

ISLE OF WIGHT GARDENS TRUST



SPRING NEWSLETTER 2016



SIGNIFICANCE AND INSPIRATION

We are grateful to Mr Lee Hawkes for use of a photograph of his original pencil drawing by George Brannon (1784-1860) as the illustration on the front cover of this newsletter.

The scene has particular significance for Lee who grew up in Godshill and has happy memories of climbing up to the Obelisk for summer picnics, and also for some members of IWGT who made the climb in 2009.

As far as we have been able to establish, none of Brannon's engravings reproduced this composition in its entirety. The drawing shows the Appuldurcombe eye-catchers of Cook's Castle and the Worsley Obelisk above the house in its parkland setting. Within the park there are some figures and a number of individual young trees protected from the grazing deer by tree guards. On the skyline, to the left of the Obelisk, there is the private signal station, belonging to Appuldurcombe, with a small hut for its attendants. The drawing is not dated, but is thought to have been done in the 1820s. On the far right, the sea with some small boats and Highdown Cliff below Tennyson Down are drawn faintly in the distance.



The artist's viewpoint for the drawing is hard to establish but, as Brannon noted in the preface of the 1824 edition of his *Vectis Scenery*, he sometimes needed to find an 'awkward station' which might be the arms of a tree. The relationship of the elements within the composition also seem to be the subject of some artistic licence. As noted by Brannon in the 1826 *Vectis Scenery* he considered it a justified liberty to 'bring within the views any contiguous objects that seemed essential to the making out the true local character of the scene..'. Nevertheless the Appuldurcombe drawing provides significant evidence of the house in its parkland setting in the early 19th century.



The scenery at Appuldurcome has provided artists with inspiration for well over two hundred years and continues to do so. In the summer of 2015 Binnel Studios opened at the old glassworks site in St Lawrence with artists painting wonderful contemporary landscapes including the one shown here by Celia Wilkinson, inspired by Appuldurcombe, and titled 'Who needs donkeys and ice cream'.

**Helen Thomas
with Susan Dobbs**

References:

George Brannon, *The Pleasure-Visitors Companion*, 1838 and *Picture of the Isle of Wight*, 1855.

Dr Raymond V Turley 'George Brannon and his Vectis Scenery' in *Vectis Scenery* Exhibition Catalogue, 2015

*Celia Wilkinson painting reproduced courtesy of the artist.
Brannon drawing cover photo: Ian Murdock*

ISLE OF WIGHT GARDENS TRUST

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Capability Brown Festival

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IWGT SPRING NEWSLETTER 2016

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A LETTER FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

Dear Members,

January 2016 and on my desk is a bunch of Chaenomeles, Coronilla and Sophora. Spring has come too soon with this warm wet weather!

In 2015 we enjoyed our rich and varied Island heritage at a diverse range of IWGT events. The weather was also varied with brilliant sunshine at Nunwell in June and Haseley Manor in September. At Nunwell, Vicky Basford was our knowledgeable guide on a walk round the gardens. The owners Steve and Rose Bonsey produced tea and splendid cakes. July this year Vicky will guide us on a walk round the park. Unfortunately our IWGT stand at the Shorwell Midsummer Fair at Northcourt, was not so lucky as the Fair coincided with possibly the wettest afternoon of the summer. This was a pity as the stand was attracting attention before the deluge so we are looking for volunteers with all weather gear for another try this year.



The legacy of the Walled Kitchen Garden Project continues with demands for the now reprinted book and bookings for the illustrated talk by Sheila Caws. It also seems that the idea of spending a day as a Garden History Detective remains popular.



In 2015 we had a fascinating day with Richard Smout unravelling the history of Haseley Manor with the kind permission, and participation, of owners Anthony and Vivian Roberts. In May 2016 year John and Caroline Weeks are generously allowing Richard and budding IWGT Detectives to look into the history of their home at Westover in Calbourne. This will also allow us to see their garden at its peak just three days before before their charity open day.

Westover also fits very well with our 2016 theme of 18th century parks and gardens and other very good events arranged by Patsy Thompson and her events team. In March we will be delighted to welcome Kate Harwood back for a beautifully illustrated introduction to 18th century gardens with the intriguing title of 'Nature and Liberty' at Northcourt, with thanks to John and Christine Harrison for the venue. Book a place to find out about painting with trees, what sharawadji really means and much more.



*Nunwell in the sunshine
and our stall at Northcourt*

To help us appreciate how much garden fashions changed we have arranged a private showing of the film 'A Little Chaos' which features the amazing 17th century gardens of Versailles. The story is garden fiction rather than fact, but this makes it none the less enjoyable! Thanks to our hosts at Lisle Combe, Robert and Ruth Noyes, we will also be enjoying a delicious homemade afternoon tea in the interval.

Visit England has designated 2016 as the 'Year of the English Garden', and as you all know the famous Lancelot 'Capability' Brown was born 300 years ago.

