



THE KENT GARDENS TRUST NEWSLETTER

Working for Kent's Garden Heritage

ISSUE 48

WWW.KENTGARDENSTRUST.ORG.UK

AUTUMN 2021

From the Editors

Lesley Dawes and Sarah Morgan

This edition of the Kent Garden Trust 2021 Newsletter is a celebration of life back to nearly normal with informative contributions from Members and Trustees summarising this year's lectures and tours, plus information on some stimulating forthcoming winter lectures. Confirming that Kent really does have the most fabulous gardens and parklands worthy of protection and conservation by those that care, please encourage more to join up and get involved with the continuing work of the Gardens Trust.

We will miss Hugh Vaux and his expert eye on the editorial content of the Newsletter and hope that you enjoy and forgive our first attempt with this edition!

In this edition

	<i>Page</i>
<i>From the Chairmen</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Visit to Vintners</i>	<i>2-3</i>
<i>Why our gardens should change</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>The KGT Evelyn day at Wotton and Albury</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Andrew Wells</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Hugh Vaux</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Kent Garden Trust visit to Leonardslee</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Visit to Abbey Physic Garden</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Book Review</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>KGT visit to Balmoral Cottage</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>White House Farm, Ivy Hatch</i>	<i>8</i>

A Review of 2021

From the Chairmen



The President of the KGT, Lady Kingsdown, thanks the two speakers at the Autumn KGT gathering, postponed from Spring

Although the effects of the continuing pandemic have inevitably influenced the Kent Gardens Trust in many ways, we have managed to stay busy through most of 2021, keeping the Trust healthy in its operations and finances, and being able to offer our KGT Members a full programme of Events.

We have rapidly come up to speed with ZOOM as an effective alternative for lectures and offered two last year. The KGT will be offering at least five lectures on Kent gardens in the coming six months. We very much hope most of our members will put their toes in the water with ZOOM. Apart from anything else, it offers a marvellous way of dispelling winter gloom! We will be in touch with more details in the Autumn.

Garden visiting, being an outside activity, has been spared the worst of the restrictions, and all our planned visits have gone ahead with full houses. Miraculously, in a vexatious summer weather-wise, the sun has shone on every occasion. Even the Garden Party, held in a weekend of frequent storms, had three hours of dry and bright weather, and allowed all 100 of us to enjoy the glorious gardens at Hole Park, as well as the teas and sandwiches and cakes served in the courtyard. Edward Barham spoke to us about Hole Park's quick and resolute response to the pandemic in 2020, and suggested how walking in green spaces, small as well as large like Hole, can offer people the solace and recreation that we all need.

We are colossally grateful to Edward and Clare Barham for hosting the Garden Party and for kindly donating to KGT the costs of preparing and serving the teas. Our President, Lady Kingsdown, thanked the Barhams for their support to KGT, specifically for this year's Garden Party, but more generally over many years.

"From the Chairmen" continued on page 8

Visit to Vinters

By Tom La Dell

The 1980s start to Restoration of the Gardens and Parkland

Vinters Park is one of the Kent parks and gardens for which Humphry Repton prepared one of his famous Red Books. He visited Vinters in March 1797 and met the owner James Whatman who pioneered industrial papermaking at Turkey Mill, just south of Vinters. The rest of the story is told in the KGT book Humphrey Repton In Kent, which marked 200 years since Repton's death. The remaining ha-has are Listed in the Historic England Register.

Much of the parkland was built over for the Vinters Park housing estate, schools, the crematorium, television studios and a computer centre. The remaining site of the house and gardens, the steep sided valley, a small area of the original parkland, the kitchen garden and lake cover 90 acres (37 hectares) have not been developed. They are the responsibility of Vinters Valley Park Trust for the owners Kent County Council. The Trust's primary objective is to manage the area for wildlife and public access, not for the conservation of the historic park and garden.

