



Garden photography with Joe Wainwright

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Future events (see pages 12, 13, 14)

- 11th May Visit to Bolesworth Castle
- 28th June Visit to Mayfield Park in Manchester
- 5th July visit to Ashton Grange
- 20th September Visit to RHS Bridgewater

The Gardens of the North West, Midlands and Wales: A Photographer's View.

On a chilly, grey afternoon in February, we were transported into many beautiful gardens through the lens of award-winning photographer Joe Wainwright. This was the second zoom talk of the season for the CGT and we had a treat in store for us.



Joe is a professional garden photographer who specialises in producing creative and inspiring heritage, lifestyle and tourism images. He has contributed to many publications (including *The English Garden*, *Gardeners' World Magazine*, *RHS The Garden*, *Garden Design Journal* – to name only four) and has won numerous prestigious awards in the International Garden Photographer of the Year competitions (IGPOTY). Here is one example of Joe's images which won such an award – the Neptune Cascade and Fountain at Holker Hall (left).

In his opening remarks, Joe explained that he first became interested in photography when he was eight years old, when his father gave him a box Brownie camera. He has been a keen gardener since his teenage years and has been able to meld these two passions into a successful career. He worked for many years as a Senior Tourism Officer for Cheshire County Council, during which time he led on the county's garden marketing campaign which later evolved into the Cheshire Gardens of Distinction campaign. Joe became a freelance professional photographer, specialising in gardens in 2012. He admitted that he isn't an expert on the gardens

he photographs and a garden writer gives the accompanying story for publication but it is Joe's passion for the aesthetics of the gardens that informs his photography.

Joe went on to share with us the techniques he uses in composing his pictures:

The Rule of Thirds helps create balance and visually pleasing images. This was illustrated by superimposing a grid over a number of photographs, showing how the pictures were divided into three vertically and horizontally with the points of interest off-centre or positioned along the lines and at the intersections.



Leading Lines help guide the viewer's eyes through the image to a specific point of interest. Such lines in a garden setting can be natural features (such as a stream or rocks) or man-made (such as paths, hedges, walls or a border). Joe illustrated the technique by showing this IGPOTY award-winning photograph of Trentham Gardens (above) where Joe had specifically waited until the balloon had drifted into this position before taking the shot so that the lines made by the paths, lawn and borders all focus on it.



Framing using elements in the photograph provides focus and a sense of depth and helps hide extraneous areas that don't add to the picture. This technique was illustrated in a photograph of Stretton Old Hall Gardens (left) in which the hornbeam trees frame the picture and bring focus across the rill to a modern sculpture in the middle distance.

Lighting Although a garden looks better to the human eye in bright sunshine, this creates poor conditions for photography as it bleaches out highlights, makes shadows too dark and washes out pastel colours. Garden photography in the middle of the day is best

done in bright overcast weather to give accurate colour rendition. The best lighting conditions overall are, however, in the very early morning or evening – the 'Golden Hour'.

During the rest of the presentation, we were treated to stunning pictures of some of Joe's favourite gardens, both familiar (such as the herbaceous borders at Arley on the front cover) and unfamiliar, in Cheshire and further afield in Lancashire, the Lake District and Wales. For each of the images, Joe explained how he had used the techniques described previously to get the best possible images. He also showed photographs taken at different times of the year to illustrate how the gardens changed with the seasons. Some of the pictures had been created by "stitching" together a number of photographs to form a panorama, as illustrated in this picture of Bluebell Cottage Gardens (above). It became evident that, in order to get the best lighting conditions or to avoid the crowds, the life of a garden photographer involves very early mornings or late nights!



Further examples of Joe's work can be found on the [CGT website](#). We are very grateful to him for a fascinating talk and for sharing his wonderful photographs and love of gardens with us.