Appuldurcombe is the only Isle of Wight parkland associated with Capability Brown and we are very pleased that Historic England have published a new expanded description of the site in time for the celebrations. While we may not be able to match the celebrations in counties with more sites, Vicky and Lorna McRobie will be leading walks at Appuldurcombe and we are delighted that Lorna (with her fund raising skills) and Mike Dawson, working with other groups including Ventnor Botanic Garden, are putting on a very special two day event in October.



Richard Smout with some happy IWGT Detectives at Haseley Manor

I was enthralled in 2015 to witness the giant water lily midnight pollination at Ventnor Botanic Garden and the underside of the leaves, pictured below, which inspired Joseph Paxton's designs for glasshouses like the 1851 Crystal Palace. This was made possible as part of a fund raising event for their apprentice gardener scheme which helps to ensure a supply of skilled and knowledgeable gardeners for the future.



IWGT is also continuing to apply its skills and knowledge in the interests of our Island parks and gardens. Helen Thomas continues to liaise with the IW Council and prepare comments on Planning Applications on behalf of IWGT. The Conservation Committee has commented on the IW Council's Area Action Plans for the Medina, Ryde and Bay areas. Vicky, with help from John Brownscombe and others, is undertaking the large task of updating the IWGT site inventory records and making them more easily accessible.

In the Autumn Moria Sibley and I attended The Gardens Trust (the merged Garden History Society and Association of County Trusts) regional forum and first AGM in London. Among other projects they are producing a guidance booklet for local planning authorities and the new organisation is an invaluable network of contacts and speakers.

This newsletter and all else done by Isle of Wight Gardens Trust is the result of many hours of hard work. We are fortunate in our committee, and are very grateful for their dedication. In June this year our AGM will be at Morton Manor and our coach trip in September will be to Sheffield Park and Gardens in East Sussex. I look forward to seeing you then and at our other exciting events during the year.

Susan Dobbs, Chairman.

Postscript

We are pleased to report that at the Isle of Wight Area of Outstanding Beauty AGM on 29th January 2016 Vicky Basford was elected to the AONB Steering Committee as post-holder of the Historic Environment Portfolio, replacing John Harrison. We congratulate Vicky on this new role and look forward to reading about all it entails in the IWGT Autumn Newsletter.

TOURISTS AND PICTURE POSTCARDS

Picture postcards can provide a useful source of information for garden history, particularly for public parks and gardens in seaside resorts which were largely ignored by the gardening press¹. In 1894 British legislation allowed 4½ x 3½ inch picture postcards to be sent. One side was reserved for the address and a personal message could only be written in the border around the picture on the other side so as not to embarrass the postal clerks! In 1902 the postal regulations were changed to allow a message and address on the same side and a full size picture on the reverse.

At our 2015 Christmas luncheon Terry Nigh gave some fifty members a fascinating tour of the Isle of Wight through old picture postcards produced by W. J Nigh and Sons Ltd. The family firm, now in the hands of the 4th generation, was started by Terry's grandfather, a former postman, in Ventnor in 1903. The Nigh archive of postcards now provides an important visual history of the Island's tourist industry and demonstrates the continuing popularity of its parks, gardens and public walks.

Shanklin Chine has drawn tourists since the late 18th century when visitors were attracted by the Island's picturesque scenery and the emotions it could provoke. In 1790 artist John Hassell was pleased to record that the stream, well covered with plants and shrubs, bore "a proportionable (sic) degree of that sublime awfulness such a scene naturally inspires".

The drop of 105 feet to sea level was subsequently laid out with a series of winding paths, steps and viewing platforms and opened as the Island's first charging tourist attraction in 1817. The Chine has been the subject of numerous postcards and many seem to aim to catch Hassell's earlier sense of awe. Now considered a significant example of an ornamental landscape which exploits the natural qualities of the site, the Chine is included on the Isle of Wight Council's Local List.

Ventnor, lacking a natural water feature to attract the tourists decided to build one and Ventnor Cascade was designed in the 1890s by the Town's Surveyor Edgar Harvey.

A stream, formerly associated with Ventnor Mill, plunges down the steep slope towards the sea over carefully arranged rockwork amidst ornamental planting. Different depictions of the planting may reflect changing horticultural fashions or the postcard artist's whim! The creation of a naturalistic waterfall is unique on the Isle of Wight.



As the population grew and tourist numbers increased public parks were created. At Puckpool and Sandown (shown below) these re-used redundant military battery sites with seats rather than guns facing out to sea. Other public parks like Northwood in Cowes, Appley in Ryde, Rylstone in Shanklin (with Swiss Chalet, shown below) and Ventnor Park utilised the existing grounds associated with a gentleman's seaside residence. While new features such as tennis courts and bandstands might be added, the original layouts and mature planting were generally retained and postcards provide clear evidence that colourful Victorian style bedding remained popular.



Many private residences were also converted to hotels with their gardens advertised as an attraction for guests and creating a further demand for picture postcards. The Undercliff Hotel (formerly known as Rosiere Villa, La Rosier and Verlands) in Niton was destroyed by bomb damage in 1943, but a postcard provides evidence of its grand conservatory overlooking the gardens. Landguard Manor in Shanklin, the venue for our Christmas luncheon, and was also once used as an hotel and postcards, record the earlier parkland setting before late 20th century housing development.