I became involved in the story of Vinters Park in 1983 when I worked as a landscape architect at Kent County Council (KCC). Knowing that I was interested in garden history, I was given the responsibility to supervise a job creation scheme to reclaim what was possible of the park and gardens. The first task was to research the history in the Kent County Archive. This was very revealing, showing old maps and the surviving estate records. A lucky contact said that he knew a surviving relative of James Whatman who still had Repton's Red Book. I visited him in a nursing home and he had it with him and said 'do you want to borrow it?' I pointed

out that the most recent sale of a Red Book was for £16,000 and he said 'be careful with it then.' It is now in the Yale Center for British Art archive.

The starting point was the Ordnance Survey 25 inches to 1 mile (now 1:2,500) first edition maps, which are well known for having exceptional detail of parks and gardens, with every tree in a parkland accurately located. The house had been demolished in the late 1940s but searching among the overgrown remains of the gardens we could see small bits of walls in the local Kentish Ragstone popping up amongst the scrub and rubble. It turned out that before KCC bought the site it had belonged to a local builder and he filled in the cellars and built out a plateau towards the lake with waste from the post war construction.

Vinters Park housing estate was under construction and I strolled around (not much health and safety in those days) and met the site manager. He was local and interested and offered to lend a large excavator and driver he did not need for the next week so that we could follow the visible walls and see if the buried ones on the OS 1st edition map were still there. That seemed to create good opportunities for the job creation scheme, so we accepted the offer. We had a skilled driver who found it interesting – an important issue as a few seconds of inattention can do a lot of damage to historic structures.

Starting in the southern corner we followed the curve of the wall on the OS map and realised straight away how accurate the maps are. As we got to the base of the wall under a metre and a half or so of soil and rubble there were the concrete copings, some whole and some broken. It was clear that the lorries had run over the infilled cellars and simply tipped over the top of the terrace wall. We followed another curve and a right angle and the wall stopped. That seemed to be it but the OS map showed a flight of steps so we dug back a bit, found them and soon picked up the wall again beyond the steps. This carried on for another 70 metres until we reached the lime avenue. We were

then lent a lorry and driver by a Maidstone contractor (Gallagher, now a very successful local benefactor) so we could continue to remove the soil between the terrace wall and the lake. At the same time a highways engineer working on the construction of the Running Horse Roundabout on Sandling Road needed a lot of topsoil, so the soil went there.

The youngsters on the job creation scheme now had a cast new coping stones to match the existing ones. The excavator then cleared the silted-up channel of the stream leading down to the lake and we discovered the bases of the weirs forming the cascade. The reconstruction of the weirs was another skilled task for the youngsters to learn. The connection between the site of the house and the lake is now partly restored but is increasingly overgrown and the lake is no longer visible. The lime avenue to the north of the house is on a substantial viewing terrace but the views down the valley to Maidstone church are also obscured by rampant scrub growth.

Garden history and nature conservation

On 18 May 2021 the KGT group gathered at Lodge Close on a fine morning for our walk around the remaining park and gardens. Hugh Vaux, our recently retired trustee, gave an introductory talk about the chapter about Vinters Park in Humphry Repton in Kent, the Kent Gardens Trust book commemorating Repton's death in 1818. It was a fine way to mark Hugh's lasting contribution to the research and recording of Kent's historic gardens for many years. Lodge Close leads to the service entrance from New Cut Road and passes the now completely overgrown kitchen garden where the walls and buildings were demolished. Weaving our way through the scrub, the large rockery made of massive pieces of the local Kentish Ragstone survives but is shaded by now large yew trees. The magnificent dry ragstone bridge next to it (at the end of the 1.2km, 3/4 of a mile, carriage drive to the house from Bearsted Road) remains as an exceptional example of early Victorian construction.

