

GT events

Lectures
Conferences
Study Tours

Please note that after making your on-line booking you will be sent a zoom link two days prior to the start of the event. A link to the recorded session will be sent shortly afterwards, for those unable to see it on broadcast, or simply to watch again, though this lasts only for a limited period.

The Folly & the Ivy

Caroline Holmes

Mistletoe and More, Talks series

10am, Tuesday 1 December

Erasmus described folly as the seasoning of pleasure, an anticipation of the jolly season of Christmas with festoons of ivy. Ivy clad architectural follies from Mt Edgumbe to Biddulph Grange, inspirational swags and topiaries, horticultural light relief in the form of Misalliance and parties from Mr Fezziwig's Ball to Vicar and Gipsy fancy dress. As the German philosopher and cultural critic, Friedrich Nietzsche, with a moustache to rival any ivy swag, wrote, 'We should call every truth false which was not accompanied by some laughter'.

By zoom. £16 for all four talks in the series, or individually at £5.

Aislabie @ 350

Mark Newman

in association with Yorkshire GT

7pm, Friday 4 December

On the evening of his 350th birthday this talk will explore the life story of John Aislabie [right] – politician, entrepreneur, Chancellor of the Exchequer, national villain and, most significantly, outstanding landscape designer – and examine the now World Heritage Site he created at Studley Royal.

Understanding of Aislabie's achievements has developed very considerably following many years of National Trust research, including publication of Mark's *Wonder of the North: Fountains Abbey and Studley Royal* in 2015. This stand alone talk will take that work as a foundation, but also include, for the first time, fruits of further research (some only completed this summer) that have still more to reveal about John Aislabie's schemes for the grounds and the truly pioneering scope of his personal vision for landscape design.

By zoom. Cost £5, as above.

Planning Training Case Study: Victoria Tower Gardens Campaign

Helen Monger, London GT

2pm, Monday 7 December

The proposal to create a UK Holocaust Memorial was originally suggested in 2014 with the Prime Minister in 2016 announcing the chosen site as Victoria Tower Gardens [see p.16]. In 2017 the proposal to build this monument and an underground Learning Centre was submitted to Westminster City Council.



London Gardens Trust, and other heritage groups, are concerned about the potential impact of inappropriate development on the park's existing design, monuments and use.

Helen Monger, Director of London GT, takes us through the twists and turns of the 'Save Victoria Tower Gardens campaign', which led to a Judicial Review hearing in the High Court and may go to the Court of Appeal next.

Free, but please register in advance with Eventbrite, via the GT website.

Naked Ladies and the Scarlet Monster

David Marsh

Mistletoe and More, Talks series

10am, Tuesday 8 December

People like to fill their houses with flowers and plants at Christmas. Is this a new trend? Have the range of plants changed over the years? What does a Victorian Dean of Manchester have to do with naked ladies and why do we all know the name of the American ambassador to Mexico in 1828? This talk will do a roundup of some of our most popular seasonal plants in art and botanical history.

The Grand Tour

James Bolton

in association with Kent GT

6pm, Tuesday 8 December

The Perils and Pleasures of the 18th Century Traveller's Journey to Italy, this one-off talk follows the progress of the Grand Tourists through Europe, largely through contemporary paintings, and gives examples of the souvenirs they returned with



and tells of some of the difficulties facing the intrepid traveller in the pre-railway age.

John Evelyn's ventures into Europe were a bit different. Not only did he go very early (1641), but he went partly to avoid the Civil War. He also went with an inquiring mind (his family nickname was 'The Philosopher') that crossed the boundaries of art and science. He was excited by the gardens he saw, the horticultural practices, as well as the art and architecture of Holland, France, and above all, Italy. When he came back, he not only brought fabulous pieces of furniture, like the Evelyn Tables and Cabinet, but a host of landscape and gardening ideas, which were put into practice in such remarkable places as Sayes Court, Euston Hall and Albury Park.

By zoom. Cost £5, as above.

**Planning Training 6:
Planning for the future of
historic parks and gardens
Victoria Thompson**

2pm, Monday 14 December

Historic England's Victoria Thomson examines the potential impact of proposed changes to the planning system on historic designed landscapes. The Government's 'Planning for the Future' White Paper was published in August, seeking views on proposed reforms of the planning system in England. The intention is to replace the current planning system with a new one, to include streamlining and fast-tracking both plan-making and planning application procedures; and adopting a digital,

more illustrative format with land categorised into three areas, Growth, Renewal and Protected, each determining a specified approach to development.

Dr Victoria Thomson, Head of National Strategy at Historic England, compares the proposals with current strategy and looks at how the changes, if implemented, could affect the future of our historic parks and gardens.

Free, but please register in advance with Eventbrite, via our website.



