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Cover: Memorial Gardens Norwich - Roger Last
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Report from the Chair - Spring 2021

At the end of 2020 our redoubtable Treasurer, Peter Woodrow, retired after eight years immaculate service. When Peter took on the role he found our financial records were not in apple pie order and he set about producing reliable records which he maintained to a very high standard over the following years. In addition he took on responsibility for planning matters. The Gardens Trust in London is the statutory consultee on planning matters relating to registered parks and gardens. In turn the Gardens Trust relies on individual county gardens trusts to carry out this function and Peter Woodrow took on responsibility for this work in Norfolk. Everyone involved in the Norfolk Gardens Trust has every reason to be hugely grateful to him. So I offer Peter our sincerest thanks.

I welcome as Peter's successor, James Warren who I have known for many years. James is a local investment manager and lives with his wife at Wacton where they have a large garden to look after. And as Peter's successor on conservation matters I welcome Keri Williams. Keri has, by virtue of past employment, huge experience of such matters. He and his wife have lived in Norwich for many years. Another member, Susan Grice now works with Keri Williams on planning matters and between them they make a formidable team

Elsewhere in this Magazine you will find a report from Sally Bate on the Research Group's activities. I would like to pay tribute to all the members of that group for all their detailed work and to Sally in particular for her leadership

We were truly sorry to learn of Fiona Garnett's death. Readers will find her obituary in this edition. Fiona was a hugely experienced gardener, well known in the horticultural world. She and her husband Jeremy were members of the NGT and had a home in North Norfolk. I have known Fiona and her husband Jeremy for a number of years. What a wonderfully intelligent and warm-hearted person she was.

Readers will find details of our upcoming events in this edition. At the time of writing we cannot be certain to what extent these will be curtailed by virtue of the wretched virus. So I strongly advise that, before setting out, you check on the Norfolk Gardens Trust website to ascertain whether we have had to cancel it.

I am often in receipt of praise from members for the quality of this Magazine. So I would like to pay tribute to Clive Lloyd and Sue Roe together with designer Karen Roseberry all of whom make it such a worthwhile and enjoyable publication. So, read on!

Matthew Martin



Fruit in Norfolk Gardens. Part II: after c.1760

By Tom Williamson

From the middle decades of the eighteenth century, as wealthy landowners adopted the new, naturalistic landscape style of 'Capability' Brown and his imitators, geometric gardens, walled enclosures and productive facilities were swept away from the immediate vicinity of the mansion, together with fruit trees and orchards. But the wealthy still needed vegetables and fruit. Walled kitchen

gardens continued to exist, usually with orchards beside them, although now in more hidden locations, usually screened by shrubberies or plantations and sometimes moved several hundred metres away from the house. They could, nevertheless, usually still be accessed relatively easily from the pleasure grounds, and were clearly visited regularly by owners. Some of the aesthetics of the old formal gardens lived on within them. In particular, the careful training of fruit trees as fans or espaliers against their walls, a practice which continued into the twentieth century, was motivated by ornamental as much as by practical considerations (Figure 1).

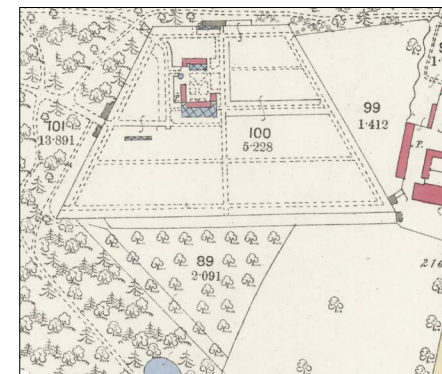


1. Old espaliered pear tree in the kitchen garden of Cockley Cley Hall.

Owners certainly spent lavishly on their kitchen gardens. The example at Salle cost £565 in the 1760s, that at Heacham nearly £900 in the following decade, equivalent to well over £100,000 in modern money. Lists of trees planted in gardens and orchards, and bills paid to nurseries, suggest that gentlemen continued to amass sizeable collections of fruit. The bills for fruit trees purchased for the Heydon estate between 1797 and 1801, for example, include 17 different varieties of peach alone. Richard Milles, owner of North Elmham Hall, made a detailed list of the trees planted in his new kitchen garden in 1765. They included six different

varieties of nectarine, 12 of peach, 19 of pear, 14 of plum, 13 of cherry and a medlar, but only one apple. In all, the North Elmham garden contained 98 individual trees, with a further 56 growing against the outside walls, or in adjoining slips. When the new kitchen garden was constructed at Shottesham Hall in the 1780s the plan – drawn up by the architect John Soane, no less – specified the position of four varieties of nectarine, four of apricot, eight of plum, nine of cherry, and no less than fifteen of peach. As in previous periods, the more tender and exotic fruit were grown against garden walls, albeit now at some distance from the mansion, while apples – and many of the pears and plums – sometimes on the outside walls but mainly separately, in an adjoining orchard.

The importance of fruit trees in eighteenth and early nineteenth-century kitchen gardens explains much about their layout and construction. Most examples were rectangular in shape but a few took more adventurous forms, all apparently intended to increase the length of south-facing walls for the benefit of the fruit trees trained against them. The garden at West Acre High House has a curving north wall, a modification of the original structure; that at Raynham Hall, built in the 1780s, is so trapezoidal as to be like a truncated



2. The walled kitchen garden at Raynham Hall, constructed in the 1780s, as shown on the Ordnance Survey 25-inch map of 1885. The unusual trapezoid shape was intended to increase the length of south-facing walls; the triangular area to the south is an orchard. Note the paths threading through the woodland screen to the west, which connect the kitchen garden to the pleasure grounds beside the hall.

triangle in plan (Figure 2) The creation of internal subdivisions also served to increase the length of south-facing walls. A particularly expensive feature of the more elaborate gardens were walls heated by flues which carried smoke from small fireplaces. Capability Brown himself designed, in 1778, the fine example which still survives at Kimberley Hall (Figure 3).



3. The 'hot wall' at Kimberley Hall, inserted into the kitchen garden by Capability Brown in 1778. The fireplaces, evidently for burning coal, given their size, can be seen at the base of the wall in the foreground.

Garden fruit and orchards continued, through the later eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, to loom large in diaries and memoranda books, suggesting that even quite wealthy owners had a hands-on engagement with them. On 27 November 1770 James Coldham of Anmer Hall, for example, noted in his memoranda book the trees he had recently planted: Breda apricot, Burée pear, St Germaine's pear, Admirable peach, Red Magdalene peach, Roman nectarine, both dwarf and standard Duke cherries, and Greengages. On the south wall of the 'Mulberry Garden' were '3 peaches, names unknown'. In June 1820 Nicholas Styleman of Heacham Hall described how he had been 'busy all forenoon with Hardy and Discipline planting fruit trees in ye new garden and orchard'.

The Victorian period seems to have witnessed an increased interest in the cultivation of apples within the kitchen garden, trained against the walls or on iron frames, and often lining paths. This was the great age of head gardeners, whose achievements were discussed and celebrated in publications like the *Gardener's Chronicle*. Many of the new varieties of fruit, and especially of apple, that were developed in the nineteenth century were



4. The 'Golden Noble', a variety of late-season culinary apple reputedly developed in the gardens of Stow Hall, Stow Bardolph, in the early nineteenth century.

the work of such men. Golden Noble was reputedly found and developed by Patrick Flannagan, the head gardener of the Stow Bardolph estate, shortly before 1820 (Figure 4); 'Lady Henniker' (an excellent dual purpose apple) was discovered in 1873 by Mr Perkins, the head gardener at Thornham Hall in Suffolk, as a seedling growing in the discarded waste from cider making. Signs of this engagement with fruit, which continued into the twentieth



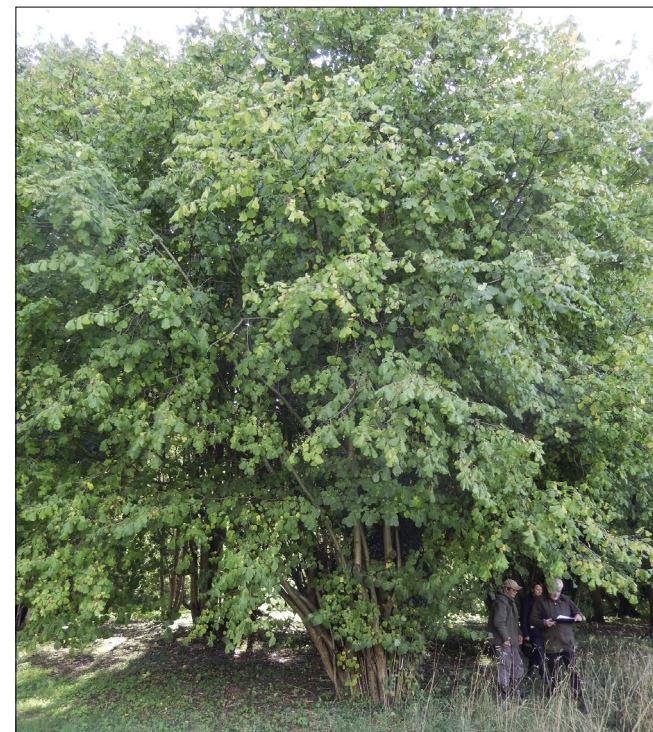
5. The old orchard at Houghton Hall, with its wonderful array of veteran apple trees.



6. A specimen of the apple *Calville Rouge d'Hiver*, an ancient and rare culinary variety, growing in the gardens of Plumstead Grange.

