully standing, with remnants of heating systems, some yet to be explored. At no time were all the structures cleared to make way for a

new style or build and when looking into the back sheds and Bothies the impression of a door being shut on an era of horticulture past is given.

Looking forward to a large restoration programme the walled garden is being cleared and rearranged to become a productive space again. Having seen a period of decline in interest and investment the garden is now a focus for a large project. The forthcoming bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund will involve funding to renovate the glasshouses, making their compartments spaces not only for display plants but using them as themed areas for the tools belonging to different eras. Education is a prime objective of the Powell-Cotton Museum

so having space for schools and learning is also planned. To conserve the future of this special garden is important now as the structures have suffered years of neglect and without help may not survive many more winter storms.

Quex gardens are maintained by 2 full time staff and 28 volunteers.



Glasshouses in the Walled Garden



A Jewel in Rochester's Crown *By Paul Howarth*

Paul Howarth reflects on the fascinating history and recent renovation of an ancient garden in Rochester.

The current owners of Restoration House, Robert Tucker and Jonathan Wilmot, have in recent years totally transformed the enclosed, walled garden immediately to the rear of the Grade II listed mansion. It is now a series of intriguing garden rooms, divided by an elegantly restored 18th century wall, and features amongst other things, high yew hedges, topiary, a Queen-Anne-style lily pond and a parterre that reflects the Jacobean pattern of the front door.

But the garden has not always looked so splendid. Thanks to recent archaeological findings, we now know that there was a Tudor garden at Restoration House. However, one of the owners at this time, the self-seeking Nicholas Morgan, was it seems, a rather objectionable character. He was accused of taking illegal possession of the property and committing 'great wastes and spoiles' on the premises, including removing soil from the garden so he could use the land for manufacturing bricks.

Unfortunately, there appears to be no surviving plan of the garden before the 19th century, but there is some evidence that it flourished during the 17th and 18th centuries. The house and garden certainly impressed the diarist Samuel Pepys who visited in 1667 and described it as a 'pretty seat'. And contemporary title deeds refer to land being let to gardeners to grow fruit trees in the orchards.

At this time, the grounds of Restoration House would have been much larger; we know that in the 18th century, the Prentis family owned land stretching for around 200 metres beyond the current eastern boundary of the rear garden, with much of the land given over to orchards. The property also included a brewery and a waterworks to the south east, both dating back to the early 18th century, and serving the city of Rochester. From the late 18th century, various owners of Restoration House gradually reduced their land holdings, with much of the area to the east eventually being taken over by Victorian housing in the 19th century.

The first surviving plan of the garden, a detailed Ordnance Survey map, dates from 1866 and shows a distinct formal

garden design to the rear of the mansion, with trees planted along both the lower and upper terraces of the former Tudor garden. Unfortunately, the garden suffered again in the 20th century and various owners do not seem to have looked after it at all well. But happily it is now in good hands again.

Members of Kent Gardens Trust were fortunate to visit Restoration House in July, and were given a fascinating tour by Robert Tucker. Everyone who attended the event agreed that Robert's detailed knowledge of the history and fabric of the house was extraordinary. After a delicious lunch, members were free to look round the garden at their own pace, with many things to see. The current owners have now bought the land to the south and east, returning part of the historic boundary to Restoration House once more. From the terrace or 'Eminence' at the eastern end of the rear garden, we could walk across to see work in progress to restore the former Tudor garden, including meticulous repair of the Tudor terraced walls. The upper terrace was undoubtedly originally designed as a viewing platform to give spectacular

views northwards across the gardens and beyond towards the River Medway. Plans are forging ahead to create a Mannerist-style water garden and when complete, it is sure to be a magnificent sight. Impressed with what they saw, some members asked if we would organise another trip when the garden restoration is complete!

We feel privileged to have been given the opportunity to research such a fascinating garden on behalf of the Trust, as part of the wider Medway project. If you want to know more about the history of the site, with a description of the garden as it is today, our report can be found on the research page of the Kent Gardens Trust website. You can also visit Restoration House during the summer when the house and garden are open to the public, usually on Thursdays and Fridays. The Restoration House website has full details.



The Entrance gates



Parterre

The KGT Research Volunteers

By Hugh Vaux, Retired Chairman Research Group

Hugh Vaux who recently retired as chair of the research group reports on its recent work and the completion of the Medway research project.



