

CSGGA Newsletter

October 2019 2019



RHS Affiliated Membership Number: 10570237

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The History of British Gardens

Roger Askew

Roger's talk to the Gardens Association following the AGM on the 10th October 2019 was a whistle-stop tour of gardens through the ages spread across Britain and Europe. His talk traced the development of English Gardens from medieval times, through the 17th century parterres and the English Landscape Movement of the 18th century to the taste for garden rooms and "painting with flowers" that typifies the 20th and 21st centuries.

Roger began his talk by stating "All gardens attempt to create a piece of paradise". Examples of paradise gardens that have been captured in landscape paintings through the ages include expansive views, bridges, lakes, trees and opulent planting which was symbolic of splendour, wealth and status, as illustrated below:



With the aid of several medieval manuscript representations of gardens, moving gradually through time to the introduction of parterres in the seventeenth century Roger drew parallels with the evolution of famous gardens such as Versailles Palace and Gardens, an expression of power and wealth below.

Hampton Court Palace under the ownership of William III was transformed into a formal and regal estate, similarly, **Kensington Palace** with the addition of its splendid Orangery. The 18th Century "Courting Garden" was planted with red and white roses symbolising blood and purity. Trellis, secret obscure corners, garden rooms with intimate spaces were also key features. Westminster Abbey and Lessines Gardens were

shown as examples of herbal and medicinal gardens that influenced the practical development of the garden and its ongoing benefit in healing and well-being.

A key factor enabling livestock to be kept out of larger gardens was the development of the ha-ha boundary wall during the 18th and 19th century throughout the UK. Examples below illustrate the structure. To put it simply, the **ha-ha wall** is a ditch. But why the funny name? Well, the ha-ha comes as a surprise to unsuspecting visitors. The term describes the astonishment at a wide trench suddenly popping into view.



Roger traced the development of the 18th Century English Landscape Movement which grew up as a reaction to the formal style of gardening and the need to look to nature for inspiration with the addition of rolling hills, water, shrubs, blooming perennials and gravel pathways.

Key Influencers in garden design included Vita Sackville-West & Sir Harold Nicolson who transformed **Sissinghurst**

Castle Parks & Gardens. Other major players who had left their legacies in the gardens they had helped shape: names such as Capability Brown - **Chatsworth House**, and Sir Humphrey Repton - **Blaise Castle and Woburn Abbey**, both of whom left their mark on local parks; and others such as Gertrude Jekyll who worked with Sir Edward Lutyens - **Hestercombe House and Gardens** to design hundreds of gardens. In addition, Lawrence Johnston, garden designer and plantsman - **Hidcote Manor** with garden rooms, vista and views: Christopher Lloyd - **Great Dixter**, Beth Chatto - **The Dry Garden**- and Rosemary Verey – **Barnsley House** were all named examples of the evolution of English Gardens. 18th century **Longleat House**, Wiltshire, illustrated by Kip Johannes drawings, creating order and structure in the garden, which was mirrored by the architecture, a feature that was carried into the 19th, 20th & 21st Century. Queen Caroline of Ansbach in the 18th Century along with Charles Bridgeman and William Kent pioneered the naturalistic landscape style in their appointment to develop royal gardens.

Roger also paid tribute to those who had travelled widely to acquire new species of plants, namely, John Tradescant, Elder and Younger who sourced specimens and rarities including magnolias, bald cypress and tulip tree, phlox and asters from across the world. The domestic cottage garden influenced by John and June Claudius Loudon was underpinned by the publication of the 1812 Gardening Encyclopaedia and 1826 Garden Magazine.

Jacqui Greenham

The AGM

37 members attended the AGM, the committee was re-elected and the Accounts adopted. More details in the Minutes which will be available shortly from Jan Bradley, the Secretary, on request.