Elsewhere interesting garden features were retained in sometimes much altered, and often reduced grounds.

This is the case at the Broadway Park Hotel (formerly a 19th century mansion named Los Altos) in Sandown where a rare Island example of an early 20th century Arts and Crafts garden survives. This is a sunken rose garden with semi-circular steps, two stone pavilions and wisteria clad pergolas. It forms an attractive foreground in postcards of the hotel, despite the plastic furniture!

These are just a few examples of the way picture postcards can provide evidence of our lost and altered parks and gardens and we are grateful to Terry Nigh not only for an entertaining talk, but also for inspiring possible new lines of enquiry for our garden history detective work!

Helen Thomas

¹ This article is informed by 'A Brief Guide to the Use of Picture Postcards in Garden History' by Brent Elliott, *Garden History*, Vol. 31, No. 2 (Winter, 2003), pp. 218-224, published by The Garden History Society

The postcard illustrations in this article and elsewhere in the Newsletter are courtesy of W. J. Nigh & Sons.

APPULDURCOMBE

Historic England expands the Registered boundary and publishes a new official description just in time for the Brown Tercentenary!

Appuldurcombe is one of nine Isle of Wight sites included in the Historic England (formerly English Heritage) Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest. It comprises a late 18th century landscape park laid out to a design by Sir Richard Worsley (1751-1805) and Lancelot 'Capability' Brown (1716-1783) around an 18th century house. Ornamental pleasure grounds, forming an inner park around the house, were added in the early 19th century. It is the only landscape park on the Isle of Wight where Capability Brown is known to have contributed to the design.

The site was first placed on the National Register by English Heritage in 1987. A comprehensive national review and enhancement of the Register of Parks and Gardens was carried out in 1996-2003 by English Heritage to upgrade the quality of existing register entries. As part of this review Virginia Hinze prepared a draft entry for Appuldurcombe. Unfortunately the completion of the review had to be put on hold and the entries for a small number of sites, including Appuldurcombe, were not finished.



Sir Richard Worsley, painted in 1775 by Sir Joshua Reynolds. The two men were friends and Reynolds visited Sir Richard at Appuldurcombe in June 1773

Over several years the Isle of Wight Gardens Trust encouraged English Heritage (now Historic England) to complete the revision of the Grade II entry for Appuldurcombe. This revision was needed to provide a more detailed description of the site and to take into account research into the development of the landscape included in the Appuldurcombe Conservation Plan prepared by Philip Masters for English Heritage and Defra in 2005. Moreover the registered area as designated in 1987 omitted an area on the western edge of the park, including part of the deer park wall. It also omitted the walled kitchen garden which formed part of Capability Brown's overall design.

Vicky Basford originally applied to English Heritage on behalf of the Isle of Wight Gardens Trust in 2010 requesting a revision to the register but the Heritage Protection Team were unable to take action at that time. More recently Lorna McRobie contacted Jenifer White, National Landscape Adviser to English Heritage. On 1st April 2015 Historic England became the body responsible for the protection of England's heritage. Historic England decided to undertake the amendment of the Appuldurcombe register entry as a contribution to the Capability Brown tercentenary festival taking place in 2016. Carrie Cowan, Designation Coordinator for Historic England's Casework and Analysis Team visited Appuldurcombe in May 2015 and was shown around the site by Lorna and Vicky.

Carrie then redrafted the register text and prepared a new map which included the entire area of the late 18th century landscape park surrounded by the deer park wall and also the walled kitchen garden. The IWGT, IW Council and other bodies were consulted on the revised register entry which was approved by Historic England in November 2015. The register entry, including a map, has now been published on the National Heritage List for England which can be found online via a direct link on the IWGT website or at <https://www.historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list>

The Register in itself entails no additional statutory controls but draws attention to the fact that the sites included should receive special consideration if changes or proposals for development are being contemplated. Local authorities are required to consult Historic England over any planning applications they receive which may affect sites graded I or II* on the Register. They are also required to consult The Gardens Trust (formerly the Garden History Society which is now part of The Gardens Trust) on applications affecting any site on the Register regardless of grade. Additionally, the Register is used by many local planning authorities as the basis for relevant conservation policies in statutory development plans.



The Isle of Wight Gardens Trust comments on any planning applications affecting Island parks and gardens on the Historic England Register or the Local List compiled by the Isle of Wight Council. Helen Thomas, our volunteer consultant, is currently responsible for commenting on these applications.

Appuldurcombe in 2009 from just below the site of Cooks Castle

It is fitting that the revised Appuldurcombe register entry has been completed in time for events planned by the IWGT in connection with the 2016 Capability Brown Tercentenary celebrations (see page 10 in this newsletter). The revised entry also supports the protection and conservation of Appuldurcombe at a time of uncertainty. Appuldurcombe House is in the care of English Heritage but, together with most of the parkland, is privately owned by a local family. In late 2015 this estate and the Holiday Park partly located within the former walled kitchen garden were both put up for sale.