Esplanade Gardens

The volunteers have been working hard at several projects and are about to start another. The Medway parks and gardens have proved to be a really interesting collection of sites of which we were only dimly aware before we started out. The reports are now on the KGT website under 'what we do' and following the links. When visiting the Medway Towns, we would urge you to have a look at some of these sites, many of which are public spaces and within easy walking distance of each other. We have been asked by Medway Council to produce a booklet about the project and the work of the KGT which will be available in 2016 providing more information about the sites. Individual reports have been used to inform financial bids for restoration and development work at Eastgate House and to further the same at Gillingham Park. The reports on the Paddock and Riverside gardens have been used in plans for changes to the centre of Chatham.

Work has continued at Margate. The report on Dalby Square has been used to inform a proposed restoration of the enclosed garden following a successful funding bid by Thanet District Council, while the Hawley Square Residents Association have commissioned a report to help them to develop the pleasure gardens there and hopefully to reinstate the iron railings.

In Dover, Kearnsey Abbey, Kearnsey Court and Bushey Ruff have been investigated for the District Council. As a result these were used in a successful funding bid and, subsequently, the volunteers have been asked to start a new project looking at some 20 parks and gardens in that part of Kent. The whole volunteer group had a very interesting day visiting the three sites already reported on. We are looking forward to working with Dover and hope that this will help in the conservation and development of other historic sites.

The reports which we produce do not just moulder in some cupboard but are being used by the councils and groups interested in conservation, planning and local listing in all the areas where we have worked. Without wishing to blow our own trumpet, we have received very positive feedback from our employers and from elsewhere in the country about our work.

This has been due to the hard work and enthusiasm of our members, together with the support of the various councils with which we have worked and the Kent County Council's Heritage Environment Record department. But, especially, it has been due to Virginia Hinze who has acted as mentor, trainer and editor since the group was formed in 2008. Virginia is now retiring and we thank her for all her hard work, enthusiasm and good humour over that time. We wish her well. In her place we are very lucky to welcome Harriet Jordan who has kindly agreed to take over and whose extensive experience with English Heritage will make her a worthy successor.

Finally, a volunteers' project which is slightly different; the celebration of Lancelot 'Capability' Brown's tercentenary, CB 300, takes place in 2016. There is more about this elsewhere in this newsletter.

Postscript. We are always looking for new volunteers and if you are interested in detective work please contact us.



Field of Fire and Naval War Memorial

Margate – Kent’s Original Seaside Resort

By Nick Dermott

Nick Dermott Heritage Adviser to Thanet Council notes some encouraging developments for Margate.

Margate has had a particularly good year in 2015. It looks like ‘the good times’ may be back for the town. To use just one statistic, the number of passengers on the train service down from St Pancras was 20% higher this summer when compared to 2014.

The undisputed major event of the last year has been the reopening of the Dreamland amusement park in June, followed by the reopening of the Grade II* listed Scenic Railway rollercoaster within the park in October. This was an ‘against all the odds’ outcome for the town centre Dreamland site which can trace its entertainment origins back to 1829 and which seemed bound to be redeveloped as either a retail park or housing when it finally closed to the public in 2006. The turning point in Dreamland’s revival was the arson attack on the 1919 Scenic Railway in April

Sands Heritage – a privately owned company who are the operators of the amusement park. It comes after ten years of major public investment in the town by, amongst others, the County and District Councils, English Heritage, the Coastal Communities Fund, the Environment Agency and the Lottery – in projects such as the regeneration of the Old Town area, the Turner Contemporary Gallery and the building of the Sea Defences. All this represents wide support for a town which, while it might contain in the region of 700 listed buildings, also contains the two most deprived Wards in Kent.



Margate Sands

The most dramatic change to Margate in the past few years has undoubtedly been the shift in the town’s image. Once widely derided, especially by the locals, as one of Britain’s ‘Dump Towns’, Margate has recently been classified by the Rough Guide as one of the top ten places in the world to visit. It has also been used as the backdrop for innumerable pop videos and fashion shoots and, variously, been described as ‘a paradise for vintage lovers’ (Daily Telegraph) and ‘hipster heaven’ (Daily Mail).