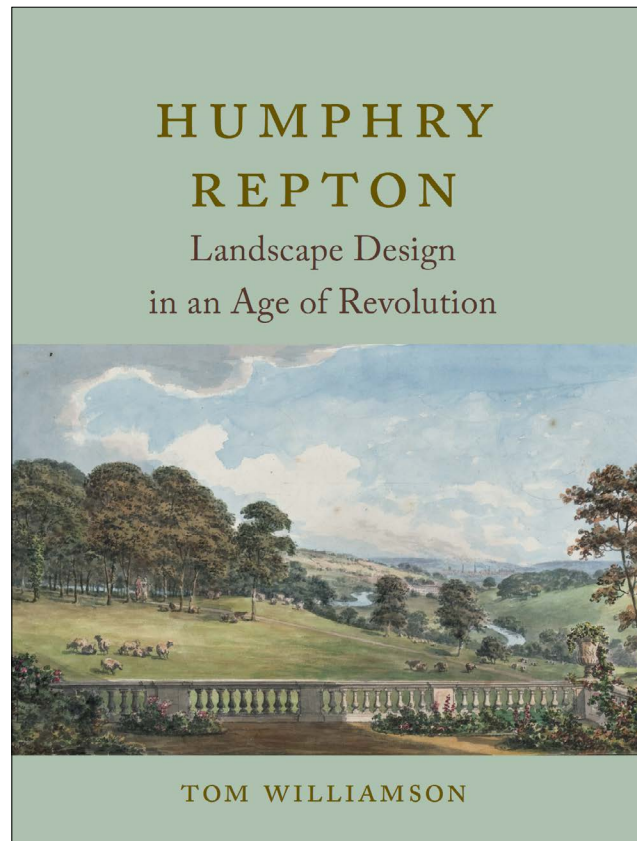
century, can still be found on Norfolk's country estates. In kitchen gardens and orchards, such as the fine example at Houghton Hall (Figure 5), impressive collections of fruit varieties, especially of apples, can still be found. Even where less survives, there are often some relative rarities. At High House, West Acre only three fruit trees remain within the walled garden and only six survive from the orchard immediately to the south, but they include examples of two relatively uncommon American

apples, *Wealthy* and *American Mother*. Quite minor country houses can usually boast one unusual or rare variety, like the *Calville Rouge d'Hiver* - well over a century old - at Plumstead Grange near Norwich (Figure 6). In a few places, nutteries also survive, usually located beside the kitchen garden, as at Cockley Cley (Figure 7). All in all, although orchards and fruit trees were perhaps less obvious and prominent than they had been in the period before 1760, they continued to be important and highly valued features in the grounds of country houses.



7. The remains of the nuttery, with its massive filbert stools, beside the kitchen garden at Cockley Cley Hall.

New Book - Humphry Repton



'Tom Williamson's new book on Humphry Repton – which draws extensively on the work of the NGT research group in Norfolk, and discusses many sites in the county – was published before Christmas. Described by Tim Richardson as, 'A finely produced and beautifully illustrated look at Repton's career. Scholarly yet readable, it's a must-have book for any enthusiast of garden history', it is available in hardcover for £35.

Gothic Revival and Norfolk's Deer Parks

by Isabella Roche

Gothic architecture dominated medieval England between the twelfth and sixteenth centuries. Churches, cathedrals, and castles of the period were unified by their use of Gothic features: stained glass windows, roof vaults, pointed arches, and spires. These buildings are rich with detail, exemplifying Medievalism. As other styles developed, Gothic remnants often persisted in the architecture of Tudor and Jacobean country houses. Then, in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, the Gothic style suddenly received a new bout of popularity. Gothic Revival buildings, though paying homage to their medieval ancestors, exaggerated their features to highlight

their stylised manner. One example of such a building is Horace Walpole's Strawberry Hill House. Walpole referred to his residence as a, 'little Gothic castle', hinting at historical precedent and his own grandeur.

Many landowners in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries were impressed with Gothic Revivalism. However, the craze extended into the landscape, as stately residences had to be complemented by the appropriate surroundings; failing to create a congruent style meant that your attempts to impress might fall short. Landowners seeking a Gothic environment frequently turned to the



1 Strawberry Hill House, Walpole's idea of Gothic, with exaggerated crenellations. Courtesy Wikipedia.



2 Blickling Hall, south front. A fine Jacobean example.

deer park, as they had long surrounded medieval buildings. Deer parks had, since the Norman Conquest, dominated the countryside as elite landscapes of recreation and pleasure. The right to create a park was granted by the monarch, and the costs of ownership were extravagant. Though park numbers declined during the Early Modern period, parks did not vanish entirely from the landscape, despite a preference for natural, ornamental grounds in the years after the English Civil War. Gothic Revivalism signaled a return for the deer park, even though newer parks may have differed from their medieval counterparts. Nevertheless, parks, with association to royalty and popularity in the medieval period, were a worthy accompaniment. Whether a landowner was 'new money', or part of a long-established lineage, parks were soon

being adopted across England.

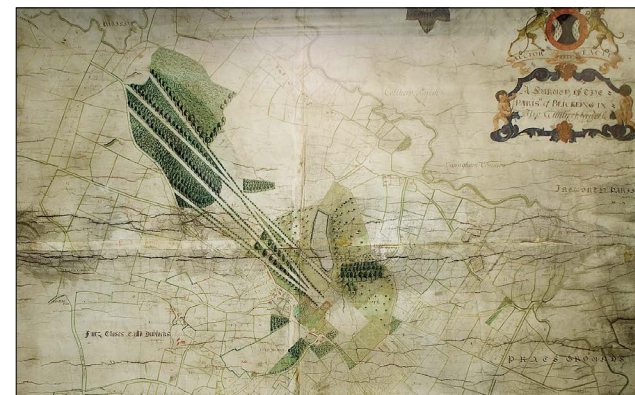
There were a variety of ways that landowners sought to reference Gothic taste within their park landscapes. Some simply sought to stock their park with deer; others preferred to utilise wildernesses, dense planting, Gothic garden buildings or other references to the history of their seat. Blickling, renowned not just in Norfolk but across England,

was one such residence known for its history. It was a seat 'clad in especial grandeur' according to visitor James Grigor (whose 1841 publication, *The Eastern Arboretum*, examined many Norfolk landscapes). It is well known as the supposed birthplace of Queen Anne Boleyn. Though the Hall was of seventeenth-century creation, it replaced an earlier moated hall, with the original deer park dating to the 1100s. The second, newer deer park was created in the eighteenth century, and deer are still present today. Blickling has an impressive landscape, with layers of historical development, complemented by the Jacobean hall.

Blickling was Gothic without trying to bend to the trend of the Revival; it was a landscape that was 'incapable of further improvement', with complex

grounds and established historical precedent. Similarly, Heydon Park was considered to be a 'very ancient place... a good specimen of the pride and glory of the antique times in which it was built.' Grigor emphasised the grounds as being 'full of ancestral remnants', impressing upon the reader that the most impressive landscapes are those that make reference to previous histories and earlier designs. Heydon Hall was built in the Elizabethan style, meaning that the surrounding park was a worthy setting for a Tudor residence; the importance of keeping house and grounds stylistically congruent was crucial in order to create a pleasing effect overall.

At the Grade I listed Melton Constable Hall, the park had been host to deer for generations, and at one time there were two parks. Though the Hall is a Classical seventeenth century creation, it replaced an earlier building. Grigor commented at the time of his writing that the herds of deer did more to 'excite ideas of grandeur which far more varied beauty [would] never create'. Though Melton's



3 Blickling Park in Corbridge's 1729 map, showing the extensive park landscape. Courtesy Prof T Williamson.



4. Heydon Hall, built in the Elizabethan style. Engraving by Humphry Repton from Mostyn Armstrong's *History and Antiquities of the County of Norfolk*, 1781. Courtesy Sally Bate.

hall lacked congruity with the landscape, contemporaries nevertheless sought to exemplify the importance of deer parks as a way to heighten one's status and taste.

The Eastern Arboretum is full of praise, but Grigor was unafraid to criticise seats that improperly executed Gothic character. The recently-created landscapes were particularly vulnerable

to criticism; there was a preference for seats that could properly execute the Gothic taste through their ancestry or landscape development. He commented on Barningham Hall's grounds, writing that it did not have 'that depth of ornament which distinguishes Blickling or Wolterton'; Rackheath Park had 'the usual outlines of youthfulness.' In this way, we can appreciate how the inability to properly execute the Gothic landscape with the use of a deer park or ancestral remains meant that your grounds were poorly regarded.

Gothic Revivalism certainly did reshape landscapes, not just in Norfolk, but across the country. When we consider Gothic architecture, we sometimes fail to remember how style was not just confined to the built environment, but could expand into the wider surroundings. Those that did seek

to improve their wider landscapes in a suitable way garnered praise from contemporaries; indeed, some landowners made such an impression, that their Gothic landscapes are still worthy of praise today.

Isabella is a former recipient of the Norfolk Gardens Trust's UEA scholarship, and has previously written an article on Humphry Repton for the NGT Magazine.



5. Melton Constable, the park still present on the estate map after the Civil War. 1732 copy of 1674 map, courtesy Norfolk Record Office.



6. Barningham Hall, with crenellated parapets above windows, finials and crow-step gables. Courtesy of David and James Clarke

A European's Tudor garden project in Norfolk

By Brigitte Webster



The Old Hall, built by Sir Edward Chamberlayne in the early sixteenth century

My initial interest in Tudor gardens hails from cooking historic recipes and the need to use authentic, often forgotten, vegetables or herbs.

My traditional upbringing in Austria explains the passion for growing and harvesting seasonal, fresh food from my own garden; my professional background as a teacher explains the need to learn and share knowledge with others. These key elements form the framework to my brainchild, the Tudor & 17th Century Experience, based at the Old Hall in Barnham Broom near Norwich.