The 2015 re-assessment reminds us why Appuldurcombe merits designation on the register. The 18th century English landscape park is considered among the country's most important contribution to European civilization with Lancelot 'Capability' Brown regarded as the pre-eminent landscape designer of the mid to late 18th century. The natural features at Appuldurcombe are strong components of the landscape design with the house sitting within a bowl formed by the downs, emphasising its grandeur, and the wider landscape park is enhanced by dramatic landforms and panoramic views of the island and the sea. The assessment also draws attention to the group value with other designated heritage assets including Appuldurcombe House (listed Grade I and a scheduled monument), a significant example of English Baroque architecture; Freemantle Gate (listed Grade II* and a scheduled monument); Hampton Court Gate (listed Grade II); the obelisk, lodges and the deer park boundary wall listed Grade II.

Vicky Basford
Research Officer

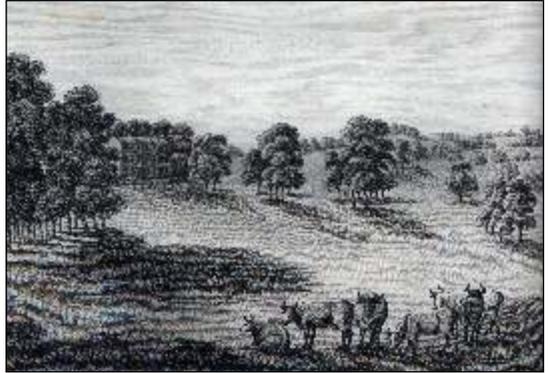
NUNWELL

An 18th century makeover

The garden makeover is not a modern phenomenon and Nunwell is a good 18th century example. As Vicky Basford explained, while guiding our tour of the Nunwell gardens in June 2015, the survival of two pieces of documentary evidence give us a good idea of the earlier gardens that were replaced. Firstly there are the descriptions given by Sir John Ogländer in his *Commonplace Book* of the early 17th gardens he created at Nunwell including his French flowers, tulips and *an infinity of raspberries*. The second document is a plan of 1748 which shows the surviving layout of many of the features mentioned by Sir John a century or so earlier (an extract can be found on page 12 of our publication *Walled Kitchen Gardens of the Isle of Wight*) including orchards, and the formal elements of a parterre, terrace and court adjoining the house.

A note on the 1748 plan states that the layout shown is before alterations in 1768, 1769 and 1775 and a 1773 plan by Samuel Donne in the IW Record Office indicates the extent of the alterations with Sir John Ogländer's orchards and gardens swept away and replaced by a parkland of grass and trees. We can also see how the new 18th century landscape looked in an engraving from Sir Richard Worsley's *History of the Isle of Wight*, published in 1781.

Part of the Nunwell engraving from Worsley's 1781 History of the Isle of Wight



There were many reasons for the popularity of landscape parks apart from aesthetic satisfaction and a wish to be fashionable. These included providing for sport and recreation and gaining a net income from the land – the cattle in the foreground of the 1781 picture are not only there to look pretty!

The park, further extended in the early 19th century, perhaps now has fewer trees, but very much retains the character of the landscape first created in the second half of the 18th century. This is, in part, the reason why Nunwell is of national significance and one of the nine Isle of Wight sites included on the Register of Parks and Gardens of Historic Interest.



In 2015 Vicky led us on a fascinating visit, to look back in time from the perspective of the gardens and grounds immediately around the house. In July 2016 Vicky will be taking us on a wider tour through and around the parkland to explore evidence of the 18th century makeover. Please see page 14 for details.

Helen Thomas

*IWGT 2015 visit to the gardens at
Nunwell House*

2016: YEAR OF THE ENGLISH GARDEN

on England's Garden Isle

In celebration of one of England's greatest attractions and to mark the 300th anniversary of 'Capability' Brown, Visit England are promoting 2016 as the 'Year of the English Garden'. Since the 18th century, due to its rich and diverse scenery, of the Isle of Wight has been known as the 'Garden of England' and 'The Garden Isle' and we are lucky to have many interesting gardens to visit. Some are included in the IWGT events programme, (please see pages 12-15), but here are some other ideas to help members celebrate our Garden Isle in 2016.

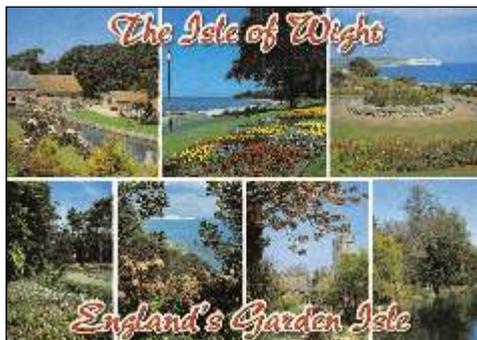


Photo: Visit England

In addition to the 18th century themed walks organised by IWGT this year, the Isle of Wight Walking Festival has others particularly aimed at garden enthusiasts.

These include various walks at Osborne, 'Glorious Gardens' round Shalfleet and the aptly named 'Hospital Beds to Flower Beds' at Ventnor Botanic Garden, pictured on the left. Full details can be found at www.isleofwightwalkingfestival.co.uk and in leaflets at IW libraries.