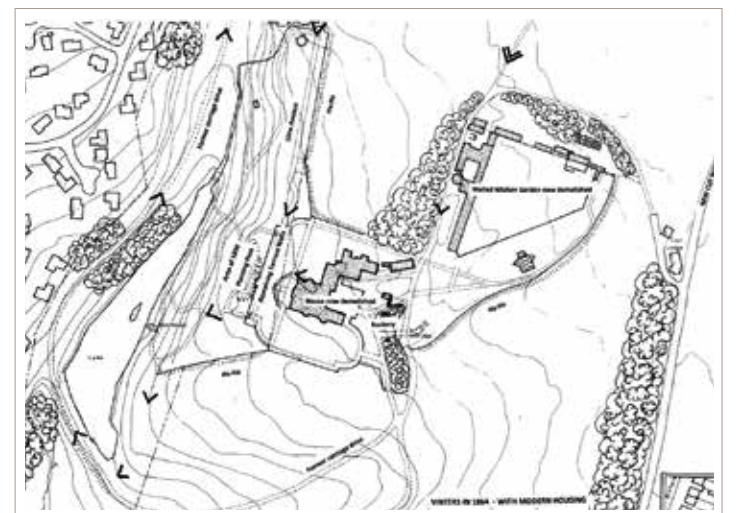
We stumbled across the infilled cellars of the house and on to the terrace which we revealed in 1984. This used to have views over the lake, a classic view from a gentleman's house. This terrace is constructed, like the bridge, of finely dressed ragstone blocks and has cast concrete copings. It is part of the 1850s expansion of the gardens and the detailed planting plan for them is in the KCC Archive. We headed south towards the lake where the views over the remaining parkland, which Repton valued so highly, have been obscured by recent hedge planting. The parkland itself is becoming scrubby and losing its historic character.

The next step was to join the carriage drive on top of the dam which retains the lake. Looking north along

the lake, all the clear views of the original designs have been lost and the branches of trees and shrubs dip down into the water all round. This has mostly removed the wildlife value of the lake (by removing the exposure of the shallow water to the sun). No marginal vegetation grows and there are no breeding grounds for fish, amphibians and insects. With a bit of work, this could a good example of where garden history and nature conservation can work together for the benefit of both.

A walk along the carriage drive west of the lake took us to steps up the slopes of the steep sided valley and past the ice house. A little further up the slopes and we were at the northern end of the 120 m long lime avenue. This is a bit of a mystery and some of the original limes remain. The ha-ha walls around it, and the ones on the southern side of the gardens, are in a more random stone and roughly dressed. These must be the ones constructed in the early 19th century, when the parkland was formed following Repton's recommendations. In his Red Book Repton makes it clear to Whatman, the self-made industrialist, that one should never see ploughed, arable land from his house. A gentleman should only see pasture grazed by sheep or cows from his windows. The lime avenue and the viewing terrace are earlier 18th century features so maybe Whatman retained then when the parkland was formed.

At the end of the lime avenue, we descended to the rather formal, straight path between the house terrace and the lake and could see the remaining tail end of the soil deposited in the 1950s, still almost 6m deep nearest the lake. We returned to contemporary life where our cars were parked next to the computer centre on Lodge Close.



Map of Vinters 1864



Rediscovered steps in 1983 and The Lime Avenue

DAVE GOULSON APRIL LECTURE

Why our gardens Should Change

By Lesley Dawes

An eye-opening and very excellent talk. It certainly made me re-think how I do my gardening.

The world faces many challenges- climate change, soil erosion, over-fishing, loss of biodiversity and the extinction of many species. Vertebrates and birds are in trouble and likewise insects. To us insects are just around and we can take very little notice of them or we flap them away and we can even be a little scared of them. Insects are vital to our life on this planet and if they disappear the environment would disintegrate into chaos. Many species are in decline. Three-quarters of rare butterflies and the great yellow bumblebee are extinct in England and Wales to name just a few

Insects are important in many ways. They are a food source, help decompose organic matter and distribute seeds. Earwigs which make adults and children fearful are good news because they eat many pests avoiding the need for sprays. Bees are vital for pollination and so are many other insects.

Frighteningly in China, because of lack of insects, fruit trees have to be pollinated by hand!

We need to ask ourselves how can we preserve and prevent the loss of many insect species, attracting them

to our gardens and avoid the barren and artificial environments we have created. We need to practice wildlife friendly gardening such as the old-fashioned cottage garden hosting plants for pollinators such as lupins, geraniums, catmint, sneezeweed, viper's bugloss, lamb's ear, borage and scabious whilst avoiding or limiting over hybridised double forms of flowers.