2020 was going to be the year of the grand opening but instead of enticing people to step back in time, learning about Tudor life, enjoying Tudor meals

and embracing sixteenth century pastimes in an authentic surrounding, we ended up practicing how to survive a great plague instead.

With a lack of servants, but plenty of time on our hands, we started to work on the gardens, turning them into the outside space that the Tudor nobility and gentry would have recognised. The sixteenth century was really the beginning of the English garden's new purpose for entertainment, exercise and pleasure. One of the many features that drew me to this place is the medieval moat, complete with three small islands – a feature often described in Elizabethan accounts and used as a grand stage for plays.



Medieval moat and two of the islands in its centre

In between battling debilitating restrictions of living in a pandemic, severe weather was also testing our commitment and we sadly lost one ancient beech tree in February and suffered floods in the lower parts of the garden in December.

The gardens at the Old Hall are ideal for re-creating a mini version of what was once a small Tudor estate with wooded parts, meadows, flower beds, small ponds and a surviving part of a medieval moat.



Linden tree avenue in spring

The old orchard of apple, pear, quince and plum trees was extended by us with a further

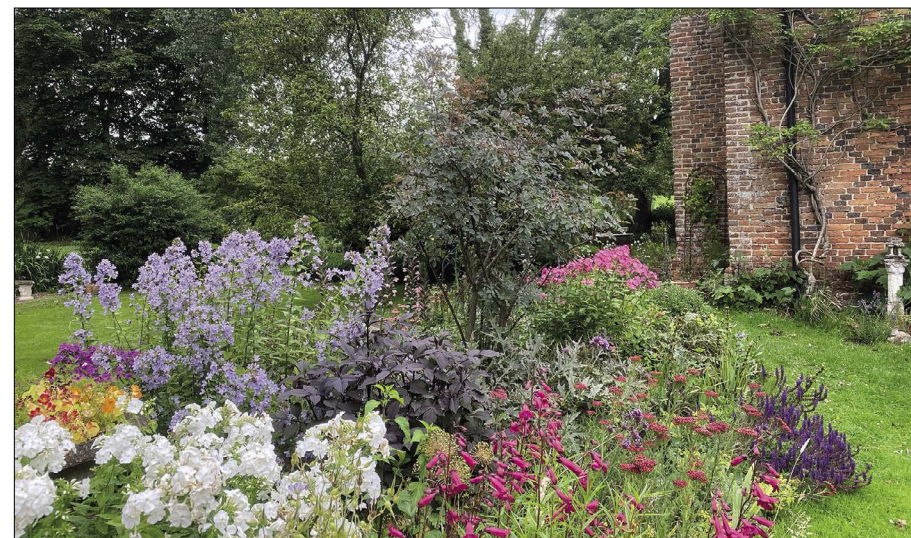
72 early species of fruit trees and medlars - all known before 1700.

This passion for creating historical gardens seems to be a common quest in the Old Hall's owners. Dr & Mrs H Booth, the previous owners established a John Evelyn arboretum in 2001, a collection of trees as specified in Sylva (1664). Rare tree examples, such as the Sassafras tree, first mentioned by John Gerard in 1597, and the Swamp cypress, a 17th century introduction to England, can also be admired and studied here. In 2020 we added the strawberry tree and the tulip tree - both known in England by 1700. We also utilised hundreds of willows to form a shade-providing walkway along the water meadow, inspired by another Tudor garden feature.

Immediately around the front of the house are examples of re-created early 17th century Tudor knot garden designs,



Knot gardens



Elizabethan flower garden

edged neatly with box. The Elizabethan flower beds host a wealth of species most of which familiar to the English by the mid 17th century and enclosed by lavender, the choice plant for knot gardens in the sixteenth century.

One important part of any Tudor manor was the kitchen garden - my first project in March. By June it was stocked with vegetables that a Tudor household would have grown, from traditional field crop of fava beans, wild root vegetables such as skirrets and salsify, to the 'new' arrivals of Brussels sprouts and cauliflower. Admittedly, the latter are unlikely to have delighted a table in England at the time but they were highly regarded in Holland and, with Norfolk's close association with the "Strangers", it is not impossible to think that this county would have seen them towards the late fifteen hundreds.

To the back of the house we built a 'turf seat', a type of garden seat popular



Educational Tudor & 17th century kitchen garden with willow panels and a hawthorn hedge enclosing it to keep wildlife out.

in medieval times and surrounded by heritage roses of the earliest type such as the apothecary rose, *Rosa alba*, various types of damask rose and *Rosa mundi* whose introduction to 16th century England might have been through Norwich due to the Dutch connection.

We turned an existing earthen berm, most likely created by dredging the moat, into an elevated walled pathway to overlook and admire a space, which will eventually be turned into a labyrinth and a re-creation of John Evelyn's garden (albeit on a smaller scale) in the future.

Further projects in various stages of planning are the creation of two earth mounds with spiral pathways to the top, as well as a Henrician, early 16th century knot garden with different coloured gravel designs and armorial beasts as seen at Hampton Court Palace. Last but not least, there are plans for a Tudor-style bowling alley to entertain our discerning guests before enjoying some home-made Tudor seasonal treats on the terrace, whilst taking in the beauty of a Tudor garden.

The Tudor & 17th Century Experience will offer open days with Tudor refreshments (and accommodation if desired), and Tudor events at the Old Hall from spring 2022. Pre-arranged group visits are welcome. For more information : www.tudorexperience.com



Herb garden



Herb garden

Captain Gurle and Sir Roger Pratt: an early nurseryman/architect collaboration

By Caroline Murray

Leonard Gurle was one of the earliest large-scale nurserymen in London, but, as we will see, he had links with Norfolk through Sir Roger Pratt. Little is known about Gurle's origins, nor why he was frequently referred to as 'Captain'.

He was probably born about 1621. In 1656 he was leasing a 12-acre site between the villages of Whitechapel

and Spitalfields, near the present-day junction of Greatorex Street and Old Montague Street in the East End. He also had land in Hackney, for bringing on trees and plants before transferring them to his 'selling' site.

The range and variety of Gurle's products can be gathered from a list printed in Leonard Meager's *The English Gardener* (1670), from 'my very Loving friend Captain Garle, dwelling at the great Nursery between Spittlefields and White Chapel, a very eminent and Ingenious Nursery-man, who can furnish any that desireth, with any of the sorts here after mentioned; as also with divers other rare and choice plants'.

The list includes 25 cherries, 42 plums; 6 apricots; 11 nectarines; 40 peaches; 11 grapes; 6 figs; 31 'pippin' apples; 47 'royal-apples'; and 102 pears. Among the nectarines is the hardy variety, which Gurle himself raised in 1661, called



1. The Etrughe nectarine, by William Hooker (1779–1832), official artist of the RHS 1812–1820.



2. Sir Roger Pratt, from a painting by Sir Peter Lely. (From R.T. Gunther's 1928 book).

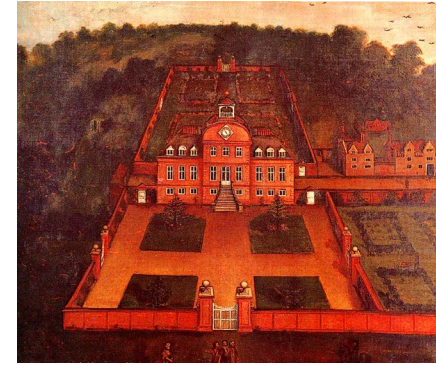
'Garles Nectorin'. But he also called it 'Elruge', his own name backwards, with an extra 'e' for euphony.

Gurle thrived during the Restoration, when spending on gardens was one of the major economic activities of the aristocratic and merchant classes. Among surviving documents from his business is a list of plants sold to Sir Roger Pratt (the first architect to be knighted), for his house at Ryston, near Downham Market in 1672.

Pratt was born in 1620, the son of a lawyer, and the nephew of Francis Pratt of Ryston Hall. He was apparently destined to be a lawyer himself, but, made financially independent by his



3. Clarendon House, Pratt's greatest achievement. Engraving 1814 based on a contemporary print by William Skillman, c. 1680. (© The Trustees of the British Museum)



4. Ryston Hall with its gardens, c. 1680.

father's death in 1640, he avoided the convulsions of the Civil War by spending 1643-49 in Europe; he travelled through France and Italy (where he befriended the diarist and horticulturalist John Evelyn in Rome) before returning via the Low Countries. During his tour, he discovered his vocation, studying the buildings of northern Italian architects and their writings, as evidenced by his library.

In the ODNB, Pratt is described as a 'gentleman architect' but he was clearly not a mere dilettante. Rather, as he himself wrote, the house builder should decide, 'what house will be answerable to your purse and estate ... then if you be not able to handsomely contrive it yourself, get some ingenious gentleman who has seen much of that kind abroad and been somewhat versed in the best authors of Architecture ... to do it for you, and to give you a design of it in paper'.