The National Garden Scheme includes private gardens opening to the public on particular days all over the Island. Some, like Northcourt, are established favourites, while new gardens for 2016 include two Shanklin hotels, The Havelock and The Clifton with combined open days on 2nd and 3rd of August. Also new for 2016 is another combined opening of four gardens in Seaview on 3 July, including Salterns Cottage, the home of IWGT Chairman Susan Dobbs. Details of all the gardens can be found at www.ngs.org.uk and in the NGS Yellow Book and leaflets.

Our IWGT website - www.iowgardenstrust.co.uk - also has a page devoted to Island gardens open to the public and other garden related events so please have a look from time to time and if you have information on particular events which you think would interest other members please send details to editor@iowgardenstrust.co.uk and we will try and spread the word!



Helen Thomas

Salterns Cottage garden

IDEAS FOR FUTURE NEWSLETTERS

If you have any ideas for articles please contact Helen at editor@iowgardenstrust.co.uk
Copy deadline for IWGT Autumn 2016 Newsletter is 15 August 2016

CAPABILITY BROWN FESTIVAL 2016



The 'Capability' Brown Festival 2016 is a nationwide celebration of the 300th anniversary of the birth of Lancelot 'Capability' Brown (1716 - 1783). The Festival is funded with a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF). As part of the Festival, a number of events are being organised by the Isle of Wight Gardens Trust, with funding from the HLF via the East Wight Landscape Partnership 'Down to the Coast', and with support from Ventnor Botanic Garden.

Sweeping lawns, undulating lakes and artfully placed clumps of trees typify the 18th century English landscape park; all are part of the landscape formula devised by Capability Brown. Between 1751 and 1783 his consultancy handled over 170 commissions, changing the face of Georgian England. Ambitious and hard working, Brown rose from being an apprentice under-gardener at Kirkharle Hall, a modest Northumbrian estate, to be Master Gardener to George III.

The nationwide Festival has two main strands. The first is increasing public access to the sites Brown created and advised on – opening access to sites not usually seen by the public and increasing information and interpretation. The second is to discover more about Brown's work and how he created his landscapes – research by volunteers, schools and professionals will be shared through exhibitions, publications and a range of events. Some of you will have seen Alan Titchmarsh on Capability Brown on More 4, also the subject of a new book. More information is available on the Festival website: www.capabilitybrown.org. Visit England are celebrating 2016 as the year of the English garden, and Visit Isle of Wight are promoting 'The Garden Isle'.



In 1779 Capability Brown was commissioned by Sir Richard Worsley to devise a plan for additional work to the landscaped grounds of Appuldurcombe House on the Isle of Wight, in order to complete work already carried out by the baronet. The finished design included, parkland planting, serpentine drives and eyecatchers, which exploited the dramatic topography of the downland setting.

Appuldurcombe: the park and house Photo: Steffie Shields

As part of the Festival English Heritage, who manage the inner park, have installed a new interpretative panel at Appuldurcombe, and a new interpretative leaflet is being produced, which will be available to download from the English Heritage website: www.english-heritage.org.uk.

Also as part of the Festival the Isle of Wight Gardens Trust is organising some special events at Appuldurcombe and about Brown. Guided walks are being organised as part of the 2016 Isle of Wight Walking Festival (website: www.isleofwightwalkingfestival.co.uk) – a short walk around the inner park led by Lorna McRobie, on 3rd May at 2.00 pm and 21st October at 1.00 pm, and a longer walk around the outer park led by Vicky Basford, on 12th May at 10.30 am and 23rd October at 2.00 pm.

To book phone Mike Dawson on 07794 173865. These walks are free and open to all, but places are limited.



The Freemantle Lodge Gateway at the park entrance from Godshell

Photo: Steffie Shields

On 5th October, 7.00 pm at Ventnor Botanic Garden, Brown expert Steffie Shields will give a lecture: 'Paints as he Plants' on Brown's colourful palette. And on 6th October, 10.00 am, a study day at Appuldurcombe will include Kate Harwood on Brown's life and work, Steffie Shields: 'Moving Heaven and Earth' on Brown's use of ground modelling and water, Vicky Basford on the history and development of Appuldurcombe Park and consultant Philip Masters on the conservation and management of Brown's landscapes. An expert guided walk around the estate will follow the lectures. Please see the listings in the events section of this newsletter and the enclosed booking form.



Appuldurcombe: the late 18th century icehouse in the Park and drifts of Narcissus Telamonius Plenus in 2015

Photos: Steffie Shields

For further details or information on the Capability Brown Festival please contact Mike Dawson: tel. 07794 173865, email: mike.dawson@mcriebie.org.uk

Editor's Note: the date of Lancelot Brown's birth is not known, only the date of his baptism now recorded in the plaque at St Wilfrid's Church in Kirkharle, Northumberland as pictured below the title of this article. Photo: Visit England.

IWGT EVENTS 2016

Theme: 18th Century Parks and Gardens

Tuesday 22nd March

Nature and Liberty!