Trees are excellent especially the flowering ones and they can feed thousands of bees at a time. Other practices are mowing our lawns and road verges less. Weed killers and Pesticides are very bad and are carcinogenic too.

In France all inorganic pesticides for ornamental and domestic use are banned yet in the UK, many of the ornamental plants that we buy from Nurseries are drenched in pesticides. An interesting eye-opener was using pesticides such as 'Frontline' on dogs, which can easily make its way into watercourses and rivers, and is highly toxic to the habitat of many insects.

A fun way to increase insects in the garden, particularly with children is to make bee and earwig hotels and hoverfly lagoons.

The key message from this excellent talk was Look after the little creatures in our gardens and they will look after us!



Bumble bee collecting pollen from *Echinops bannaticus*

The KGT Evelyn day at Wotton and Albury

by Richard Stileman

Despite the drizzle and despite the pandemic we eventually managed to celebrate John Evelyn's birthday in 1620 with a visit to his birthplace at Wotton near Dorking and where we saw his first successful forays in persuading his family to adopt Italianate garden features. We then went to the marvellous private estate at nearby Albury Park which exhibits the best surviving example of his more adventurous 17C work, again principally Italianate, on behalf of his friend the first Earl of Arundel. The photograph shows the KGT group on the upper Evelyn terrace in front of the semi-circular pond and with the 19C rebuilt mansion in the background.



THANK YOU to Hugh Vaux and Andrew Wells

The KGT would not function without the committed efforts of our volunteer Trustees, plus the support of all the membership and the Gardens Trust head office. As we say thank you and farewell to two of our long serving members and Trustees, please consider if you might be able to offer some voluntary help or contemplate joining the Trustees to steer the KGT into the future.

Andrew Wells TD

By Richard Stileman

Andrew joined KGT as a Trustee in 2005 and only relinquished this position last year after he and Tessa had made the decision to move to the West Country to be closer to family. During his time with KGT Andrew was particularly active in researching houses and gardens that would be appropriate for special visits by KGT members. Tessa was also instrumental in helping with events and hospitality for Trustees meetings and we wish them both well.

Andrew had a distinguished career, firstly as a soldier with the Wessex Yeomanry and Royal Green Jackets, and secondly as Curator and Agent for Leeds Castle. He has had a lifelong interest in the conservation of historic houses and the countryside and was a Director of CPRE. He was High Sherriff of Kent in 2004, and during his tenure undertook activities that underlined the value of volunteering.

He lived at Mere House in Mereworth where he and Tessa continued to develop the garden



that had been largely laid out by his father Sir John Wells, MP. The garden was regularly opened for the National Gardens Scheme, and for local charities.

Hugh Vaux

An appreciation by Elizabeth Cairns
KGT Chair 2007-2018

In 2008 KGT launched its first research project to record the historic parks and gardens in Tunbridge Wells Borough and Hugh was one of the original members of the volunteer group we recruited and was immediately acknowledged as one of the star performers. His expertise became particularly useful as the group learned to apply new standards set by English Heritage. Hugh agreed to chair the research group when we were then asked in 2010 to research and record sites in the Sevenoaks area. This involved considerable time and effort in arranging meetings with our editor Virginia Hinze, nudging individual researchers to write up their research in good time and managing the steep learning curve that was required for all of us as well as dealing with expenses and other logistical matters. Hugh was a firm but kind mentor to members of the group and somehow also managed to carry out impeccable research on his particular site, Finchcocks in Gaudhurst, setting a high standard for all of us. Further research projects in Medway and Dover followed in which

Hugh took a leading role.

2016 was the tercentenary of the birth of 'Capability' Brown and KGT decided to celebrate the anniversary by researching the sites he had been involved with in Kent and producing a book entitled Capability Brown in Kent. Again Hugh played a leading role in bringing the book to publication as chair of the group of volunteers doing the research and his work on the fascinating history of the long lost Brownian landscape at Leeds Priory was truly ground breaking.