Pratt's first commission was from his cousin, Sir George Pratt of Coleshill in Berkshire, to rebuild his family seat (erected 1658-1662, burned down 1952.) Two other Pratt houses have not survived: Horseheath Hall in

"List of Fruit for Horseheath Hall		
Plummes	Muscadine grapes	1/8
Queen Mother Plumme	Parley	
Muscule	Red raison	2/8
White muscule	Grape of Damascus	
Amber	Current Grape	
Black Damascene	Pears upon Quince stock	
Prunello	Buen Christens	2/-
Orleans Plumme	Bure de Roy	
White Pear	Maistre John	
Buen & Magpie	Double Flowre	
Damas Plumme		
One with the other	Mem. That the Captian is to warrant both his fruit, their growth, and to make up the fruit to be sent down.	
12 pence each.		
Grapes		
Fontinise red	2/8	
" white		Leo, Gurle.
Peaches		
1 Musk Peach	Orleans Peach	
2 Murry Nectarain	Superintendent Peach	
3 Roman Peach	Navarre	
4 Bourdeau	Prinoses	
5 Persian	Modena	
6 Carilles	Newington	
7 Alborg	Bloudy	
8 Musk Violet	Bordeaux	
9 Pass Violet	Smyrna	
10 Roses		
11 Red Nectarain	Memor. that half of this whole number of peaches is to go at 5/- the rest at 2/8.	
12 Howlman's Peach	Nectarines	
13 Peach de Po'	Roman nectarine	
14 Liles Peach	Murray	
15 Scarlet	Red nectarine clean from ye stone	
16 Newington	Tawny nectarine	
17 Shoon	Scarlet nectarine	
18 Ram Bullain		20 sh.
19 White Nutmeg	Apricots	
20 Red Nutmeg	Orange Apriock	2 sh.
To be had at 2/- with another at	Early	2 sh. 6d
Mr. Balles at Branford end.	Masculine	2 sh.
Province Peach 5 sh.	Holland	2 sh.
Lion Peach	Ordinary	1 sh. 6d
Violet Muscatt	Figges	
Persian Peach	White figge	5 sh.
White Nutmeg & Red 2. 6	Little Tauny	
	Great blew figges	
	This MS. is endorsed 'L. Alling: fruit'	
	'Grapes in June & July'	

5. A list of plants supplied by Gurle to Horseheath Hall.

Cambridgeshire, designed for William Alington, demolished in the late 1700s; and Clarendon House in London, for Edward Hyde, Earl of Clarendon, which survived only twenty years. In 1667, Clarendon fell from favour and fled abroad; the brand-new house was sold, and in the 1680s was demolished to build Dover, Albemarle and Bond Streets.

Although appointed a commissioner for the rebuilding of the City of London after the Great Fire, in 1668 (the year he was knighted) Pratt married and retired from public life, to concentrate on building a new house at Ryston, having inherited the estate from his cousin

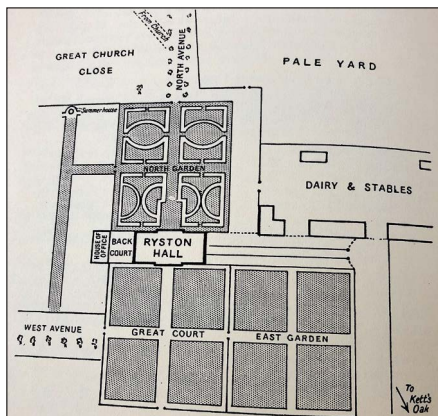
Edward in 1667. This new house (and garden) is the only extant Pratt building (albeit largely remodelled by Sir John Soane in the late eighteenth century), apart from Kingston Lacy in Dorset (1663–5), which too was remodelled, by Charles Barry in the nineteenth century.

Gurle's first connection with Pratt appears to have been the provision of plants costing £8.3s. for Horseheath Hall. Estimating equivalent modern values is difficult, but using Sir Roderick Floud's calculations in *An Economic History of the English Garden* (2019), £8.3s. would have been worth approximately £1,374 today.

The Ryston gardens appear to have been desolate when Sir Roger first arrived. He sketched a plan for the new layout, copied by R.T. Gunther in *The Architecture of Sir Roger Pratt* (1928).

In February 1671, Gurle supplied a number of decorative as well as fruiting trees to Ryston. Of these, the pear is unidentified; the woodbines are honeysuckle, the barberries probably *Berberis vulgaris*, and the two 'Jassamyess' are jasmines. It is interesting that Gurle also supplied seeds, and mats and 'fflaskette' (baskets) – things that would today come under the heading of 'sundries'. Using Floud's calculations again, the cost of this list would have been nearly £2,000.

Gurle died a wealthy man. His estate in 1685 totalled £3,825.16s.2½p (today nearly £8.5 million). His son maintained the nursery for a few years, though by the mid-1700s it was gone. However, Greatorex Street used to be called Great Garden Street, a nod to Gurle's pioneering enterprise.



6. Pratt's sketch plan of his gardens, transcribed by R.T. Gunther.

	£	s.	d.
40 best dutch Limes	6	0	0
6 Lawerstines	6	0	0
2 Biza D horrye peares	5	0	0
20 Spruce firs	2	10	0
30 Cippris trees	1	0	0
4 duble wodbines 2 whit 2 red	3	0	0
2 Barberye tree	4	0	0
2 Bishopps pears	3	0	0
2 Winter Burgamotts	3	0	0
6 Whit Jassamyess	4	0	0
2 Persian "	6	0	0
8 Matts	6	0	0
2 fflaskette	2	0	0
Seeds & a Box	11	10	0
	12	12	10

7. A list of trees supplied by Gurle to Ryston Hall, in 1672.

Sir Roger Pratt also died in 1685, and – his three sons having predeceased him – the Ryston estate passed to distant cousins and remains in the Pratt family today. Perhaps the two men can be seen as prototypes of the architect/gardener partnerships of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries?

Dr Caroline Murray studied Classics at Cambridge, and subsequently worked in publishing for many years. She now works part-time at a museum, and tends her garden.

Kett's Heights

By John Trevelyan

The Spring 2020 edition of this magazine contained an article by Roger Connah on the Plantation Garden, a 19th-century Norwich garden developed on a steep-sided site with steps and terraces, and now available for the public to enjoy after much hard work by the Plantation Garden Trust. Two kilometres to the east, on the other side of the city centre, lies Kett's Heights, with a similar timescale of garden development and later restoration.

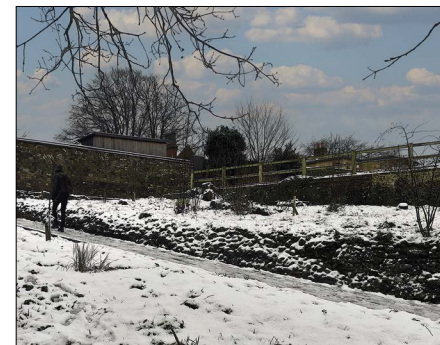
Kett's Heights has a much longer history. Once part of the extensive Mousehold Heath, a chapel dedicated to St. Michael was constructed in c. 1100 to replace a church or chapel in Tombland destroyed by the Normans when the present Anglican cathedral (a kilometre due west) was developed. The chapel also served the nearby St. Leonard's Priory, on the opposite side of what is now known as Gas Hill.

The chapel and priory were closed in the Reformation. The chapel site became the headquarters for Kett's rebellion in 1549, an event recently reimagined in C. J. Sansom's novel *Tombland*. The chapel ruins became known as Kett's Castle and were a popular place of resort and location for artists.

The part of Mousehold Heath in Thorpe parish was inclosed in 1800. The Tate Gallery website contains a paper on Mousehold Heath as a location which cites a poem published in the local press in 1803 criticising the loss of access to Kett's Castle as a consequence of the inclosure.



1. Lower green and information panel



2. Terrace and boundary wall



3. The view on January 2021

The tithe map of 1842 shows an area of land from just north of the chapel southward as owned by the Gas Light Company, which established its works in a former quarry site next to what is now Gas Hill.

The area to the north of the chapel was described in the tithe apportionment as 'Plantation', but by 1875 a plan of the gasworks showed that the company had acquired this and laid it out as 'garden', with much of the present structure of paths and terraces established, many of them built with redundant materials from the gas works. Not shown on that plan, but erected by the time of the 1883 Ordnance Survey, were greenhouses, one built using the chapel wall as its north side. At least one had a boiler which ran off gas piped up from the gasworks.

The gardens were known to have been used by the employees of the gas works

as allotments and for growing fruit trees, but no documentary records of what was grown have been found. In the Second World War, piggeries were established and a recent meeting with a former worker revealed continuing use of the sites in this way to the 1960s. The site was sold by the Gas Board in



4. The former piggeries

the 1970s and transferred to Norwich City Council. A pipe through the site was retained to carry North Sea gas to a compressor station on the site of the former works.

In the 1980s an 18-month programme of work was undertaken to cut down sycamores, repair paths and walls and add new plants, with formal opening in 1988. The City Council's subsequent management – grass-cutting, litter bin emptying and occasional clearances – was insufficient to prevent a gradual decline in quality and invasive growth of sycamores, brambles and alexanders.

Encouraged by the City Council, local residents formed the Friends of Kett's Heights in 2015 and started practical work soon after. An early priority, realised with assistance from the Council, was clearance of trees blocking the view from the viewpoint, one of the finest outlooks over Norwich city centre. This work revealed that trees lower down the slope also impeded the view, but these were mostly removed in 2020 using a grant from National Grid's Community Fund, available because National Grid were

removing the two remaining redundant gasholders nearby.