M's Action Diary |for October

There is a lot one can do in the garden at this time of year – such as

- Lay turf to create a new lawn, and aerate and scarify existing lawns and keep them free of fallen leaves
- Plant herbaceous perennials, trees and shrubs as conditions are now ideal;
- Plant bulbs such as daffodils and crocus to naturalise in grass;
- Plant bedding such as wallflowers, violas, bellis and sweet Williams to flower in the Spring;
- Move tree ferns to a frost free position, or if too large to move, surround them with bubble wrap insulation;
- Put grease bands around apple trees to catch winter codling moths;
- Cut down buddleias and lavateras by one third to prevent wind rock;
- Prune climbing roses, remove dead or diseased stems and cut back side shoots by two thirds;
- Apply patio cleaning products to paving;
- Lift dahlias after frost. Cut back stems and stand them upside down for a couple of weeks to dry before laying them in a tray of dry compost. Store somewhere cool and frost free;
- Bring tender plants in pots under cover or wrap in fleece;
- Empty ceramic pots and bring under cover to prevent frost damage.

Monthly Cup

There were no entries into the Monthly cup – could this have been because Caroline was away? She's away again in November so there may be another opportunity to win the cup!

Understanding Pruning Techniques – Brian Fisher

Thursday, 14th November 2019

This practical talk will provide you with guidance on how, when and with what you need to prune trees, shrubs and hedges to aid their full growing potential. Please bring along your challenges to share with Brian during "question time".



Christmas Party - Thursday 12th December 2019

It's party time! We will once again enjoy a delicious two-course meal, with a choice to be made on the night – see menu below (unless you have special dietary requirements which we need to know in advance). As usual we will take bookings at the November meeting.

The price is £21 per head. Cheques made out to **CSG Gardens Association** please, or BACS transfer 20-02-06 account 80256587. Places are limited so first come first served. We need confirm numbers to the caterers, so book as soon as possible please. Crockery and cutlery will be provided but please bring your own drinks, nibbles and glasses.



We will be featuring our competition for Best Table Arrangement to fit within a 9 inch cube, but **please don't include real candles**. Your arrangement can be as decorative and imaginative as you like, with fresh or artificial material, or even edible! Not limited to one per table, so we'd like to encourage everyone to have a go – it should certainly not be seen as a competition only for the women!

If you will not be attending the November meeting, book a place by sending a cheque payable as above (with details of attendees please) to:
Jan Bradley, 23 The Lager, CSG, HP8 4DH tel: (01494) 874704
e-mail janbradley4@btinternet.com with details if paid by bank transfer.

Catering and Staff by "To Dine For" Chalfont St. Peter.

QUIZ

RAFFLE



Hot Buffet Menu Choice of:



Chicken stuffed with sun-dried tomato, feta and spinach, wrapped in Black Forest ham, with a white wine sauce **OR**

Steak and Ale mushroom and onion pie with puff pastry topping

Chickpea, coriander and lime chilli (Vegan) **must be ordered when booking**

All served with: Roasted new potatoes with garlic, lemon and rosemary, Griddled mixed vegetables, Honey roasted carrots and parsnips

Desserts: Coffee tiramisu.

Apple and mincemeat crumble pie.

And Cheese and Biscuits. Tea/coffee and chocolates

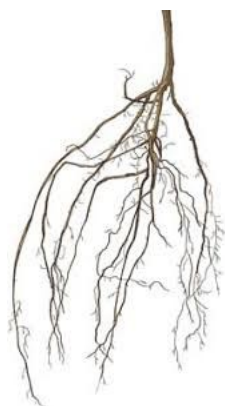
Osterley House, Afternoon Tea & Kew Garden Christmas Lights Wednesday 4th December 2019

We will spend the early afternoon at Osterley House & Gardens, Isleworth, an impressive National Trust mansion, arriving at 13.00 to view their winter exhibition "Treasures of Osterley – Rise of a Banking Family" and Gardens, departing at 15.30. Travelling to Kew we will arrive at The Botanist to have sandwiches, dessert and tea at 16.00. From there we will walk over to Kew Gardens to arrive at 17.30 for the Christmas Winter Lights Trail which lasts 75 minutes. The 2019 Winter Lights Trail includes glittering spiral trees, dynamic laser projections, illuminated vines and mysterious softly glowing fairy fire known as Will-o'-the Wisp.



