



No Mean Feat

We celebrate a star student, the work of our recording team, and a return to garden visits.

'Since last Spring our time spent outdoors is what most of us look forward to every day. The comforting cycle of the seasons continues regardless of the unpredictable changes in our lives. The value of historic parks and booked visits to gardens such as Cotehele or Landhydrock is appreciated by many – so much so that a 1,000 plus on-line petition to Falmouth town council, 'to set our gardens free', led to the unlocking of gates to the Victorian Gyllyngdune Gardens, which the CGT helped restore.

Although our Trust's garden visits were cancelled it was business, where possible, off and on screen. We celebrated the success of Eden Project horticultural apprentice Patricie Zeleznikova who won the Prince of Wales Trophy for Sustainable Horticulture. The CGT had previously assisted with her travel to a work placement at Tresco's Abbey Gardens. Nominated by our education team advisor Colin Skelly, this is only the second time in 20 years the award was given to someone in Cornwall. 'No mean feat' commented Colin. No mean feat too for the sterling work by our CGT Recorders team, led by John Wilks, who completed the digitisation of the 85 garden records now archived at Kresen Kernow (page 4). As children return to school we look forward to sharing their enjoyment of the gardening



Cotehele's Valley Garden In Spring

projects we supported. Berrycombe Primary school's Willow Dome flourishes, and the first fruit trees in their orchard will blossom this Spring. See education officer Dorinda Charnaud schools feedback page 3.

Locked down we shared our national umbrella, The Garden's Trust, online lectures and courses, indulging in virtual garden visits and talks, such as Cornwall's Caroline Stone from Double Primroses, Launceston. For details of our May 14 virtual AGM and live garden visits see page 2. We welcome Angela Read to our team, already invaluable at sorting our administration, she has created Facebook and Instagram pages too. Our membership and finances are healthy, but there is much work to be done protecting Cornwall's historic gardens, only a scant 37 are registered with Historic England. Currently we are concerned that Carclew's gardens are considered 'at risk' due to multiple landowners and fragmentation. The principal short term challenge is finding a new chairman.

Come Into The Garden



Join us for visits to gardens, such as Bosvigo (above) and Lethyep (below), plus on-line garden talks and tours.

LETHYTEP, Lanreath, Looe, PL13 2PG. Wednesday 30th June, 2pm. Wildflower meadows, lakes and Southern marsh orchids. Tour and tea; £8.



PLACE, Fowey, PL23 1BS. Thursday 8th July, 2pm. A walled garden, remains of an Edwardian one, and emerging 1900s Rose Garden. Tour and tea; £8.

HIDDEN VALLEY GARDENS, Treesmill, PL24, 2TU. Saturday 24th July, 10.30am Cottage garden with herbaceous perennials and potager. Tour and tea £6.50.

BOSVIGO, Truro, TR1 3NH. Thursday 5th August, 2pm. The Hot Garden, 'Vean' and walled gardens burst with summer colour. Garden, house tour and tea; £15.

PENCARROW, Bodmin, PL30 3AG. Wednesday 6th October, 10.30am. Early 1800's garden includes the Italian Garden and Rockery. Tour, soup and roll; £6 To book visits and further details visit www.cornwallgardenstrust.org.uk

ST. MICHAEL'S MOUNT GARDENS

At our AGM Friday 14th May at 2pm on Zoom, Colin Skelly our education team advisor, will give an illustrated lecture on the gardens at St. Michael's Mount.

VIRTUAL GARDEN VISITS

The CGT plans to jointly host with the Devon Gardens Trust online winter 2021/2022 talks on the 'Unforgettable Gardens of the South West'. If any members would like to contribute please visit the Devon Gardens Trust website and get in touch with Angela Read our administration assistant at cgtsecretary@gmail.com. Angela would appreciate the email addresses of CGT members who have not already provided them so she can keep you up to speed with events including our presence at the Cornwall Garden Society Summer Flower Show July 16-18 and the Royal Cornwall Show September 9-11. More updates on www.facebook.com/cornwallgardenstrust and www.instagram.com/cornwallgardenstrust.

Education News

Dorinda Charnaud our education officer anticipates a busier time now children have returned to school.



Patricie Zeleznikova

‘While most bursary requests these past months were made for tertiary funding we did support two primary schools. Berrycombe added a compost zone to their food growing area, with the Reception children enjoying a wiggly worm hunt to add to the heap. Children at Manaccan chose to create an allotment and growing area in a neglected community space. Warbstow Primary Academy continued to develop the Science Garden we originally helped kick start.