The Friends have been working regularly ever since, and have members who also undertake regular checks for litter and organise tours and other events. To begin with, our practical work was mainly concerned with tackling the overgrown nature of the site. With help from Norwich Fringe Project, areas have now been cleared, 25 new fruit trees planted



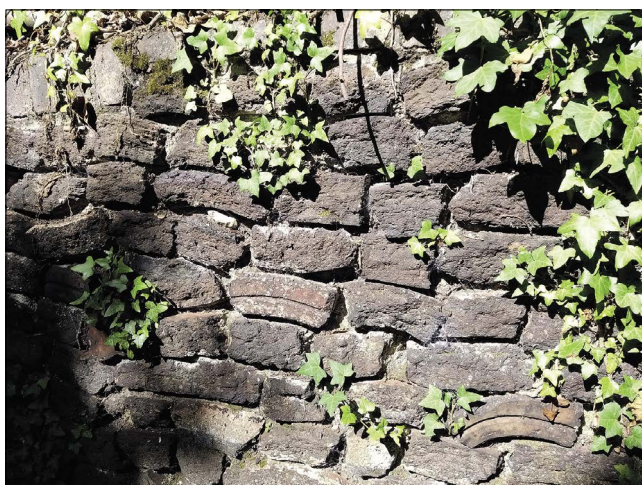
5. Terrace between upper and lower greens



6. Steps and terraces

and one of the former greenhouses repurposed as a herb garden and seating area. Our aim has been to make the site a welcoming one for local residents and visitors, and we have seen substantial increase in use. Our planting scheme mainly involves surplus plants from our gardens, not least to test what works in a site open to public access but also with resident muntjac deer. The Friends have additionally invested in planting thousands of snowdrops and other spring bulbs, particularly along the entrance path. A plant survey when we started work showed a good variety, but with no great rarities that would need protection. Our aim is to extend the variety and interest.

Norwich City Council has plans for further major work including improving access and repairing walls and paths. We are currently awaiting confirmation of funding for this and the details of what the Council has in mind to do. This may involve closure of the site for an extended period while works are undertaken: meanwhile the site is open all the time and accessed by an entrance half way up Kett's Hill.



7. Wall made from former gasworks material



8. Herb garden and former chapel

More information about the site and what can be seen there, including a downloadable tree trail, may be found on the Friends' website at www.kettsheights.co.uk.

'Outdoor Sitting-Rooms': the Norwich Churchyard Gardens

by Lesley Cunneen

Norwich today has thirty-two mediaeval churches and George Ishmael's ambitious project to transform their graveyards into a series of attractive gardens has captured the public imagination. Nine are currently part of the scheme and more are planned. However, the concept of churchyard

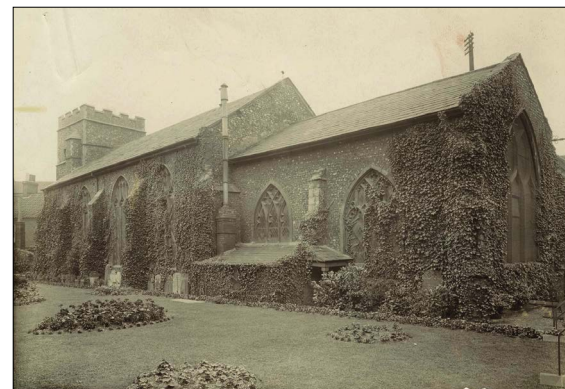
gardens is not new and before the Second World War the city council tended twenty-six church gardens, which formed a significant area of public green space.

By the late nineteenth century, burial within the walled city was illegal. As consecrated grounds they could not

be developed and many had become neglected and vandalised. Social reformers, scientists and medical practitioners had begun to draw connections between people's health and the environment in which they lived and worked. Public green space was perceived as crucial to improving the lives of the poor and the provision of parks and gardens was a logical consequence.

These abandoned graveyards became recognised as sites with the potential for civic transformation. Open Spaces legislation enabled the transfer of the grounds to the local authority for public gardens.

In London the Metropolitan Public Gardens Association became a highly effective organisation in securing new parks and playgrounds in the capital. As early as 1876 the



1. St. Simon and St Jude, 2020. 'Heavenly Garden'.



2. St Simon and St Jude (maintained) with summer bedding.

rector and churchwardens had succeeded in converting the churchyard of St George's in the East into a garden. By 1893 St Andrew's, on Gray's Inn Road, was described as boasting shady walks, pretty arbours and flower-beds.

Norwich was not far behind. Although small in size, defunct churchyards were generously distributed within the cramped city walls. A park or garden inaccessible to much of the population is of little benefit to the local community; the churchyards had the merit of being the original neighbourhood gardens. Octavia Hill referred to them as 'beautiful outdoor sitting rooms', a phrase hardly designed to resonate with the poor, who were unlikely to experience at first-hand the luxury of such domestic provision. However, this marriage of convenience, in the congested city where green public space was at a premium, must have seemed heaven-sent.

The earliest Norwich gardens owed much to the pioneering work of The Norwich Playing Fields and Open Spaces Society (NPFOSS). Established in 1891, its membership was comprised

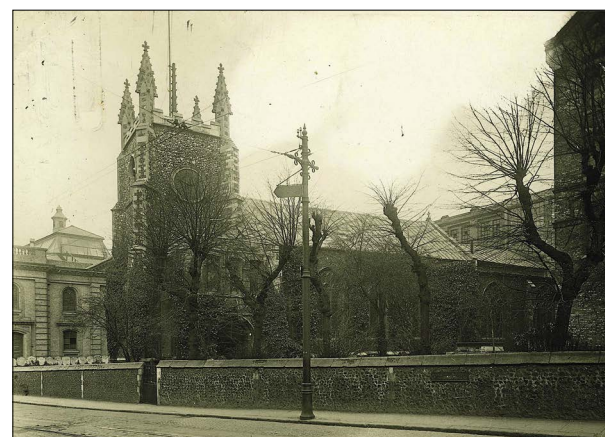
of the Norwich 'great and good', such as the Mayor, Sheriff, Dean and wealthy manufacturers. Their original mission was to provide playing fields for the Norwich youth which they pursued by securing land donations and raising money for land purchase through subscription. Many of the pre-Second World War parks came about through the Society's efforts. However,



3. Churchyard (unmaintained) headstones *in situ*. Note aspirational Araucaria.



4. St Augustine's (maintained) with relegated headstones and tree and shrub planting.



5. St. Michael-at-Plea (maintained) with headstones regimented against boundary



6. St Clement, Colegate (maintained) Note floral bedding and small trees.

their earliest achievement lay in the conversion of churchyards into gardens: St Augustine and St Mary at Coslany in the last decade of the nineteenth century and St Peter Hungate in Princes Street were early beneficiaries. After laying-out, the sites were entrusted to the Corporation for ongoing maintenance, usually on a twenty-one year lease from the church.

In 1908 the local paper wrote approvingly that: 'no greater improvement has been effected in Norwich than the transformation of grimy city burial grounds which for years had been used as places for the dumping of rubbish and litter into pleasant gardens with trim lawns and flower borders'.

By 1911, when the Norwich Parks and Gardens Committee was established with its first Parks Superintendent, the city maintained eleven such gardens. By the outbreak of the First World War the number had swelled to fifteen: churchyards at St Andrew in St Andrew's Street, St Gregory in St Benedict's Street, and St Swithin in Pottergate had all been added to the Parks' estate. There were plans to transform St Edmunds at Fishergate into a

'pleasant garden', including the erection of 'unclimbable' wrought iron fencing to deter miscreants.

The working method appears simple, if brutal. After rubbish clearance, gravestones were upended and placed against boundary railings or the church wall, evidently to allow for the municipal grass-cutting programme. Trees, shrubs and flower borders followed. Over time

the council streamlined the maintenance and introduced a grading system, apparently based on financial contribution and the graveyard's horticultural potential. Level 1 was the gold standard, as at Simon and St Jude, which allowed for bijou flower beds, sometimes heart-shaped, as well as copious shrub and tree planting. Level 3 was the most basic. St Augustine was gardened at level 2; an undated postcard shows trees and shrubs, grass well maintained and grave-stones inevitably up-ended. The popularity was such that the Parks Committee needed to reject applications from supplicant churches.

These intimate, tranquil green spaces in the heart of the city were well within the reach of Norwich citizens and the city's role in their horticultural maintenance led to a small-scale inner-city transformation. In their heyday, three quarters of the medieval church graveyards metamorphosed into small gardens. They ranged from simple grassy enclaves planted with a few trees and shrubs to colourful floral gardens. It was a particularly felicitous accommodation between the Anglican Diocese, the NPFSS and the City Council. The arrangement modelled the nineteenth-century prescriptions of the Open



7. St Margaret (maintained) Note rustic pergolas across pathway.



8. St Ethelreda (unmaintained).

Spaces Society and was an early example of a community-based partnership, lubricated by small-scale philanthropy. It was a seminal achievement. Outside of London, where the Metropolitan Public Gardens Committee flourished, the only other authority that adopted church graveyards on any such a scale was Bristol, a far larger city, and at considerably greater cost.

Figures

The early churchyard photos mostly date from between the World Wars and were photographed from the Peter Salt Collection of Jarrold's postcards, School of History, UEA.

The Gardens of 80 Bracondale, Norwich

by Keri Williams



Fig. 1 Number 80 Bracondale, Norwich

Background

Number 80, which is a Regency house set back from Bracondale, dates from the early 1800s (Fig 1). It appears on Manning's map of 1834, situated on 'Bracondale Hill', a few hundred metres outside the old city walls. The house is on the middle of three levels. In 1635 the site was "Le Lymekilne Yard", used by Robert Bunn to provide lime, sand and flints to Norwich Corporation. Later, it was part of the Colman's Carrow Estate. Bracondale developed fast in the 1800s. In 1814 the plot was sold to Phillip Martineau, uncle to Harriet Martineau, writer and probably the first female

sociologist. He was a well-respected surgeon at the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital on St Stephen's Road. In 1793, Martineau had bought Bracondale Woods. He then built nearby Bracondale Hall as well as Number 80, also known as Bracondale Cottage. It was used for letting, often to families with one or two servants. From 1962 to 1990 the property was owned by Colmans.

Evolution

The plot was probably shaped to its present form when Martineau had the house designed and built. Creating three levels provided a flat and striking setting for the house, with a steep downward

slope to its front.