The storm of January 1978 – which destroyed Margate’s seaside pier – is often cited as the point when the good times ended for the town as a resort. Margate had experienced downturns in its fortunes as a holiday destination before that event, of course, most notably after the railway arrived in the 1840s. Then, the reduction in the time and cost of getting to the town caused a dramatic increase in the number of day-trippers, which, in turn, discouraged richer, longer-stay visitors who had been the mainstay of the economy since 1740. After a twenty year period of adjustment, the town’s response was to promote Cliftonville, Margate’s once up-market suburb.

This time around, it has taken over thirty years for the town to recover from an economic downturn. Perhaps, Margate now has an opportunity to re-invent the concept of the British seaside resort.



Merry-go-round at Dreamland

2008. The people of Margate were suddenly shocked into realising that they were about to lose something unique, a 200m long switchback railway entirely constructed in wood and controlled by a brakeman, and have it replaced by a ubiquitous retail park. Today, Britain’s oldest rollercoaster, and the country’s only listed amusement park ride, is again working after a £3.2m restoration.

The regeneration of Dreamland has been funded by Thanet District Council, the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment, the Heritage Lottery Fund and

'CAPABILITY' BROWN AT CHILHAM CASTLE'

By Elizabeth Cairns

This article is based on one of the chapters of our forthcoming book 'Capability' Brown in Kent which will be published in 2016 as part of Kent Gardens Trust's celebration of the tercentenary of Brown's birth.

Lancelot 'Capability' Brown, the most fashionable landscape designer of the time, arrived at Chilham on 29th July 1777. He admired the well wooded Park and the 'situation and beauty of the grounds'. We know this because letters from the owner, Thomas Heron, to his brother have survived and provide a remarkable insight into Brown's work and how he approached his clients. The letters are held at the Lincolnshire Archive Office (Stubton Papers). On this occasion Brown stayed for two days. The weather was so bad that it was almost impossible to see the views to and from the Castle but Brown was able to say that 'there is little to do in the Park; it is so well wooded that it only wants a little opening'. He did not recommend any new planting but just a little judicious 'management of the Woods and Tillage of the Ground'. Heron reported in September 1778 that Brown 'gave no directions for the openings in the Park; He said there was little necessary; merely to follow fancy'.

The landscape that Brown saw (Fig. 1) had evolved over the previous 150 years since the house had been built in 1616 by Sir Dudley Digges (1583-1639) beside the ruins of a Norman Keep in an elevated position overlooking



Fig. 1 Chilham Castle by Samuel Rastall 1777

the river Stour. The steep slope on the south-east side of the house was carved into four wide terraces possibly with the help of John Tradescant the Elder (1570-1638) who had accompanied Digges to Russia when he was appointed ambassador to the Grand Duchy of Moscow (1618-19) and who lived and worked in Kent.

The park landscape shown in Rastall's drawing (Fig. 1) probably owes much to Robert Colebrooke (1718-1784) who inherited Chilham in 1752. He extended the park and removed avenues which are shown in earlier maps and drawings of the estate. The old hedges and field boundaries have also by this time been refashioned into groups of trees in open parkland and what looks like thicker planting along the north-west boundary of the park. It was already quite the kind of landscape that Brown was celebrated for creating.

If Brown did not think it necessary to alter the park very much, he did see the need for changes around the house itself. The stables and other farmyard buildings were clustered around the forecourt of the Castle and spoiled its appearance. Heron reported: 'He (Brown), says no building should appear with the Castle and he thinks the valey (sic) on that side very fine, and that the view of it from the Park should not be intercepted. The farmyard and wood-yard he would place below the stables.' Discussions about the re-location of the stables and farm buildings continued but it seems that Heron never carried out Brown's proposals for them. This may have

been because of lack of funds as the letters contain frequent references to the cost of work to the house and grounds.

A proposal which was implemented was the removal of the top terrace on the south-east side of the house. Brown visited Chilham for a second time in August 1778 and Heron wrote that he had recommended that 'The wall of the upper Terras to be taken down and the ground from the house sloped to the wall of the Terras to correspond with the slope before the house'. Fig. 2 shows the gardens in front of the house as they were before Brown's alterations.