Two years later in 2018 was the two hundredth anniversary of the death of Brown's greatest successor in the art of landscape design, Humphry Repton, and again to mark this KGT ambitiously took on the task of producing a book on the sites he had designed in Kent. Hugh's work on the history of the gardens at Montreal in Sevenoaks (long ago buried under housing) produced such a wealth of fascinating information that he was asked by the Gardens Trust to present his findings at a symposium on Repton at the Garden



The trustees presented Hugh and Susan with a botanical painting for their new home in recognition for all his hard work for the KGT

Museum in London.

It took a little time before I could persuade Hugh to become a trustee of KGT as he had so many other commitments, but he eventually agreed and during my time as Chair was always generous with his help and support. He has made an invaluable contribution to KGT and, in particular, to its high reputation in the world of garden history for the quality of its research work.

Kent Garden Trust visit to Leonardslee May 27th 2021

By Sandys Dawes

It must be over 35 years ago that my wife Lesley and myself visited Leonardslee. We had recently opened our gardens on a commercial basis. We had also cobbled together a tea room. We had decided that we should on a regular basis learn from other gardens.

We ended up at Leonardslee in May on a very grey drizzly sort of day and were spellbound by the story of the remarkable collection of Rhododendrons and the manner in which they had been collected in the Himalayas and then used for creating new varieties. We were equally affected by the wonderful colours of the Rhodies and azaleas. Possibly the colours were even brighter because of the grey day.

Fancy our excitement that KGT had organised a trip to Leonardslee in May when the collection would be at its best. There was just a touch of nerves that a second visit could not match our first one. We were not disappointed.

We were divided into two groups of 12 and we were given an excellent tour by Andy, assistant to the new Head Gardener Jamie Harris who took the other group. Andy started with the

immaculate Grade 1 Listed Rock Garden with its mass of colour, rock formations and waterfall.

We learnt that the gardens had been left to slowly decline over a period of years only to be bought by the present owner who has clearly invested a large amount of money to restore the original gardens and develop ambitious plans for the future. A small thing, but we visited on a glorious day just after the rains visited. I had brought my walking boots expecting wet muddy paths. I was wrong. The paths and steps had been recently installed and were excellent.

The 240 acre gardens are sited on either side of a small valley with lakes at the bottom. Some of the original trees are still standing as are some of the huge rhododendrons. Paths follow the gradients and the potential for vistas is just brilliant. I found myself standing in one spot and slowly pirouetting 360 degrees to appreciate the views carefully created over 150 years.

To those who have never visited Leonardslee please go. April to early June would be best. The Gardens are just magnificent and I express my thanks to KGT for organising the trip.

Visit to Abbey Physic Garden and Norton Court June 10th 2021

by Lesley Dawes

It was a grey and dismal June day when we made this visit, and it was hard to keep one's spirits up! The Physic Garden is almost invisible, hidden away behind a wall near the old Queen Elizabeth Grammar school, the church, and the graveyard. This is much more than just a garden - it is an oasis which provides companionship and therapeutic activities, training and skill building for people with mental health issues.

It is a great meeting place for lonely and socially isolated people where they can have their spirits raised (despite the weather!) by company and tea and delicious cakes. There is gardening and horticultural training and even cooking lessons.

The patchwork of different areas and varied planting is maintained by volunteers, and they were very active during our visit.

There are numerous vegetable gardens, all thriving with produce. I saw the largest cucumber like plant that I have ever seen - (I cannot remember the name) and a very tall thistle like plant called a cardoon. The green house was bursting with tomatoes, and many were unusual colours including a black one and a stripped one.

There are many small areas of planting dotted here and there for wildlife, including a serene pond and a wild garden making use of lots of old twigs and bug hotels.

For me the moon garden was wonderful. When you enter, all the beds are crescent shaped where possible. They are planted with soothing colours: purple, blue, silver, and white. The paths are made from different and attractive recycled materials

The Physic Garden is something very different and the town should be congratulated along with the tireless and enthusiastic volunteers.