Pat Sponder

Photos copyright of Joe Wainwright, not for publication elsewhere

Looking for a Change in Lifestyle? - Sarah Murch's zoom talk in January 2023



Sarah Murch's home swimming pool

In January 2023 we had a very different talk than usual from Sarah Murch about building natural swimming pools. She and her husband William founded Ellicar, creating natural swimming pools and wildlife ponds over 20 years ago. They are now ably supported by their two sons George and Chester who are leading the family business into the next generation. Sarah is a trained landscape designer, whilst husband William is a horticulturist, nurseryman and rhododendron specialist.

Sarah explained that most of her garden projects which include pools and ponds are designed and built on two

principal features and are contemporary in style. The first feature and focal point is the main swimming zone; the surrounding and bordering regeneration areas used for the planting is the second feature.

Explaining her approach to the design and implementation of her ecological planting schemes, Sarah outlined that, as well as assisting the site's biodiversity, they also help the transformation into a haven for wildlife, resulting in a notable increase in insects, amphibians and birds.



Southwell, with water running over pebbles

The zones are separated by low submerged walls usually constructed in reinforced concrete. The water is circulated around the pool by special submerged pumps while being hydrobotanically cleaned by a chemical-free Biotop filtration system manufactured in Austria. Over a 24-hour period all the water passes through the biological filter which eliminates any E. coli and other pathogens. Even the surface rainwater run off which is channelled along pebbles and stones is treated by a small hidden reverse osmosis filter unit which cleans the water biologically before it enters the main pool.

The planting areas in the regeneration zones include deep aquatics, which remove

phosphorous from the water, helping to keep the water crystal clear and free from algae, great for swimming and for the local wildlife. The shallow water areas of the planting zones usually include natural filters (reeds), which also assist the water to heat up more naturally. When installed, an air source heat pump will maintain the water temperature at around 22-26°C in the summer months. A very comfortable swimming temperature.

Projects seen on the various photographs were completed with flower beds full of pollinator-friendly perennials and ornamental grasses, as well as sandy beach areas, paths with prairie-style planting, timber decking and seating areas for relaxing and entertaining friends and family.

Two very noticeable features from the projects shown were the use of high quality materials in all the construction works and secondly, where possible, the newly laid out planting was linked with views out to the surrounding countryside.

Finally, Sarah describes herself as a wild swimming fanatic, avid gardener and plant enthusiast. Now she can add to her list of achievements featuring on the More4 TV Gardening Competition and a Special BALI National Award for their garden in Nottinghamshire.

A sincere "Thank You" to Sarah for her wonderful, descriptive talk and for giving us a fascinating insight into her work in the design and implementation of natural swimming pools and ponds, as well as the splendid ecological gardens.



Construction of a natural swimming pool

Gordon J Darlington, CoM and Events Group

Photos courtesy of Sarah March, more photos on the [CGT website](#) Also see the [Ellicar website](#)

A Wild Goose Chase in Worlestone



The Hot Garden

On 6th March CGT members assembled at Worlestone Village Hall, near Nantwich for a talk by Laura Willgoss entitled “A Wild Goose Chase” which was both entertaining and inspirational. There were lots of before and after photographs of the development of Wildegoose Nursery and Tearoom in the historic Walled Garden at Millichope Park, Shropshire. The Nursery is now a RHS Gold Medal Winning Nursery, specialising in hardy perennial violas, herbaceous perennials and grasses. In addition, they run the Wildegoose Gardening School with monthly masterclasses and evening/day lectures.



Laura and her husband Jack met whilst training at RHS Wisley. On graduating they were both employed on private estates and living in a tied cottage where they were able to develop the garden and became fascinated by perennial violas. Their ambition was to start a nursery of their own, ideally in a walled garden. Their first nursery was a rented site on a hill in Shropshire but the first year proved to be rather difficult as the site had many springs and was subject to very windy and wet conditions. While they battled the conditions they continued the search for their ideal site, a walled garden with a greenhouse. Eventually, using Google Earth, they identified a derelict walled garden with unusual

Georgian curvilinear glasshouses in the grounds of Millichope Park. However, despite their best efforts, they were unable to make contact with the owners until a chance encounter with a neighbour, who knew the owners, offered to make introductions and supply references. The garden was completely overgrown (above), having been used for pheasant rearing for some years.