Fig. 2 View of Chilham Castle from the South West, William Watts 'Seats of the Nobility' published 1779

Heron approved of these proposals and in October 1778 he wrote that 'The Levelling at the House goes on very well, and I hope it will soon be done;' The results of this work are shown in Fig. 3 which dates from 1810. The contours around the house have been integrated into the wider landscape and the hard lines of the seventeenth century terraces softened.



Fig. 3 View of Chilham Castle 'The Seat of James Wildman Esq.' William Green 1800 (detail).

Brown also drew up plans for a new Kitchen Garden to the north of the Castle but Heron reported to his brother in October 1778 that 'there are so many difficulties objections with



Book Reviews

Vanessa Remington - Painting Paradise: The Art of the Garden

*Published by the Royal Collection
Trust, London, 2015
ISBN 978 1 909741 089
RRP £29.95*



This lavishly illustrated book written by the Senior Curator of Paintings at the Royal Collections Trust was published to coincide with this year's critically acclaimed exhibition held at the Queen's Gallery, London. But unlike many books and catalogues which accompany art exhibitions, this book stands alone. For more than 500 years, generations of England's royal households have collected what has now become the rarest of manuscripts and miniatures, tapestries and furnishings, together with paintings, drawings and ceramics, created by some of the world's greatest artists and craftsmen. Through these works, the author not only explores the way in which the garden and its many facets have fired artists' imaginations, but she also shows that, when gathered together, they provide an extraordinary evolving narrative, charting the history of the garden through the centuries.

From 15th and 16th century manuscripts and miniatures, we are invited to glimpse into life in a Persian garden, and learn how form and perspective provided a formative influence on later garden styles in the West. During the early Renaissance, classical mythology and contemporary literature provided the vocabulary for Italian garden designs with the most 'fantastical' fountains, cascades, labyrinths and topiary that were replicated throughout Europe, often directly informed by 16th century tapestries and woodcuts. In England, from the reign of Henry VIII, the garden became a symbol of monarchical power, and in the family portrait of Henry VIII we are offered tantalising glimpses of heraldic beasts within the king's newly-laid walled garden. Pictorial imagery taken from Henry VIII's 15th century copy of *Ruralia Commoda* also provides

delightfully clear insights into mediaeval gardening practices of pruning, digging and harvesting crops, and the various types of implements used for such tasks. Botanical plants were also a source of inspiration for artists such as Albrecht Dürer and Leonardo da Vinci. We discover in Leonardo's early-16th century studies of nature in pen and ink that these drawings are not only great works of art in themselves, but their accuracy in form and structure led them to be acknowledged as the 'first truly modern botanical drawings ever made'.

During the late-17th century, the accession of William and Mary to the English throne heralded the fashion for the growing of exotic fruits and rare plants. As the new king and queen brought their passion for gardening with them, Dutch horticulture came to be seen as more sophisticated than that of the French. Mary II's collection of exquisitely hand-painted Delft and Chinese porcelain certainly tells the story of her passion for exotics, a fashion which grew throughout 18th century England. The influence of French formal garden styles is also vividly recorded in Leonard Knyff's early-18th century *View of Hampton Court*. Although perhaps not on the same scale and magnificence as Louis IV's garden at Versailles, the Hampton Court Palace garden was nevertheless seen as a masterpiece of English Baroque and depicted as such in Knyff's painting. From the mid-18th century until the early-19th century, the story of royalty's adoption of the 'new taste in gardening' and more naturalistic styles unfolds through various media, including oils, pen and ink, and watercolours. In particular, the development of watercolour painting shows that this medium was admirably suited to naturalistic styles and reflected a general obsession with all things natural. But one hundred years later, we see that Royal patrons were no longer the sole arbiters of garden style, as the portrayal of beds, borders and shrubberies of humbler gardens reveals that a national gardening culture for everyone had been ushered in. All in all, this is a book to treasure, and one to return to time and again.

By Beverley Howarth

respect to a situation for a kitchen garden that I shall not attempt it till the scheme can be more satisfactorily fixed'. It seems that in the end the site of the Kitchen Garden remained unchanged south of the house where it still is today. It may have been extended and Brown designed 'a very pretty and well designed' Green House in March 1779.

A more detailed account of Brown's involvement at Chilham will be published in Kent Gardens Trust's forthcoming book 'Capability Brown in Kent'.