Colin Skelly, our education team advisor, reported on two bursaries for students studying RHS Level 2 and a bursary for a second year Eden Project apprentice to attend training at the Beth Chatto gardens. Eden Project apprentice Patricie Zeleznikova, now qualified at RHS Level 2, won the Prince of Wales Trophy for Sustainable Horticulture for her work on forest gardening. She completed a fairly lengthy written application and panel interview to secure the award from the Worshipful Company of Gardeners. The CGT had previously awarded a bursary to her and fellow student Liz Mortimer to travel to a work placement at Tresco’s Abbey Gardens, an experience they recorded in our last newsletter. They say it gave them a new perspective on looking for future jobs, and an ambition to continue their careers in Cornwall. Both now plan to set up a business together and are already designing a new forest garden. See CGT website for bursary application form and details.

New Chairman Needed

The vacancy still exists for a new chairperson for the Cornwall Gardens Trust. Our secretary and acting chairman Pen Polglase, below summarises the role, and briefly outlines our purpose and charitable objectives.

ROLE. To lead and be responsible for the running of the CGT. Ensure communication between the trustees or council members and chair the council meetings. To support and supervise the work of the committees which are respectively Education, Newsletter and Journal, Visits and Events, Finance and General Purposes. Work closely with the Secretary and the Administration Assistant, newly appointed Angela Read.

PURPOSE. To protect and conserve our Cornish heritage of gardens and designed landscapes. Our interests cover garden history, garden archaeology, and the relation of park and garden design to architecture, art, literature and society. It supports our national body The Gardens Trust in its role as a statutory consultee in the English planning system. Local authorities have to consult the Trust on planning applications that affect sites listed by Historic England. The CGT is always happy to discuss proposals with owners, developers or local people in order to get the best outcome.

CHARITABLE OBJECTIVES. For the public benefit by promoting the study of gardens and gardening, landscape gardening and horticulture. Promote education, appreciation and public involvement in our historic gardens and landscapes. Protect, conserve, and advise on historic parks, gardens and designed landscapes – and encourage the creation of new such ventures.

There already exists a strong team of Council members and volunteers. The main criteria for the post of chair are a passion for gardens and designed landscapes, and to be an effective leader.

For more information see www.cornwallgardenstrust.org.uk

Nominations please to cgtsecretary@gmail.com

Recording Garden History



Our Chairman of Recorders John Wilks was captivated with recording garden history by the discovery his own garden was a Repton design.

'When I joined the Trust some 40 years ago I was aware that there was great enthusiasm for recording led by Daphne Lawry and June Fenwick. Sites received their attention and the recordings were lodged with the Cornwall Records Office. My recording initiation came with my wife and me buying Catchfrench Manor and the CGT asking if a recording could be made of what, at the time we were not aware, was a Repton garden. My interest was activated by John Phibbs recording of Catchfrench but it was not until Richard Stone asked me to chair the recorders group that I reviewed the Trust's recording work.

I found that 79 sites had been completed and lodged with the CRO but that four further gardens, Chymorvah (Marazion), Addicraft Mill (East Cornwall), Erisey (Lizard peninsula) which is still incomplete, and Penwarne (Mawnan), had been surveyed but the work not assembled. To do this the Trust needed a secretary with good computer skills and especially patience and enthusiasm, and Helen McCabe came along. The incomplete sites were typed up, the 'slides', photographs, and related information scanned, and good quality recordings presented in a style which was easy and informative

to read. The first of the four was Penwarne, being the last work of former chairlady Angela Stubbs.

I then liaised with our CGT landscape expert Nigel Mathews who suggested 20 further sites to be recorded. Another need was for active recorders to inspect gardens. The initiative taken by the Trust's then chairman Richard Stone produced Rosemary Lauder and Celia Julian who have completed recordings of the important Repton landscape at Pentillie Castle on the Tamar and Trewane in North Cornwall. Just as the pandemic landed, Celia had commenced Rosecraddock near Liskeard and Rosemary was to do Place at Fowey, but more about these in the future.



[In our forthcoming Journal, John Phipps, an expert on landscape designers Humphrey Repton and Capability Brown, has written articles on Pentillie and Antony, Christine Edwards reports on Repton and Trewarthenick, and Judy Wilks tells the story of Catchfrench Manor garden.]