Their first priority was to re-establish their nursery business, selling at shows and by mail order. They moved on to the restoration of the glasshouses, with help from willing parents to clear the overgrown interior. The iron-framed curvilinear glasshouses, which, together, are 50 metres long, were built in 1836 and are thought to be one of only four which survive. The curve of the glass, which follows the curve of the Earth, should maximise sunlight but this style of glasshouse was only built for a short time as it proved very difficult to

ventilate effectively. With help from The Walled Kitchen Garden Network, Laura and Jack applied for grants from the Heritage Lottery Fund and Country Houses Foundation to carry out the restoration; this required archaeological reviews, which uncovered melon and cucumber pits. The restoration involved rebuilding the rear wall of the glasshouses, while propping up the iron frame, which was grit blasted, primed, painted and reglazed by stained glass specialists. This involved salvaging 4,000 of the original panes and hand-making the remaining 8,500 postcard-sized panes and took months of painstaking work.



Looking towards the curvilinear glasshouses



Looking down on the walled garden showing the central circle and winding paths

Once the glasshouses were complete Laura and Jack prepared a plan to develop the rest of the walled garden in stages and decided to have four quarters with winding paths in each. The first project was The Phlox Walk, which involved hand digging after clearing the ground. It is now planted with early perennial 'bulldog' tulips with a pink theme and *Phlox* in flower from May. Their second area for development was a vegetable garden with a mix of flowers and vegetables, the design being inspired by a visit to a Dutch garden. Next came the Central Circle, accessed by paths from all parts of the garden and with a path leading to the glasshouses. The

Circular Path was made up of roof tiles laid on their edges and surrounded by hornbeam hedges. The planting in this area was designed using matrix planting, inspired by Piet Oudolf and involving the use of a narrow selection of plants. It took four attempts before they were satisfied that they had the planting right. The Hot Garden came next, with more clearance before planting bearded *Iris*, *Amsonia*, *Polemonium*, *Persicaria*, *Helenium* and *Geum*. At this point the number of visitors to the Nursery inspired the building of the all-important Tearoom in a corner of the garden which again needed clearing but which has views over the rest of the garden; they roped in Jack's mum to run the Tearoom. The final project was the Floral Meadow, which Laura considers to be "the heart and soul of the garden". It has big deep beds with narrow winding paths.



Looking up towards the tearoom

Laura had brought a number of plants with her which were rapidly sold and members are now planning to visit the Nursery and Garden. The Nursery, Garden and Tearooms are open from 10am to 4pm, Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 23rd March to 30th September and there is a £5 admission fee. 95% of the plants are propagated from seeds, cuttings or divisions on site and are grown without use of pesticides and are grown peat free. If you are unable to visit, you can purchase online, see [Wildegoose Nursery](#). The historic gardens at Millichope Park are open on a limited basis, see [Open gardens — Millichope Park](#).

Patricia Hazlehurst

Photos courtesy of Laura and Jack Willgoss; more on the [CGT Website Gallery](#)

Thomas Leese, Manley Knoll

Seventeenth in our Head Gardener series



Thomas Leese in the Quarry Garden at Manley Knoll

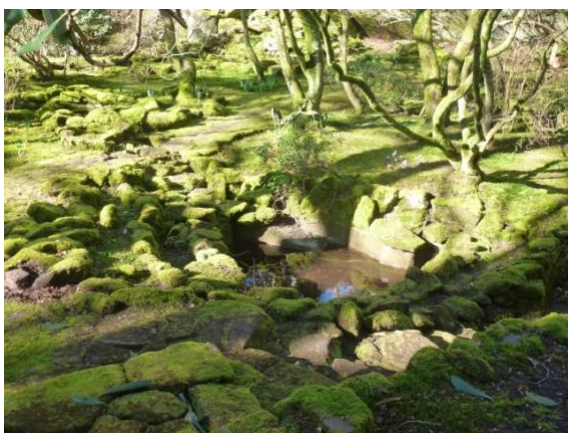
I visited Manley Knoll again recently on a beautiful winter's day to interview Thomas Leese, Estate Manager and Head Gardener. Thomas took me round the garden first to see the latest developments. It was a treat to see the garden in winter. The quarry was looking stunning with the sculptural branches of the rhododendrons, moss covered stones and tree ferns silhouetted against the quarry walls. A new project is the renovation of paths and one of the rhododendron/azalea beds. This has been dug out and all but one rhododendron removed. Old stumps have been added to the stumpy nearby. There are a lot of tall old trees in the quarry and in the summer one of these came down, crashing across the rockery and steps. Luckily there was no one nearby.