Venue: **Northcourt, Shorwell**

Courtesy of John and Christine Harrison



Kate Harwood MA, BA (Hons) will give us a fascinating introduction to the period when formal gardens of the late 17th century gradually gave way to the quintessential English Landscape as exemplified by Capability Brown. The Whys and Hows of this journey encompass new forms of government, ideas of Liberty, of return to the Augustan ideal, and the saving of money! Bridgeman, Switzer, Kent, Wright, Burlington, Shaftesbury, Addison and Pope are some of the key characters and *ferme ornées*, *sharawadgi*, Virgil's Georgics, and painting with trees, are some of the ideas we will look at.

The day starts with coffee at 10.00 am and finishes at about 2.30 pm.

Cost: £25.00 including refreshments & 2 course lunch. Please book by 14th March.



Sunday 24th April

A Little Chaos

Venue: **Lisle Combe, St Lawrence**

Courtesy of Robert and Ruth Noyes



To emphasise the change in garden fashion between the 17th and 18th centuries we have arranged a private showing of this 2014 film. The stars of the film include Kate Winslet, Alan Rickman and the *Bosquet de la Salle de Bal*, complete with formal rockwork cascade, created in the 1680s by the famous André Le Nôtre for Louis XIV in the gardens of Versailles. As a further contrast, this event presented by the Ramshackle Pop-Up Cinema, is being held in a *cottage orné*, dating from the early 19th century and one of the early Undercliff residences set in spacious grounds.

The film will be shown in two parts commencing at 3.30 pm and finishing at 6.00 pm. Afternoon tea is included in the cost and will be served in the interval.

Cost: £17.00 Early booking is advised. Please book by 11th April.



Tuesday 3rd May

Capability Brown at Appuldurcombe - One

Venue: **Appuldurcombe**

Part of the Isle of Wight Walking Festival: a leisurely guided walk, in the inner park covering 1½ miles in 1½ hours and led by Lorna McRobie.



Start: 2.00 pm at Appuldurcombe car park. Booking is essential: the walk is free and open to all, but places are limited. To book phone Mike Dawson on 07794 173865. [This walk will be repeated on 21st October starting at 1.00 pm]

Thursday 12th May

Capability Brown at Appuldurcombe - Two

Venue: **Appuldurcombe**

Part of the Isle of Wight Walking Festival: a longer, more active guided walk with some steep slopes around the outer park covering 4 miles in 2½ hours and led by Vicky Basford.

Start: 10.30 am at Appuldurcombe car park. Booking is essential: the walk is free and open to all, but places are limited. To book phone Mike Dawson on 07794 173865. [This walk will be repeated on 23rd October at 2.00 pm]



*Appuldurcombe parkland
in c.1779*

Thursday 26th May

Garden History Detective Day

Venue: **Westover in Calbourne**

Courtesy of John and Caroline Weeks

After our successful investigations at Haseley Manor in 2015 we are now turning our attention to the case of Westover where County Archivist Richard Smout will be guiding us through the clues to the history of one of the Island's nine registered sites of national importance. In the morning we will be looking at the documentary evidence, with individual packs of old document copies provided, and after lunch there will be a guided walk around the gardens and park.



Westover in c.1781

The day starts with coffee at 10.00 am and finishes at approximately 3.30 pm.

Cost: £26.00 including document pack, coffee & 2 course lunch. Book by 16th May.



Monday 20th June

Annual General Meeting

Venue: **Morton Manor, Brading**

Courtesy of George and Pat Godliman

Time: 4.00 pm for refreshments in the tea room followed at 4.30 by a walk around the lovely grounds guided by gardener Lyndon Heaven and the AGM from 5.30 to 6.30 pm

Cost: free but please book by 13th June so that we can ensure sufficient cups of tea and copies of the AGM papers are available.



Saturday 9th July

Nunwell: A Walk in the Park

A circular walk, led by Vicky Basford and Fanny Oglander, through Nunwell Park, created in the late 18th century. Mostly through pasture returning via Nunwell Down. En route we will visit the grounds of the Coach House at Nunwell by kind permission of Ms Fanny Oglander. The walk is about 3¼ miles long and will take about 2½ hours. Our pace will be gentle but there will be stiles and the climb up to Nunwell Down and back down to Brading is fairly steep. We will finish with tea in the Waxworks Café Bar at Rectory Mansion, Brading.



There is no charge for this walk but car parking and refreshments costs are set out below. Dogs kept on leads welcome. Booking is essential: please book by 2nd July.

Start: 2.00pm at Rectory Mansions Car Park (formerly Brading Town Trust Car Park) at Map ref. SZ 6064 8740. Car park charge: £3.20 (up to 4 hours). Cost of tea: £5.50 based on piece of Victoria Sponge and Cappuccino. There is a refund of car park charge (90p - £1.20) if spending over £5.00 in the café.



Wednesday 28th September

Coach Trip to Sheffield Park and Garden, East Sussex

A full day out to visit a Grade I Capability Brown landscape featuring waterfalls, cascades and four lakes (with some redesign by Humphry Repton) plus gardens with a reputation for their profusion of year round colour.