**Wentworth Castle and
Wentworth Woodhouse:
Georgian rivals united
through 21st-century
restoration and public access
Patrick Eyres**

GT and London GT On-line
Winter Lecture Series 2020/21
6pm, Monday 14 December

The family rivalry was both dynastic and political. Until the mid-1740s, the Wentworth Castle dynasty was superior in aristocratic rank and cultural display. It was once the Hanoverian monarchy was securely embedded, that the Whigs at Wentworth Woodhouse began to eclipse their Tory cousins in social status and estate embellishment. We are fortunate that the rivals are being united by the endeavours of charitable trusts to conserve as a public amenity this magnificent legacy of competitive country house building and landscape gardening.

For over a decade, the

Wentworth Castle Heritage Trust restored the splendour of the mansion, estate buildings, gardens, park and monuments, and the future of Wentworth Castle Gardens is now secure in the care of the National Trust.

At Wentworth Woodhouse, the Fitzwilliam Wentworth Amenity Trust has restored the Georgian fabric of the landscape monuments and the four serpentine lakes, while the Wentworth Woodhouse

Preservation Trust is undertaking the Herculean task of re-roofing the gargantuan Palladian mansion.

Cost: £4 for GT and CGT members, £6 for non-members, otherwise details as above.

**Step into the Christmas Card
Caroline Holmes
Mistletoe and More, Talks series
10am, Tuesday 15 December**

For the last 150 years Christmas cards have been adorned with nativity scenes or holly, ivy and mistletoe, a rotund Father Christmas, hosiery, trees, with shouts of Noel, Noel. Sacred and profane, plant symbolism, carols that echo the sacred magic of the nativity scene, the lowing animals popularized by St Francis of Assisi, shepherds and kings, all playing their part and foretelling the future. There are also fashion plates, New Year wishes and cartoons. So what on earth do Christmas cards portray – are they tasteful or tasteless?

Mistletoe and the Druids**David Marsh****Mistletoe and More, Talks series**

10am, Tuesday 22 December

Mistletoe is a mysterious plant without any obvious source of food, without roots, that grows way above the Earth but is not blown away by the wind, that stays green when its hosts have lost their leaves, and that seems capable of spontaneous reproduction and continuing life. It must have been an extraordinary sight to those without our knowledge of its botany and ecology. It has medicinal uses so why was it disapproved of by Christians. How did it kill a Norse god? Where do the Druids come into the story, and what's it all got to do with a Lincolnshire vicar?



legendary status as a rock and alpine gardener and examines what was special about his approach. The content of his various books specifically devoted to rock gardening and his practical experience in the four gardens at Clapham are also studied.

4 weekly on-line talks, starting Thursday 5 January, £5 each or all 4 for £16.

Biodiversity & the Wild West End Project: Encouraging Birds, Bees & Bats into***the Heart of London*****Tom Gray, Senior Ecological Consultant, Arup****GT and London GT On-line Lecture Series 2020/21**

6pm, Monday 11 January 2021

The Rescue of an Edwardian Rock Garden
Mike Myers**Man, Myth and Mountains: Reginald Farrer series****in association with Yorks GT**

7pm, Tuesday 12 January, 2021

Aysgarth Rock Garden is a rare surviving example of the work of alpine and rockery specialists James Backhouse and Son, created in the early 20th century for Frank Sayer Graham but it fell into decline after his death. Designed as a walk through grotto, its huge limestone blocks, low lintels and narrow winding paths, are complimented by cascading water, and exotic plants. It was listed in 1988 and Mike was asked to advise and assist with its restoration in 2002.

Farrer in the Alps and the Far East**John Page****Man, Myth and Mountains: Reginald Farrer series****in association with Yorks GT**

7pm, Tuesday 19 January, 2021

This session looks at Farrer's plant and seed collecting expeditions, together with his perilous adventures and eventual death in the field. Farrer's books based on these trips, embellished with examples of his botanical illustrations and enlivened with photographs taken at the time, are also discussed.

***The Integration of******Derek Jarman's Garden*****Professor Michael Charlesworth, University of Texas****GT and London GT On-line Lecture Series 2020/21**

6pm, Monday 25 January 2021

Dungeness, Kent, presents a strange landscape that contains at least one strange garden. How can we comprehend the place and make sense of the garden? This talk will emphasize the way in which Derek Jarman's garden at Prospect Cottage was for him an act of integration: of his past with his present, his works in other media (painting and film) with making the garden; and of his new home with the territory around it, and even the past of that territory. All the while the garden set him towards a future, which was, however, tragically curtailed. The garden has therefore been quite rightly described as "a tribute to Jarman's defiant spirit".

Events 2021

We will be launching a series on twentieth century gardens and designed landscapes early in the new year, so please watch our website and your email inbox for details. And there is much more still to come...