Further changes are more recent. The original circular drive passed to the rear of the house and returned to Bracondale (Fig 2). A tapered corner, or 'squinch' facilitated access for carriages but it proved impractical; getting cars to the back was difficult without scraping walls and there was little manoeuvring room. In 2012 a parking area was made beside the house, requiring excavation and brick retaining-walls. A rear patio was created and part of drive narrowed to a footpath.

Features

The main ornamental beds are to the front of the house and alongside sections of the drive. The bank to the rear was terraced using railway sleepers, allowing further planting. The "top" garden has fruit trees and soft fruit (Fig 3). A narrow band of trees provides a barrier to County Hall and may be a remnant of more extensive woodland. A fine old red brick



Fig. 2 Part of the original circular drive.



Fig. 3 The top garden

retaining wall has a memorial stone recording Martineau's death in 1829. A set of steps leading up to this wall suggests an earlier gateway.

This is a garden of flints. It is unusual to dig without turning some up. They are used to line the drive and paths. It is easy to see why Mr Bunn did a good trade with Norwich Corporation in the 17th century! The soils are light, with pockets of clay and chalk. There are several "paramoudras", natural cylinders of flint imported by earlier residents as garden ornaments (Fig 4).

There are some notable trees. A fine copper beech may be of an age with the house and I look forward to seeing it from the train as I arrive back in Norwich (Fig 5). There is a ginkgo and a mature yew.

Another yew has an odd feature: a branch has emerged from the trunk and grown back into it, resembling a hand resting on a hip. Perhaps it was trained and grafted. A Cedar of Lebanon, planted 28 years ago, is becoming a good specimen and an impressive Norwegian Pine is just outside the plot.

Using the Garden

In 1871 Miss Ketton was headmistress of a small school at 80 Bracondale.



Fig. 4 Paramoudras



Fig. 5 The copper beech



Fig. 6 Memorial to Philip Meadows Martineau

The children would have used the gardens at playtimes, ideal for hide and seek. In 1907 the ladies of the Octagon chapel organised a “Bag and Sweet sale in the gardens of no.80 Bracondale”. In the 1930s, Bryan Read visited no.80 and its gardens; there, his sister was bridesmaid at Wendy Valentine’s wedding and I picture her in a marquee on the lower lawn. Then in World War II there was heavy bombing nearby and enemy planes would have been seen overhead. After the war, one former resident recalled the lower lawn being used for croquet by the managers of the nearby Colmans factory. Mr and Mrs Barclay lived here from 1962. They bred golden retrievers and kept chickens in the top garden. More recently, it was an apiary and Bracondale Honey was much appreciated locally. There have been open-garden events and charity book sales. The steep slope to the front has proved suitable for sledging, a waterslide at children’s parties and for intrepid cyclists. Four Springer Spaniels

are buried in the lower garden. Arriving and departing trains are heard in the distance and on match days we can enjoy the roar of the crowd at Carrow Road.

Sadly, wildlife has diminished. Wrens, tits, and vociferous blackbirds do well but we miss the hedgehogs and the thrushes breaking open snails

on the steps. Sparrow hawks, foxes and muntjac deer have visited, bees and butterflies still do well. Bats are seen at dusk and have occasionally ventured into the house.

Significance

These gardens are extensive for a site so close to the city. They provide an enclosed setting for the listed building. They were shaped in the Regency period and have since evolved, providing an attractive space for the residents over the last 180 years. The link to Phillip Martineau is notable. His memorial suggests that this place was significant for him and his family (Fig 6). Recent layout changes have met modern needs while avoiding damage to character. Over the last 30 years these gardens have proved both a challenge to keep in order and a delightful place to enjoy, to learn how to garden by trial and frequent error and to share with friends and neighbours.

‘Enticing Paths’ a new book from the NGT

by Roger Last

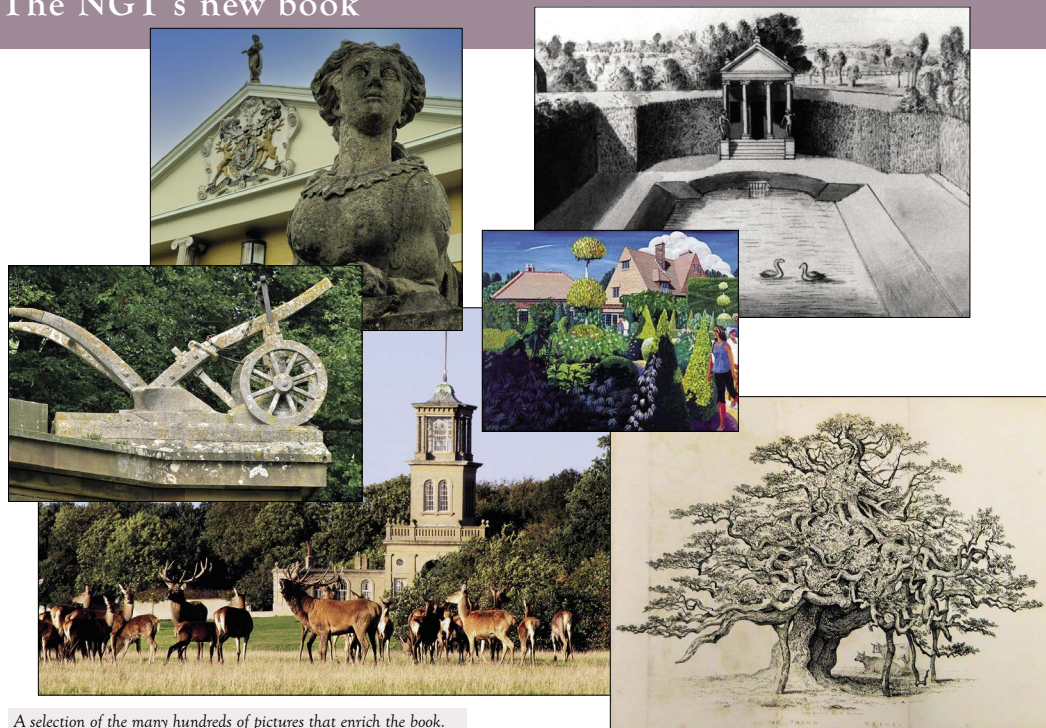
‘Enticing Paths’, the Norfolk Gardens Trust’s new book, is very much on track for its launch in the Autumn. Despite Covid- 19, which has closed libraries such as the RHS Lindley Library and other institutions making it impossible to access needed pictures, and with

limited staff making communications complex and slow, the picture and other research is complete, and the layout and design of the book is well underway. A first obvious question is why is the book called ‘Enticing Paths’? Paths wind through and round our gardens and



Diddlington Hall

The NGT's new book



A selection of the many hundreds of pictures that enrich the book.

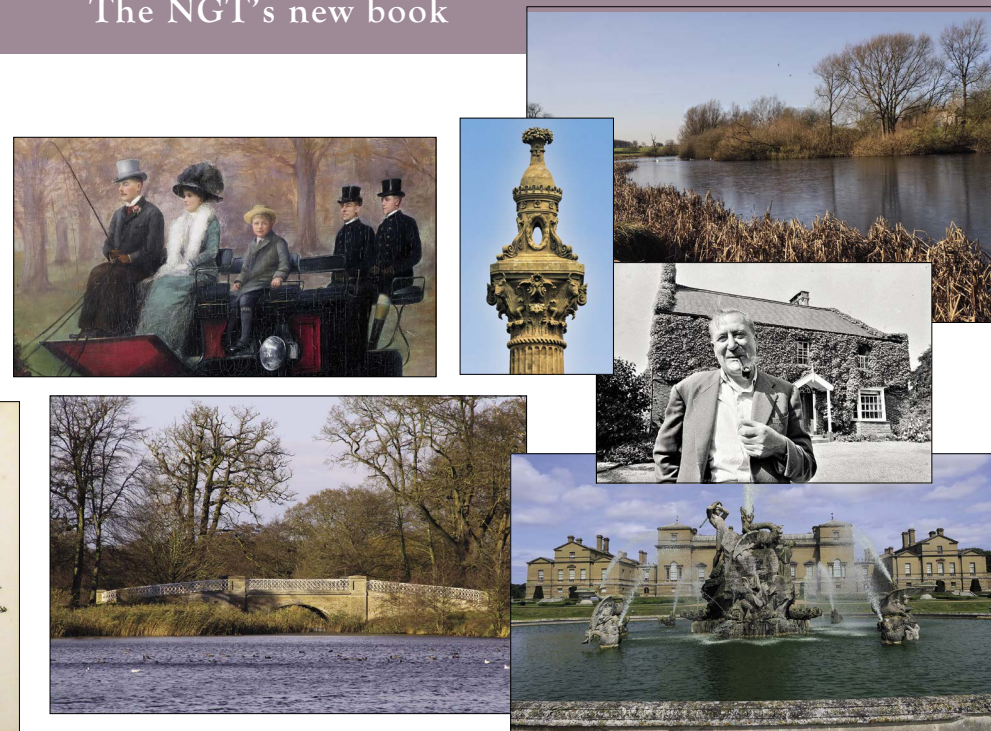
designed landscapes and in the book there are, in a sense, 23 of them to follow: 23 articles dealing with highly varied aspects of Norfolk gardens and gardening, all of which we hope will make an enticing read.

The original articles appeared across the 14 years of the publication of our annual 'Journal' which ceased publication in 2012 and has been replaced by the Magazine you are reading now. Our membership has grown and changed since the start of the Journal in 1998 and the articles in it reached a limited audience. By publishing them in a book, they will be brought back to life and presented to a much wider readership. Where appropriate the articles have been updated and new research has meant some could be considerably enlarged.