The afternoon visit to Norton Court was a striking contrast to our morning visit to The Abbey Physic Garden. The grey gloom had lifted and the sun was shining for us. Norton Court is an elegant house with a ten-acre garden set in very attractive parkland.

We were treated to informative talks given by the owners, Tim and Sophia Steel. The borders were immaculately maintained and there were wide areas of neatly mown lawn.

Views from the house and garden across to the parkland were stunning. There were many mature trees and on one path we came across a wonderful sequoia with a tree house. This has undoubtedly given the children of the house a fabulous place to play.

The topiary path has a yew hedge on one side and on the other an extensive border filled with undulating shapes of yew and box.

We could have explored the paths through extensive wild flower meadows but ran out of time. Our host explained that the meadows were not simply created by throwing a packet of meadow plant seeds. The ground is completely cleared and then the soil scarified before the seeds of many meadow plants were sown. The result was just stunning.

Norton Court borders Norton Church which was open for us to wander. The churchyard owns a magnificent yew tree reported to be over 1000 years old - a suitable way to finish our full, enjoyable and interesting day in East Kent. We are very grateful to our hosts/hostesses.



Entrance to Moongate, Abbey Physic Garden - Lesley Dawes



Book Review

Where the wildness pleases – The English Garden Celebrated. Written by Caroline Holmes.

Published July 2021 by ACC Art Books.

List Price **RRP £25.00**

Exploring in detail 30 gardens of the High Weald, Caroline Holmes uncovers the history, architecture, setting and horticulture with a contemporary narrative following some of our most treasured gardens in Kent and Sussex from their conception to present. Holmes includes modern management techniques and up to date images and descriptions, to give an informative view on where the gardens may be leading for the future. Fascinating facts and local snippets leap out of every page making this more than another garden guide. I am looking forward to hearing more from Caroline Holmes when she presents her series of four zoom lectures in aid of the Gardens Trust:

Lecture 1: Woodlands and Parks – green is not the only colour – 22nd October 2021

Lecture 2: Beauty and Utility – art, craft and recycling – 19th November 2021

Lecture 3: Shaking off the Historical Shackles – make or break – 21st January 2022

Lecture 4: Shear Genius and Ripping Yarns – 25th February 2022

Booking details: The Garden Trust have kindly offered to host this series using Eventbrite. Each one-hour talk will start at 19.00hrs with the opportunity for questions afterwards. A recording will be available for a further week. Cost: £30 for the series or £10 per session www.thegardenstrust.org

By Sarah Morgan

The KGT Autumn Meeting

At the Kent Gardens Trust Autumn meeting, held at Egerton Hall on November 7th, two of our members gave fascinating talks based on the books they have written:

‘On Landscape Design, In the words of Masters through the Centuries’, by Charles Aldington and ‘Will Purdom, Agitator, Plant Hunter and Forester’, by Francois Gordon are highly recommended reads from Christopher Woodward, Director of the Garden Museum and Roy Lancaster

The KGT events brochure for 2022 will be with you in March and we have a feast of new gardens to visit for members in what we are hoping will be a healthy and Happy New Year for you all.

KGT visit to Balmoral Cottage 6th July 2021

By Sandys Dawes

This was a day of surprises. First, we arrived at Benenden Green, a great expanse of grass leading up to St George's Church which was originally built on the wealth of the iron industry, more important than wool as I had assumed.

We reached our destination by following a very well-hidden track that took us to Balmoral Cottage. We were met by our hostess Charlotte Molesworth a multi-talented gardener with enormous charm and energy. Our group was divided so that the first group was shown round by Charlotte. She then treated the second group with a similar tour.

They live in what was originally the Edwardian gardener's cottage for the Collingwood Ingram garden. Charlotte and her husband Donald, both gardeners since their childhoods, bought the cottage and land which was

part of the original kitchen garden in 1983.