The Power of Farrer**John Page****Man, Myth and Mountains:****Reginald Farrer, a four part series in association with Yorks Gardens Trust**

7pm, Tuesday 5 January, 2021

Reginald Farrer, 1880–1920, was an alpine plant collector, gardener, and garden writer, who single-handedly changed the way the anglophone world writes about garden plants. He was also a travel-writer, rock gardener, novelist, poet, and amateur water-colour painter, and became a Buddhist in 1908.

John Page's talk looks at the background to Farrer's rise to

**Plants, Books and Journeys:
the world of Reginald Farrer,
'well-known' Buddhist
Michael Charlesworth
Man, Myth and Mountains:
Reginald Farrer series
in association with Yorks GT**

7pm, Tuesday 26 January, 2021

This talk will trace the energy of Buddhist thought in varied works by Farrer. It will look particularly at his account of temples and ruined cities, In Old Ceylon (1908), and the extraordinary volume of war propaganda that he wrote in 1917–18 while employed at John Buchan's Department of Information, alongside his poetry and travel writing.

**Too Young to be Loved?
Post-war designed landscapes
of London and environs
Karen Fitzsimon CMLI,
landscape architect and
garden historian**

GT and London GT On-line
Winter Lecture Series 2020/21
6pm, Monday 8 February 2021

While the heritage value of post-war architecture is growing in appreciation, that of its designed landscapes is less understood. Despite Historic England's addition of 24 sites from this period to the National Heritage List for England by last summer, built works from these decades are disappearing at an alarming rate, and very few are protected. From public gardens to commercial landscapes, and everything in between, this illustrated talk will consider some of the amazing sites already protected and others that might merit our consideration.

Karen Fitzsimon has worked with the Gardens Trust on 'Compiling the Record' and is currently undertaking PhD research about Preben Jakobsen at School of Architecture and Cities, University of Westminster.



**Transatlantic Slavery's
Long Reach:
The impacts of direct and
indirect slavery connections
on eighteenth-century estate
gardens and parks in Britain**

**Dr Susanne Seymour,
Associate Professor in
the School of Geography
and Deputy Director of
the Institute for the Study
of Slavery, University of
Nottingham**
GT and London GT On-line
Winter Lecture Series 2020/21
6pm, Monday 22 February 2021

There is increasing evidence of a wide and deep connection of Britain and its people to transatlantic slavery which reaches beyond the port cities. This presentation introduces the range of direct and indirect economic, social, political and cultural impacts of slavery connections on landed estates before examining examples of eighteenth century garden and parkland design from the speaker's own research. These include Moccas Park and estate, Herefordshire, developed by Sir George Cornwall who was directly involved in slavery as owner of La Taste plantation, Grenada, and its enslaved African population. Two other Nottinghamshire examples illustrate the impacts of less direct involvement in slavery, at Welbeck Park and gardens owned by leading Whig politician, the 3rd Duke of Portland, and Thoresby Park owned by Sir Charles Pierrepont, veteran of the Royal Navy.

**Dinosaurs, Italian Terraces
and Future Sustainability:
Crystal Palace Park
Kathryn Whitmore, Associate
Landscape Architect, AECOM
and others**

GT and London GT On-line
Winter Lecture Series 2020/21
6pm, Monday 8 March 2021



**What is Wild?
Dr Kim Wilkie, Landscape
Architect**

GT and London GT On-line
Winter Lecture Series 2020/21
6pm, Monday 22 March 2021

Wild has become the reflex antidote to human destruction of the environment, but does it mean any more than just an absence of Homo sapiens? Historically wild meant hostile to humans; now it mostly means friendly to wildlife. How is that really achieved and where do human beings now fit within the concept? Do we shuffle off and abandon land or do we live in a better way?

Cost: £4 for GT and CGT members, £6 for non-members, otherwise details as above.

Study Tour to Palermo and the West of Sicily

Following our successful study tour to Western Sicily in Spring 2019 (see p.38, *GT news* 10), Robert Peel and Cassandra Funsten prepared another one there for members of the Gardens Trust in Spring 2020 – alas this had to be postponed, and remains so, until we know the situation regarding international travel and proposed vaccinations. The same programme of visits will be included, with five nights in Palermo, a day in Bagheria, and two nights in Trapani, from where to visit Segesta, Mozia, Marsala, Mazara and Selinunte.

The aim is to give a full appreciation of the range of landscapes and

gardens in western Sicily and the architectural heritage in its varied manifestations through the centuries, from classical Greek, through Norman, medieval, baroque, neo-classical and Liberty style.

Sicily's climate permits a hedonistic mix of Mediterranean and exotic plants from temperate and tropical parts of other continents, as well as a rich range of wild flowers, especially prominent in the archaeological sites we visit.