The most notable change is that the restriction on the Journal's size meant it was limited to a small number of black and white images, whereas 'Enticing Paths' will be packed full of images and most of them in colour. A major picture research programme was carried out with the result that over 400 pictures will appear in the book, many of them published for the first time. The pictures in themselves should be enticing enough, but the text is too, a rich blend of facts and information, all of it about Norfolk gardens and the people who helped make them.

Ten contributors have come together, Tom Williamson, Gillian Darley, Christine Hiskey, and Scilla Latham among them, to present articles on a wide variety of people, including Lady

The NGT's new book



Lothian and Norah Lindsay at Blickling, Sir Samuel Hoare at Templewood, George Skipper at Sennowe Park, plantsmen and plant hunter Maurice Mason, snowdrop breeder Heyrick Greatorex, and the 19th century designer and architect Thomas Jeckyll. We look at: the complex gardens made by the Colmans up the hill from their mustard works at Carrow in Norwich; at the 18th century Pleasure Gardens which entertained the people of Norfolk and Norwich; at that most expensive of garden features - the lake, and its appearance in Norfolk landscape parks; and at how Norfolk gardens have been depicted in Art over three centuries. The genesis of the great fountain at Holkham Hall is examined and the complexity of getting it to work before the age of the

electric pump, and - still at Holkham - finding out about the politics and art of that huge landscape feature, the Leicester monument.

And there is so much more. The Trust has published three highly successful books to date disseminating the history and stories behind the wealth of gardens and designed landscapes that Norfolk can boast. It is excellent that now the Trust can present a fourth. 'Enticing Paths - A Treasury of Norfolk Gardens and Gardening' will be published in hardback in the Autumn. It is a must-have book for all devotees of Norfolk and its gardens, and the perfect Christmas present. There will be an Autumn book launch to which all our members are warmly invited. Time and place to be advised.

Obituary: Fiona Crumley

We are sad to record the death in February 2021 of the noted horticulturalist and Norfolk Gardens Trust member, Fiona Crumley. She died peacefully at home after a long battle with cancer, aged 58.

Fiona worked as a gardener straight from school and enjoyed a distinguished career in horticulture. She studied for a vocational qualification in Amenity Horticulture at Askam Bryan College, York in the early 1980s and then worked as a gardener at Newby Hall in North Yorkshire before becoming the first ever female Head Gardener at the Chelsea Physic Garden in London.

She subsequently became Head Gardener of the Chiswick House and Gardens Trust between 2007 to 2013, overseeing a major renovation of the gardens that included a nationally important camellia collection, which was in a poor state. Thanks to Fiona and her team, the camellias were saved and new cuttings propagated, newly framed within a beautifully restored conservatory. The Financial Times even dubbed her 'The Lady of the Camellias'.

Fiona's horticultural knowledge was outstanding and she held many important roles this world. She was secretary to The Merlin Trust, which offers grants to young horticulturalists,



and travelled with her husband Jeremy Garnett to many parts of the world to look at gardens, as well as native flora and fauna. She was an important member of many horticultural organisations including the Professional Gardeners Guild, the Worshipful Company of Gardeners, the London Gardens Network, and Plant Heritage. For the Royal Horticultural Society, she sat on the Bursaries Advisory Committee and also judged prison gardens.

For many years Fiona and Jeremy's work kept them in London, but they maintained a strong foothold in North Norfolk and were enthusiastic members of the Norfolk Gardens Trust. We will miss Fiona's warmth and friendliness very much but hope that we shall see Jeremy at future NGT meetings.

Norfolk Gardens Trust's Responses to 2020 Planning Applications

by Sally Bate

The Gardens Trust (GT) is a consultee on any planning application that falls within 2 kilometres of a Registered Park or Garden. The GT's casework manager puts together a weekly list of applications and sends it out to the conservation teams at the County Gardens Trusts for their comments and recommendations. Norfolk Gardens Trust (NGT) has been fortunate that Peter Woodrow has been our planning officer for the past 8 years and we thank him for all the time and work he has put in helping to protect our county's garden heritage.



Peter Woodrow

Peter has decided that it is time for him to step down and for us to find a successor, or two? We are delighted that Keri Williams has joined the NGT Conservation Team. Keri brings with him a long career in planning, culminating in his role as a planning inquiry inspector. Joining Keri is Susan Grice, who has not only spent years studying garden history but is also a member of the NGT Research Group. Research and Conservation go hand-in-hand and with input from our Vice-Chair Sally Bate, and on occasion other key NGT members, we have a strong team to work with the GT on future applications.

However, all NGT members can help our Conservation Team by keeping an ear to the ground for proposed development on their patch and letting us know because applications do not always get submitted to the GT. NGT would also like to hear of any locally significant parks or gardens, which are not on Historic England's Register but are under threat from new development. As you can see, in the accompanying table, NGT is sometimes consulted about these sites by the local district councils.

Overleaf is a brief resumé of planning applications and other plans the NGT has been asked to respond to in 2020:

Site affected or plan submitted	Designation	Brief details of proposal or document
Sandringham	Grade II*	Park House – modifications for disabled use
University of East Anglia	non-designated	HE's consultation – registration was not granted
Broadland DC area	n/a	Norfolk Broads Flood Risk Plan
The Plantation Garden, Norwich	Grade II	New gates proposed for Plantation House
Norwich City (Earlham) Cemetery	Grade II	20m monopole radio mast and units
Sandringham	Grade II*	York Cottage, extension to car park
Anglia Square Inquiry	Grade II*	Inquiry submission on the negative effects on Waterloo Park and Catton Park setting
Brooke House	non-designated	New 26-bed facility in a Conservation Area
Shotesham Hall	non-designated	Removal of trees to accommodate a wedding venue car park
Norfolk County Hall site	non-designated	New 2-storey car park on edge of site.
Kett's Castle Villa, Norwich	non-designated	HE's consultation – now registered Grade II
Koolunga House, Gorleston	non-designated	Developer's appeal against refused consent to develop the garden.
Sandringham	Grade II*	The Birches, South Wootton - extension
The Lawns, Diss	non-designated	HE's consultation – registration was not granted
Precinct Wall, The Close, Nch.	non-designated	Re-opening former access from Palace St.
Holkham (Egmere)	Grade I	New mansion proposal within 2km of Park
The Plantation Garden, Norwich	Grade II	Plantation House - planting plans required by NCC
Terrington St. John	n/a	Neighbourhood Plan
Langley Park	Grade II	Tennis courts – replacement fencing
Raynham Park	Grade II	Retrospective – 10 yurts & service buildings
Heigham Park, Norwich	Grade II	Restoration of thatched tennis pavilion
Brancaster	n/a	Neighbourhood Plan
Earlham Park, Norwich	Grade II	Modifications to WC facilities - Earlham Hall
Dunston	non-designated	Extension to Keeper's Cottage on edge of Dunston Hall estate.
Happisburgh Manor	Grade II	Timber-clad cabins for patients (withdrawn Jan 2021)
Raynham Park	Grade II	Keeper's Cottage, Tofrees - objected to the replacement proposed, on design grounds
Waterloo Park, Norwich	Grade II*	Extending play area into former bowls area
North Norfolk Local Plan	n/a	Update on 2010 plan proposals

Norfolk Gardens Trust Research Group – new Unforgettable Gardens project

by Sally Bate

Our research activities took a bit of a back seat last year, with archive centres closed, the ability to travel curtailed and meetings unable to take place. Several members of our 16-strong team are continuing with their research into Victorian and Edwardian gardens, gardeners and nurseries, although research is currently confined to online investigations.

The Gardens Trust had to stage a low-key launch to its Unforgettable Gardens campaign in 2020, but County Gardens Trusts across the country have started to plan and share their projects and events that will come under the Unforgettable Gardens banner. Essentially, this campaign aims to raise awareness of how much we should value historic designed landscapes, how vulnerable they can be to a range of threats (neglect or mismanagement, climate or environmental, modern development or lack of funds) and what volunteers and supporters can do to ensure their survival in good shape. Let us know if you know of such a park or garden and if they would like to hold an event. If so, the NGT may be able to help.

The first NGT project to take part under the Unforgettable Gardens campaign is the digitisation of our 21 Town Gardens Surveys, which were researched and printed in the mid-1990s. This huge



body of work was coordinated and written up by Anthea Taigel for NGT, and only a small number of copies produced. Eight volunteers from the research group are typing up these valuable documents as well as producing a location map for each one. There is a brief history of the park or garden, a survey of what features existed and what condition the site was in, in the 1990s. Already we are noticing the number of changes that have taken place in the past 25 years and we propose to update these entries to reflect their survival in 2021. The eventual plan is to form an inventory to go on our NGT website and submit information to Norfolk's Historical Environment Record. In this way the information will be readily available, in a useable form, for local authority planners and developers alike.

Thank you to the researchers who bravely volunteered to carry out this time-consuming work. It is the perfect lock-down activity and is definitely a silver-lining to these challenging months.

Garden Visits - Karen Moore

Friday 14th May - 2 tours 10.30am and 2.30pm

Elmham House, North Elmham, Dereham NR20 5JY

(Numbers limited, pre-booking only. Booking information will be sent to members in April)

A walk with Professor Tom Williamson (UEA) around the park to include the pleasure garden, walled kitchen garden, 18th century ice house (restored 2017), circular brick dovecote (restored 2002) and game larder.