The cottage and the garden were badly neglected. Charlotte and Donald had other jobs so the creation of this amazing garden has taken a long time and often been adjusted and edited.

They brought in cuttings of all sorts of plants and hedges using any number of odd pots, buckets and bins to store them. As they cleared areas of weeds so they started to plant. The garden slowly evolved organically and has been adjusted over the years.

Charlotte has a passion for topiary and teaches topiary. She is also a consultant. Throughout the garden are topiary figures of all shapes of sizes wherever you look; peacocks and pyramids, spirals and spheres. Charlotte has experimented using box, yew, holly and hornbeam in her topiary. It is possible to look at one



Topiary at Balmoral Cottage

hedge and realise that it is a mix of four different species.

The garden has many paths so the visitor is constantly being surprised and delighted with each new view; apple trees, Acers, the lake, archways and avenues.

Charlotte and Donald have created an extraordinary garden with almost everything having been created by the two of them. This is a great story and we were honoured to be given such an inspired introduction by Charlotte.

White House Farm, Ivy Hatch - August 12th *By Alison Philip*

A group of 29 visited White House Farm in Ivy Hatch on a thankfully dry morning and were treated to an extremely informative and beautiful three hours, guided around 15 acres of garden by distinguished plantsman Maurice Foster and his daughter Claire. This private garden has been created over forty years by Maurice, holder of the Victoria Medal of Honour, and is home to a unique collection of rare and unusual trees and shrubs, grown from seeds collected by Maurice and others on many expeditions to China and beyond. The collection is recognised as one of the finest in the country and fulfils Maurice's stated aim of achieving year-round colour (except in November)!

We fortified ourselves with tea, coffee and cake before setting off on our guided tour. The highlight of our visit

was the huge collection of Hydrangeas of every type and colour, most still in bloom and heard the stories behind the successes and failures of propagation and the introduction of these rare and exotic plants to a garden in Kent. Maurice's encyclopaedic knowledge of each and every plant and tree was astonishing and his patience in answering our questions was wonderful. His battles with rabbits, deer and Goldfinches entertained us all and the establishment of an Arboretum on a former strawberry farm took the more intrepid of our members to the furthest point of the garden on a whistle-stop tour.

It was a privilege to have had the opportunity to explore this wonderful garden with its owner and creator and we hope very much to be permitted to visit again in the future.

Don't forget *Humphry Repton and Capability Brown in Kent.*

Humphry Repton in Kent is the companion volume to **Capability Brown in Kent**. Both books will interest not only garden historians but anyone keen to know more about the social history of the county and the lives of the leading figures of the time.

Obtaining your copies:

Our books can be obtained directly from Kent Gardens Trust by e-mailing richstileman@btinternet.com. Each book is available to members for just £8, inclusive of members' discount and postage. The books are also available via most bookshops, as well as Amazon and Waterstones online.



"From the Chairmen" continued from page 1

Our only indoor event of the year was moved from a Spring slot to Autumn. We hope that many of you will join us for the Autumn Meeting in Egerton on Sunday November 7th when we listen to two of our members talk about their recent books (see the Events Brochure for details), discuss our plans for 2022, and serve delicious tea!

Planning application review work has continued apace throughout the year albeit without much physical visiting of sites. The only area of our activities to have had important lingering problems is the research project in Swale. However, thanks to Cilla Freud's persistence in dealings with Swale Borough Council it now looks as though things can get going again.

We have said 'goodbye' during the last 12 months to two long serving Trustees. Andrew Wells and Hugh Vaux have both moved out of the county (coincidentally to Wiltshire where they will be closer to relations) leaving behind much cherished homes and gardens. Their active support for KGT over many years will be sorely missed.

We now look forward to another good year, hopefully with virtually NO restrictions in place.

Thank you for your continued support.

*Richard Stileman and Mike O'Brien,
Co-Chairmen*



Charles Aldington



Francois Gordon

Kent Gardens Trust, Registered Charity No. 298861

Tel: 01622 861313 | Website: www.kentgardenstrust.org.uk | Email: info@kentgardenstrust.org.uk