We will travel by coach (with up to 3 pick-up points) on the 9.00 am Fishbourne ferry and return on the 7.00 pm ferry from Portsmouth. There will be a welcome talk when we arrive and an optional guided tour round the gardens.



Cost: coach and ferry £25.00, entrance £9.50 (NT & RHS members free - please bring your card) optional guided tour £3.00.

To secure a place a £10.00 non-returnable deposit is needed by Monday 5th September.



Thursday 1st December

Christmas Brunch at the Priory Bay Hotel

This is an advance notice for your calendar - full details in the Autumn Newsletter.

MORE INFORMATION AND HOW TO BOOK

For more information on **all events in red type** please contact Events Organiser Patsy Thompson by email at **events@iowgardenstrust.co.uk** or telephone **01983 873370**

To book a red event please complete a booking form and post to the address on the form

Appuldurcombe walks in green type can **only** be booked by telephoning Mike Dawson at 07794 173865.

'Capability' Brown Festival 2016



2016 is the 300th anniversary of the birth of Lancelot 'Capability' Brown – the leading landscape designer of the 18th century. Brown worked with Sir Richard Worsley to develop a plan for Appuldurcombe Park – the largest and most significant landscape park created on the Isle of Wight in the period.

Two special events have been organised for members of the Isle of Wight Gardens Trust and other County Gardens Trusts, the Ventnor Botanic Garden Friends' Society and individual members of The Gardens Trust.

Both venues will have free parking, and disabled access. Numbers are limited so please book early. Booking for these two events will open nationally in May 2016, but IWGT and VBGFS Members will have advanced booking priority.

Further details on these events from Mike Dawson: 07794 173865, email: mike.dawson@mcriobie.org.uk



Wednesday 5th October

Capability Brown's Plants lecture: 'Paints as he Plants'

Venue: **The Echium Room, Ventnor Botanic Garden** 7.00 for 7.30 pm

Steffie Shields, noted garden photographer and Vice President of The Gardens Trust has surveyed 200 out of 250 Brown sites known nationally. She will give a talk about Brown's colourful use of plants. The lecture will be preceded by a welcome drink.

Cost: IWGT Members £10 - please see booking form for two events together discount.

A light supper of a Cheese Platter or Trio of Soups will be available at an extra cost - special price of £7.50 paid in advance - from 5.30 pm in the Botanic Garden restaurant. Supper orders need to be booked separately, direct with Ventnor Botanic Garden in September. Please contact VBG by tel. 01983 855397.



Thursday 6th October

Capability Brown at Appuldurcombe: Study Day

Venue: **Appuldurcombe Gardens** holiday park 10.00 am until 4.30pm

National and local expert speakers will discuss Brown's involvement with the Worsley family in the context of his life and work throughout the country, and the present-day management of the site. Coffee, light lunch, tea and printed proceedings will be included, and the day will end with an expert guided walk around the estate.

Cost: IWGT Members £45 - please see booking form for two events together discount.

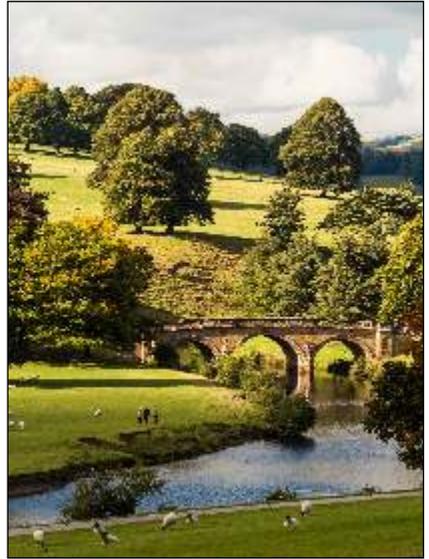
SHRUBBERIES, LABURNUMS AND CAPABILITY BROWN

The large 18th century landscape park with its wooded slopes, carefully positioned trees in acres of green lawn, animals grazing and a smooth expanse of water in the middle distance, may sometimes seem to be unrelated to our own, generally smaller, gardens. The idea of a shrubbery is perhaps more relevant, and attainable, and so it is worth noting that this is also something we have inherited from the age of Capability Brown.

An analysis of the stocks held by plant nurseries through the 18th century indicates a growing interest in shrubs which became marked by the 1730s reflecting the beginnings of the landscape movement in English gardening. Although with some variations of form and name, by the early 1750s the shrubbery had been invented and in the second half of the century the range of available ornamental trees and shrubs, including exotics like magnolias and rhododendrons, greatly increased.

The Brownian landscape park at Chatsworth

Photo: Visit England



The essence of a shrubbery is that it is designed for attractiveness and display. Ranks of shrubs and trees were planted according to height, with the lowest at the front, to form a tiered arrangement with a mix of species which would flower at different times. This practice was given the appropriate name of 'theatrical' planting.