The original hall built in 1727 was demolished when the estate was acquired by a developer in 1924 and a new house was built in 1928 alongside the original outbuildings. A small garden now exists on the site of the old hall. The pleasure garden lies to the west of the house bounded by a ha-ha and fencing and contains a number of fine trees including an unusual *Catalpa fargesii* and two Cedars of Lebanon, rhododendrons and spring flowering shrubs, roses and azaleas. Ongoing clearing of laurel has revealed old walls and paths. The ice house lies in the west of the park with open panoramic views towards the lake and beyond. The dovecote and game larder are both dated 1840 on cast iron plaques above the doors. The 18th century walled kitchen garden also survives and is surrounded by 3.5m high red-brick walls with raised, gridded sections

to the north and south where glasshouses once stood and an ancient vine, still productive, grows in the ruins of an 19th century glasshouse. The gardener's cottage and ancillary buildings are situated on the east side. A rectangular brick-built water tank with steps leading down is at the centre of an area of fruit and vegetables; the remainder being laid to grass with an ancient mulberry tree.

Refreshments

ADVANCE BOOKING ONLY

Open by kind invitation of Tom & Jo Fitzalan Howard



Saturday 5th June 2 - 5pm

Wretham Lodge, East Wretham IP24 1RL



Wretham Lodge is a Georgian rectory built in 1810 surrounded by a 10 acre garden. The entire garden is encompassed by a flint wall. The garden includes a double herbaceous border, yew hedges, topiary and a shrub and rose border. Within the grounds is a walled kitchen garden which is maintained in the traditional manner where a wide range of vegetables, fruit and perennials are grown. The garden contains a large selection of fruit trees with over twenty varieties of apple, six of pear, peaches, cherries, nectarines, plums and quince.

Saturday 3rd July 2 - 5pm

Black Horse Cottage, The Green, Hickling NR12 0YA

(see Readers' Gardens, Spring 2019 magazine)

Just six feet above sea level on good Broadland loam the professionally redesigned plantsman's garden at Black Horse Cottage contains over 800 different plant types with an emphasis on year-round interest providing character, colour and architectural structure. Large island borders sit amongst maturing trees and wild grasses. Look out for the creative formative pruning carried out on many of the trees and shrubs. Many long two-way vistas and mown walkways



In the grounds are over 100 varieties of roses including the Wretham rose which was discovered here and named by Peter Beales after the house. The garden has featured in Peter Beales' book, *Vision of Roses* and in numerous magazines including *Country Life*, *House and Garden*, *English Garden*, and *Country Living* and in 2019 was included in Kathryn Bradley-Hole's *English Gardens*, which is taken from the archives of *Country Life*.

Teas

Open by kind invitation of Gordon Alexander & Ian Salter



through the large meadow provide wonderful sitting opportunities!

Teas

Open by kind invitation of Mrs Yvonne Pugh

Thursday 8th July

Coach trip to Helmingham Hall, Suffolk

(Numbers limited, pre-booking only. Booking information will be sent to members in June)



This magnificent park (grazed by red deer), the Hall in mellow patterned red brick, and the beautiful gardens, combine to give an extraordinary impression of beauty and tranquillity. A classic parterre flanked by hybrid musk roses lies before a stunning walled kitchen garden with exquisite herbaceous borders and beds of vegetables. The

colour combinations are in immaculate taste and are both subtle and very beautiful and the influence of the well-known garden designer Xa Tollemache, is clearly visible. The parterre was redesigned in 1987 and the new rose garden to the east of the coach house was created in 1982, together with the knot and herb garden.

Thursday 29th July 2 - 5pm

The Walled Garden at Wolterton Hall, NR11 7LY

Until its change of ownership in 2016, the Wolterton estate had been in a deep sleep for 30 years and the walled garden, previously used as a market garden by Barkers Organics, was overgrown. The restoration of the entire estate, including the walled garden, is slowly taking shape under the direction of Head Gardener, Matthew Gilbert.

Peter Sheppard and his partner Keith Day had a vision to return the grounds to the original 18th century design with wide open vistas. Wolterton Park has always been famous for its wildlife and the new owners are keen to maintain and enhance this. Matt and his team have achieved much and the grounds are emerging from their slumber. In 2017, Natural England awarded the estate a substantial 'higher tier' stewardship grant, which has allowed for the restoration of many of the original features, including new estate fencing and major repairs to the front and rear ha-has.

The estate is starting to become productive again. With its own produce, including hens and bee hives, it expects to be more self sufficient and able to provide its luxury holiday lets with estate-sourced products. There are longer-term plans to restore all the greenhouses and the peach house, which are still used today.



This is a fantastic time to visit the estate as the restoration is starting to bear fruit, and visitors will be able to see the massive challenges in bringing Wolterton back to life.

Plants propagated on the estate will be on sale.

Teas will be served under the arcade affording a wonderful view of the lake.

Open by kind invitation of Peter Sheppard & Keith Day



Saturday 7th August 2 - 5pm

Fiddian's Follies at Upwood Farm, North Barningham NR11 7LA

(reviewed by Roger Last in our Autumn 2020 magazine)



A hidden three-acre site with a quarry provided an unusual opportunity for the imagination to run wild and over the years Dick Fiddian has filled this unique space with elevated walkways, paths and steps, plinths and urns, statues and follies. The use of architectural fragments, collected over years from auctions and eBay, have been put to good use. With every twist and turn there is a sense of excitement and discovery with viewing platforms and quirky brick and stone elements all cleverly hidden by extensive and knowledgeable planting.

On from the main garden is a kitchen garden containing a large number of prize echiums. Beyond is a 'cabin' (a totally hidden holiday let) set into the

landscaped hill. On a high mound topped with a viewing platform a seat overlooks the wooded landscape.

Teas

Open by kind invitation of Dick and Debbie Fiddian



Wednesday 18th August 10:00am and 2:30pm

Salle Park, Reepham NR10 4SF

(Numbers limited, pre-booking only)

A private guided tour of the walled garden at Salle Park with Head Gardener, Thomas Barwick.

Hidden away behind its protective blanket of trees, are the walls and the door that opens to the magical world of the walled kitchen garden. The walled kitchen garden was built in the 1780s

and still retains many original features, with vine house, display glass house, new herbaceous borders an orchard and ice house. Fully productive, being managed in an authentic and traditional way, it once again provides for all the 'big house' fruit, vegetable and cut flower needs. There is also enough left over for a small box scheme.

Salle Park Estate owned by Sir John White has been in the White Family for over one hundred years. It is a traditional Norfolk arable farming estate of 4200 acres, but within this thriving estate can also be found much diversity, seen more and more in modern-day country estates. Foresters, game keepers, house staff, office staff, farmers and of course gardens staff can all be found busily



taking care of their areas of Salle Park.

The house was built in 1763, in the mid-Georgian period when records show some basic gardens with lawns and borders. For many years the gardens at Salle had fallen into decline, but now they are being given the chance to blossom again. Today the gardens consist of two sections: a Georgian-style pleasure garden of formal lawns and topiary, with rose gardens, specimen trees and shrubs, a winter border, wild flowers and colourful spring displays: on the right side of the house is a lovely orangery, with exotic planting.

After the tour, tea and cakes will be served in the Orangery.

Open by kind permission of Sir John White

Saturday 16th October 2pm

Blake Studio, Norwich School,
The Close NR1 4DD
“Norfolk Wild Flowers”

An illustrated talk by Simon Harrap from Natural Surroundings, Bayfield Estate, Holt
(www.naturalsurroundings.info)

Together with his wife Anne, Simon runs “Natural Surroundings” based on the Bayfield Estate near Holt. Natural Surroundings covers around eight acres in one of the most beautiful corners of Norfolk. The site includes many show gardens, designed to demonstrate wildlife-friendly gardening and showcase the beauty and diversity of plants, as well as wet meadows and woodland alongside the



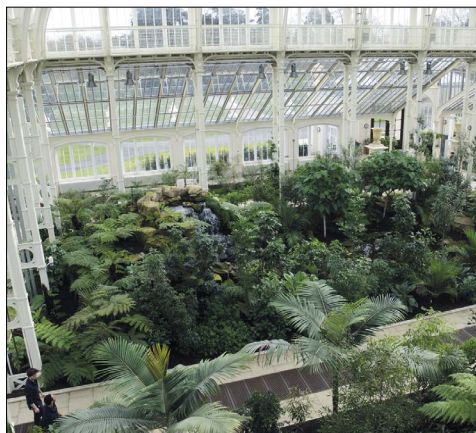
River Glaven. From spring to autumn Natural Surroundings hosts abundant wildlife and there is nothing better than relaxing with a cup of coffee in the tea gardens and enjoying the scenery, birds, butterflies and flowers.

Teas

Saturday 20th November 2pm**“Botanical Gardens: A Grand Tour”**

An illustrated talk by Jim Paine of Walnut Tree Gardens Nursery, Attleborough.

From the sixteenth century to the present day, botanic gardens have been the epicentre of plant research and horticultural excellence. Set aside for science and education, botanic gardens are also places of great beauty, from magnificent avenues of flowering trees, huge glasshouses filled with exotic tropical giants to the tiny and exquisite mountain-side plants in the cool alpine house. First, this talk explores the history and purpose of botanic gardens, illustrated with beautiful



images throughout, then takes a closer look at a handful of gardens, from far distant continents to the easily accessible Cambridge Botanic Garden.

Teas

Call For Articles

We welcome suggestions for articles to be included in future issues of the NGT Magazine. These could be pieces you are prepared to write or just thoughts about articles you would like to see in the magazine. We are interested in ideas about gardens in Norfolk (or further afield), historical research, gardening, plants, people in gardening etc. In the first instance send us an email at:

sueroe8@icloud.com

Clive Lloyd and Sue Roe, Editors

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**HELP!**

We are seeking volunteers to help serve tea at our garden events. Any help supporting the NGT would be welcome!

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**Readers' Gardens**

If you would like your garden to be featured in the NGT Magazine please contact us. We welcome hearing about all gardens big or small, town or country and whether you are open to the public or not.
Contact: sueroe8@icloud.com



Norfolk
Gardens Trust

norfolkgt.org.uk