We walked round to the front of the house with views across to Chester and the Welsh Hills. Everything was beautifully maintained and well mulched (33 tons of mulch bought in, 20 tons home produced). One of the new developments is the fire pit garden which is being converted into

a perennial flower area.

Beyond the formal area is woodland and here laurel is being cleared to create a woodland walk. There is also a long walk being developed leading to a summerhouse with views back to the garden and house (see right).

Thomas was born in Northwich and was educated at Hartford High and then Sir John Deane's College where he took A levels in history, environmental sciences and psychology. His parents were always interested in gardening and his mum worked at Marbury Hall Nursery but his real interest in plants came later. He spent a year in Australia, mostly working outside, fencing and picking water melons.



The Quarry in March

When he returned to the UK, Thomas knew that he wanted to work outside. He worked at The Mere Golf and Country Club, developing his skills in ground keeping and tree maintenance and taking NVQs in horticulture. Here he developed his interest in plants. He furthered his knowledge by working on a golf course in Holland for some time.

Thomas then had his first horticultural break working with Adrian Lovatt, head gardener at Coggleshall Grange. He was recruited partly because of his lawn keeping skills which have proved invaluable. While he was there the walled garden was being developed with designs by Tom Stuart Smith. Later Tom Stuart Smith also designed the perennial planting round the

house. Through both projects Thomas was developing his horticultural skills and learning from experts. But after 5 years he wanted more responsibility. He moved to Tirley Garth and shared the role of head gardener/head gardener's assistant with another gardener. The assistant gardener there was Mike Russell, who is now head gardener. Thomas's role at Tirley Garth was mainly maintenance as it is a very well established garden. He redeveloped the vegetable garden, learnt more about propagation in a brand new

greenhouse and developed an interest in outdoor pots and display. He was there for 3-4 years and while there he got married and had a daughter.

He then met Roisin Timpson, who with her husband James are owners of Manley Knoll. Interestingly they met on a rhododendron course at Arley Hall, led by Michael Ashbrook and run by CGT. James and Roisin Timpson wanted to develop Manley Knoll and had a lot of ideas. James Rowlinson, who was then the head gardener, had been there 10 years but wanted to reduce his hours. James and Roisin needed someone full time and they recruited



Wisteria in front of the house in May

Thomas. They are very much a team, with James and Roisin involved in different aspects of the garden; James is interested in structure, while Roisin is more interested in plants. The other Tom, Tom Saxon, was recruited and lives on site. More recently Dave Jones has joined the team. The three gardeners are responsible for the garden and wider estate, including work with trees and hard landscaping. But they also bring in experts where needed and at the moment there is a team of builders on site. They are also bringing in designers to develop parts of the garden, such as the new azalea bed, the fire pit garden and pontoon area alongside the lake. They are trying to extend the range of the garden beyond the woodland/spring garden and bring in more early and late interest.

The garden is open under the National Garden Scheme on Sunday 21st May, but they would like to do more private tours, possibly at other times of the year. The team of James, Roisin, Thomas, Tom and Dave, are certainly not standing still.

I am very grateful to Thomas for giving up his time and to James and Roisin for allowing this to happen.