Beverages and snacks (if you've still got room!) will be available at kiosks on the trail, including mulled wine and mince pies. In addition, the shops and eateries will be open. Departing Kew Gardens at 19.45 with an aim to arriving back at Chalfont St Giles at 20.45. The cost for this outing will be £46.00 for members (£51.00 for guests and non-members) which covers Afternoon Tea, entrance to Kew Gardens, coach and driver's gratuity. Non-National Trust members will pay an additional £9.35. Please use the booking form attached and return to Eleanor O'Connor. Organiser on the day: Jacqui Greenham. See contact details below.

Green Gardening Tip for October



Go bare!

Trying to reduce plastic in the garden is difficult but, at this time of year, buying bare root plants is not only economical, it does away with plastic plant pots altogether. Unfortunately, plastic may still be used to package your order but an increasing number of nurseries are beginning to offer a plastic-free packaging option using biodegradable waxed paper wrapping. If you shop online, find out how the plants you order will be packaged for despatch. If sufficient customers ask for a plastic free packaging alternative, nurseries might make a change more quickly.

Holiday 2020

The Gardens of Essex and Suffolk 5 days Sunday 7th to Thursday 11th June 2020

28 members have already put their name down for next year's holiday. Are you going to join us? 5 days from £599 Departs 7th -11th June 2020. 4* Hotel, Half Board Accommodation. A full programme of excursions and guided tours including Ickworth House, Wyken Hall Gardens & Vineyard, Layer Marney Tower, Marks Hall Gardens & Arboretum, Gibberd Gardens, Gainsborough House, Helmingham Hall Gardens, Gainsborough House, Green Island Gardens, Southwold, Lavenham, Colchester, Ipswich, and many more places of interest. Full details of the holiday can be found on our website or at Tailored Travel www.tailored-travel.co.uk and quote csgg201. **No deposits are due until the end of the year but if you are interested in joining us, please contact Briony – contact details below.**

Membership Renewal

You should have received a membership renewal form through the post or hand delivered last month. Thank you to those who have paid already or set up standard orders. Please return your signed form, whether or not you pay by standing order, so that we can keep our records straight. If you have decided not to renew, we will be very sorry to lose you but would be most grateful if you could let someone on the committee know so that we don't send reminder letters and emails unnecessarily. We will be finalising the new 2020 membership cards shortly and they should be ready for collection at the meeting in November otherwise they will be delivered either by hand or post shortly afterwards. Thank you.

Your Committee

Chairman and Membership Secretary:

Briony Wickenden Mulberry House, 54 Milton Fields,
Chalfont St Giles, HP8 4EP 01494879482
brionywickendke@hotmail.com

Secretary: Jan Bradley, 23 The Lagger, Chalfont St Giles,
HP8 4AA 01494 874704 janbradley4@btinternet.com

Treasurer: Margaret Dykes, 4 Roughwood Fields,
Roughwood Lane, Chalfont St Giles, HP8 4AA 01494
874511 margaretdykes@btinternet.com

Committee Members:

Jacqui Greenham	01494 870752
Caroline Jackson	01494 876685
Ravi Kudhail	01494 874709
Eleanor O'Connor	01494 875646

New Committee members are always welcome. We are a friendly bunch! Please contact a committee member to find out more if you're interested in joining us.

Dates for the Diary

Traidcraft Christmas

If you enjoy the biscuits and other refreshments at the meetings you may wish to go to Margaret's sale at Roughwood Fields, Roughwood Lane, CSG HP8 4AA Thursday 2th October 2-5 pm or Friday 25th October 10am – 4pm

RHS Late Fruit and Vegetable Competition

1-3 November RHS Garden Wisley, GU23 6QB See inspiring entries in more than 80 classes of fruit and vegetables. Plus apple identification by RHS Experts.