The 18th century shrubbery might most usually be laid out near to the house but it could also be useful further away to provide areas of colour against the background of brown and green provided by 'forest' trees and grass. Capability Brown was an ardent practitioner of the shrubbery which reflects its status in the landscape garden and dispels the long held myth that Brown never planted flowers.

At Petworth House, near Chichester in West Sussex, Brown prepared designs and carried out extensive works in the park and gardens between 1751 and 1763. His design for the Pleasure Grounds included new serpentine paths planted with mixed flowering shrubs and trees. Surviving bills from nurserymen provide evidence for what was planted including early flowering fragrant daphne for the front of the shrubbery and, at the back, the bright blossomed lilac to flower in May followed by the vibrant yellow of the laburnum. At Syon House, the London home of the Duke of Northumberland, where Brown advised from at least 1754, the plant bills for that and the following year show an emphasis on colourful and scented shrubs and trees, including fifty laburnums.

Petworth and Syon were early commissions for the freelance Brown, but his planting of shrubs and flowers persisted through his geographically wide ranging career. Brown's shrubbery designs in the 1760s and 1770s included Tottenham Park in Wiltshire, Audley End near Saffron Waldon in Essex, Lowther Castle in Westmoreland Sherbourne Castle in Dorset and Burton Constable in East Yorkshire. In the year before his death in February 1783 he had been advising Sir Watkin William-Wynn on a shrubbery at Wynnstay in Denbighshire. When the diarist John Byng visited there in July 1784 he recorded that "from the house we went into the shrubbery, which is neat and well laid out (and was the last work of my friend Lancelot Browne)."

Our information on 18th century shrubberies on the Isle of Wight is scant although Sir Richard Worsley's *History of the Isle of Wight*, published in 1781, provides some glimpses. Worsley persuaded owners to fund illustrations of their properties 'at very considerable expense' for his book. Some artistic licence must always be allowed, but it is reasonable to assume that the owners were satisfied with the results. The view from the house at the Priory, near St Helens and the seat of Sir Nash Grose is interesting as it shows the Solent framed by a shrubbery. Sir John Flemming decided that rather than a view of his house at Haseley (which was possibly undergoing building work at the time) he would pay for an illustration of his ruins at Quarr Abbey, tastefully flanked by shrubberies.

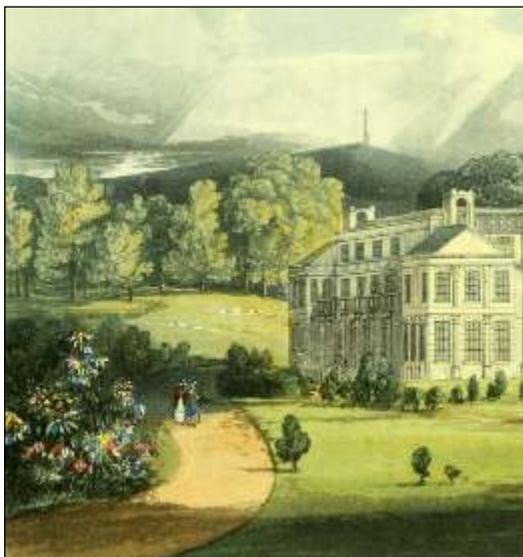


Towards the end of the 18th century, when the taste grew towards rough and wild picturesque garden scenery, the laburnum seems to have remained popular, provided it was planted in the right place. Richard Payne Knight's 1794 poem *The Landscape* was highly critical of Brown's work, but included the advice:

*The rich laburnum with its golden chain;
And all the variegated flowering race,
That deck the garden, and the shrubbery grace,
Should near to buildings or to water grow*



Priory and Quarr Abbey in c.1781



The change in gardening taste is demonstrated by Henry Englefield who visited Worsley's park at Appuldurcombe sometime between 1799 and 1801 and was not impressed. He later wrote: 'The park was laid out by Brown, and of course the house stands like a mushroom on the open lawn, without any accompaniment or comfort in sight'. Sir Richard Worsley died in 1805 and the following generation seem to have agreed with Englefield as in 1826 an established and colourful shrubbery is shown next to the house.

Helen Thomas

*Part of: Appuldurcombe,
the Seat of the Earl of Yarborough*

Illustration from Ackermann's Repository. The Third Series, Vol V111, July 1 1826, No XLIII, p3

This article is informed by the following:

John Byng, *The Torrington diaries*, ed. C. B. Andrews, 4 vols. (1934–8), vol 1, 176.

Henry C Englefield, *A Description of the Principal Picturesque Beauties...of the Isle of Wight*, London, 1816.

John H Harvey, 'The Stocks held in Early Nurseries', *The Agricultural History Review*, Volume 22 (1974), 18-35.

Historic England, 'Petworth House' entry in the *Register of Historic Parks and Gardens*, List entry Number 1000162.

Mark Laird, *The Flowering of the Landscape Garden*, University of Pennsylvania Press, 1999.

Michael Symes, *A Glossary of Garden History*, Shire Publications Ltd, 1993.

Tom Turner, *British Gardens*, Routledge, 2013.



Laburnum anagyroides
Plate 176 in *The Botanical Magazine* Volume 5 1792