Cassandra is based in Palermo and her knowledge of the gardens and plants of the city allows a thorough appreciation of the art and botany of its designed landscapes.

Although **FULLY BOOKED** at



It almost seems unbelievable – no masks!

the time we published our previous issues, a very limited number of places may become available.

Revised dates awaiting for when it will be safe and appropriate to travel to Sicily. For further information, contact Robert Peel: rma.peel@btopenworld.com

The Gardens Trust Annual Conference New Research Symposium and AGM 2021

in and around Richmond and Wensleydale, North Yorkshire

Mid-day, Friday 3 September to Sunday 5 September 2021

This year's Conference in North Yorkshire was postponed due to the current and continuing uncertainty, but we begin to hope.

Given the huge amount of organisation undertaken to set up this year's event it is with some relief, and many thanks to all involved, that we are able, at least provisionally, to make a similar offering for next year, when we hope you will be able to join us, "same time, same place".

So as a reminder to add the date to your diary, here is an outline of the programme, again. We are now aiming to meet up in the Yorkshire Dales at the beginning of September next year (2021), in partnership with Val Hepworth and the Yorkshire County Gardens Trust, centring on Wensleydale and the picturesque Georgian

town of Richmond. All our visits are to privately-owned and run historic listed or registered estates. We will have access to many areas not normally open to the public.



Autumn at Millgate House

Outline programme

Friday 3 September

Arrive at hotel mid-day, lunch available. Afternoon excursions, by coach, to Richmond. Two alternative visits are offered:

A Tour of **Temple Grounds** and its Picturesque landscape.

B Tour of Richmond's **Georgian Theatre**, followed by **Millgate House** plantsman's garden tour.

Return to hotels for bar and dinner and lecture on the inspiration behind the designed landscapes of North Yorkshire.

Saturday 4 September

Morning visit to **Aske Hall**, with elements by Kent and Brown, lunch at the hotel followed by the **New Research Symposium 2021** and **AGM**. Conference Dinner at **The Station**, housed in Richmond's Victorian Railway Station.

Sunday 5 September

Morning visit to **Constable Burton**, lunchtime visit to **Bolton Castle** and final afternoon visit to **Bolton Hall**. Return to Hotel.

The full Conference programme plus a request for any dietary requirements and CGT affiliations will be sent to delegates nearer the time. We will be based at the

Holiday Inn just off the A1(M)/A66 at Scotch Corner (DL10 6NR) which has been attractively refurbished and updated (with efficient double glazing) and offers ample conference facilities and on-site parking. Darlington station is 20 minutes away by frequent local express bus or taxi to the hotel.

Final confirmation of the event

and full details and prices will appear in next year's spring issue of *GT News* and, of course, on the website. We aim to be able to hold prices as advertised for 2020, see *GT News* issue 12. Booking will probably close in early August 2021.

Contact Virginia Hinze: vchinze99@gmail.com or: 01273 844 819

Study Tour to France

Jardins à la Française: origins, variations, reinventions

Friday 17 to Monday 20 September 2021 — **UPDATE**

Our postponed long-weekend study trip to central France will now run from Friday 17 to Monday 20 September 2021, and will still be led by landscape historian, author and curator, **Dr Gabriel Wick** with Robert Peel as organiser. The plan is now to meet our coach in central Paris on Friday morning and drive to **Fontainebleau**, a key site in the development of the classical French gardens in the late-16th and early-17th centuries. From there to **Chateau de Courances**, home of the Ganay family, with its renaissance water-gardens, reinterpreted by Henri and Achille Duchêne in the early-20th century, and restored by the family in the post-war period.

We will then spend the night in Orléans, before travelling along the River Loire, to the newly reconstituted early 18th-century garden at the **Chateau de Chambord**, and the **Chateau de Chaumont** with its long-running International Garden Festival. We will also visit the **Pagoda of Chanteloup**, that poignant fragment of one of France's lost 18th-century gardens.

We shall overnight in Tours,



Chateau de Chambord

The recent epic re(?)creation of the gardens at Chateau de Chambord. You can download a pdf (in English) detailing the process from their website. It seems that the French have more faith in the power of history and expertise than some...

which is conveniently located to tour the gardens of three other chateaux, **Lude**, **Lathan** and **Grand Lucé**, each significant for their history as well as their pragmatic and ecologically driven approaches to planting and maintenance.

Finally, on Monday we shall visit **Chateau de Valmer** with its terraced-gardens, vineyards and potager, and enjoy a wine tasting before heading back to Paris to connect with the evening *Eurostar*.

Full details appeared in our



Chateau de Chambord

Spring issue, and we hope that the Covid 19 situation will have stabilised by next Autumn, proposed vaccinations allowing.

All enquiries to Robert Peel: rma.peel@btopenworld.com