A fascinating visit to Court Lodge, Lamberhurst took place in June where the owners are restoring the Victorian gardens followed by a lovely summer afternoon at the Priory where the beautiful and immaculate gardens are embellished by an amusing topiary folly.



Message from our Treasurer

At the end of last year the Trustees made the decision to change bank accounts from Nat West to Barclays. This was in order to allow us to have the facility for internet banking. Under the guidelines issued by the Charity Commission payments made from a charity should be authorised by 2 representatives of the charity; previously being 2 signatories on a cheque. With internet banking payments are made direct by one individual, however Barclays provided the facility whereby one authorised individual processed a payment and then another authorised person accesses the system and agrees the payment. Thereby allowing us to still comply with the Charity Commission guidelines.

Members' subscriptions are paid by Standing Order, which is an instruction that you give to your personal bank, requesting that they pay a certain amount on a certain day until you advise them otherwise. Unfortunately Kent Gardens Trust cannot ask your bank to pay your subscriptions to our new bank account. This is the reason why new standing orders are being sent out to our members and we would be most grateful if you could complete them and send to your bank for them to be initiated. The form stipulates that this new Standing Order is to replace all previous payments to Kent Gardens Trust but please make sure that your bank notes this. At the same time, and as announced by our Chairman Elizabeth Cairns last year, we will also be changing the amounts to be paid to the new membership fees.

I apologise for the inconvenience that this has caused but we do appreciate your taking the time to process the new forms and if you have any queries please do contact our Trust secretary Kelly Noble on 07432 633697 or email her on

kelly.noble@kentgardenstrust.org.uk

Many thanks

Lynn Phillips, Treasurer

Brown in Kent

By Hugh Vaux

Hugh Vaux describes how KGT intends to celebrate the tercentenary of 'Capability' Brown's birth next year.

As you will know by now, it is the tercentenary of the birth of Lancelot 'Capability' Brown in 2016. Well perhaps not his birth but certainly his baptism on 30th August in that year at Kirkhale in Northumberland. The date of his birth is not recorded but was probably in the same year which gives the organisers of the CB300 celebrations considerable flexibility to time their events. These are being arranged countrywide with major conferences in Bath, Cambridge and Hampton Court as well as an exhibition at Somerset House in London. The different County Garden Trusts are organising their own events and the whole diary can be found on www.capabilitybrown.org.

Kent Gardens Trust are working hard to do their share. We are producing a book and are lucky enough to be able to hold an open day at Chilham Castle by kind permission of Mr and Mrs Stuart Wheeler. This will take place on Sunday 21st August 2016 from 10.30am -5pm. There will be lectures by two Brown experts. Steffie Shields and Kate Felhus have agreed to talk to us about aspects of Brown's work and his connections with Kent. This will be further detailed in an exhibition which will also provide more information about the work of KGT. **You can book online now!**

The book, 'Brown in Kent', will we hope be published early next year and this will describe the five sites in

Kent where we know that he worked. Chilham Castle is the only one where a complete landscape can be seen, even if not all of this is Brown's. At Valence and Northcraze Place snippets can be visualised. At Ingress very little remains while at Leeds Abbey, the landscape is buried beneath brambles and woodland. This may sound depressing but the group of volunteers working on the sites have been able to bring the C18 parks and gardens to life again with the aid of pictures, maps and documents. It is a tribute to their hard work and training that they have gathered together a large amount of material, some of which is new and previously unpublished, to produce a comprehensive picture of the work carried out by Brown.



Lancelot 'Capability' Brown

Brown did not work in isolation; he had an army carrying out his instructions and it was a tribute to his personality that he was able to train his workers and influence other designers who became his 'followers' and successors. Henry Holland, the architect and builder, worked with him at Valence and Leeds Abbey and

his son, Henry jnr, became Brown's son-in-law, helping to continue the family tradition.

It was not just his ability to get on with these people but his affability, knowledge and good sense enabled him to talk on equal terms with his employers of whatever social standing, sharing thoughts and ideas while discussing the 'capabilities' of the landscapes he was required to change. A change which did not just alter aesthetic appearances but might also provide very real improvements in the form of a new access to the property or a major drainage scheme which would involve his very considerable skills as an engineer.

Both the book and the exhibition talk about some of these people and help to provide a picture of Kent in another age; one which can still just be glimpsed.

Kent Gardens Trust, Registered Charity No. 298861

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