Text and photos Sue Eldridge, except for photo of Thomas taken by one of the team

Sleeping Beauty



In many years of research Calveley Hall, Milton Green (left), is one of the saddest sights we have come across. Located just 7m SSE of Chester off the A41, and not to be confused with Calveley Hall, near Tarporley in Cheshire East, the site has views to the Sandstone Ridge. The gracious hall built in 1684 for Lady Mary Calveley, second wife of Sir Hugh Calveley, appears abandoned. Listed Grade II*, the hall is on the 'At Risk' register; the gate piers and garden walls are Listed Grade II, and are also in a state of disrepair.

A beautiful map, part of the Terrier of Township of Handley, Calveley Hall Farm, 1822 (Cheshire Archives and Local Studies D6365/1) indicates that the walls once enclosed carefully laid out gardens with planting beds and formal pools, the very picture of orderliness. It is possible that beneath the weeds and abandoned vehicles, remnants of the garden layout remain, but at the moment the whole place is inaccessible, unloved and decaying year on year.



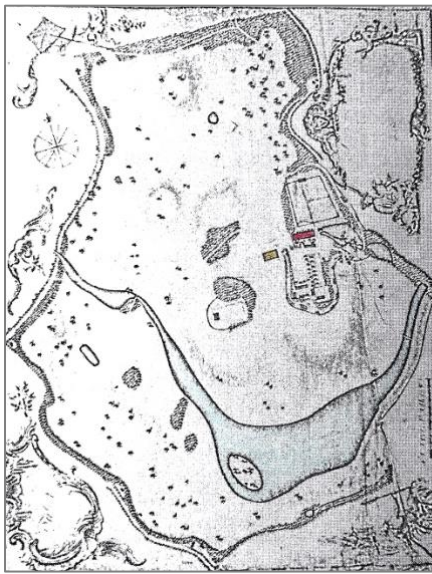
Barbara Moth

Mary Egerton's Botanical Garden

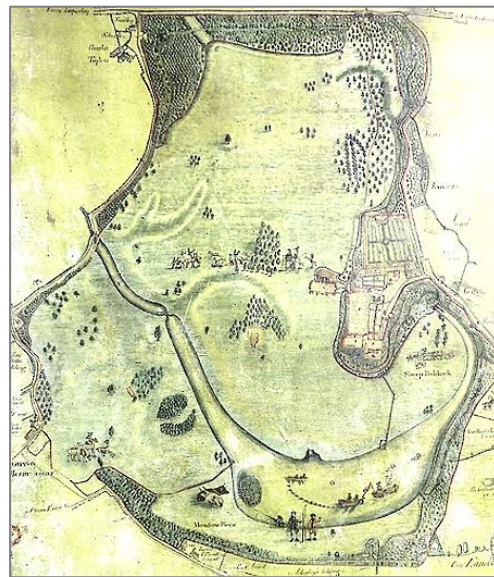
Mary Eyles-Stiles was born in 1743 to a wealthy titled family living at Moor Park in Hertfordshire. At the age of 19 she was orphaned. In 1765 she married her cousin Philip Egerton, the heir to **Oulton Park** in Cheshire. They were to have 14 children. When her only brother died, Mary became the sole heir of the large Eyles-Stiles fortune and the couple began to plan improvements to Oulton Park.

Her husband, now in charge of Mary's wealth, wanted to replace the old formal gardens with the newly fashionable landscape park. Mary wanted a 'Botanical Garden'. Her grandson remembers: "She was a good classical scholar, and having an extensive knowledge of botany, she corresponded in Latin with Linnaeus and other celebrated men of science of the period"¹.

William Emes, "the celebrated landscape-gardener", produced a plan. It shows the 'Botanical Garden'.



1770: Emes' plan: Botanical Garden (red).



1791: Holland's plan: Botanical Garden in detail below.

Work on the new landscape park of 520 acres began in 1770. Scores of estate labourers were supervised by Emes and his assistant John Webb. Their accounts for 1778-80 alone amounted to £1,000, more than £ 86,000 today. It appears that Emes' plan was executed by 1791.



The Botanical Garden (E) is a small walled garden of four quadrants. It is located south of the kitchen garden (B), near to the mansion (A) and between the estate offices (K) and a 'small garden' (C1).

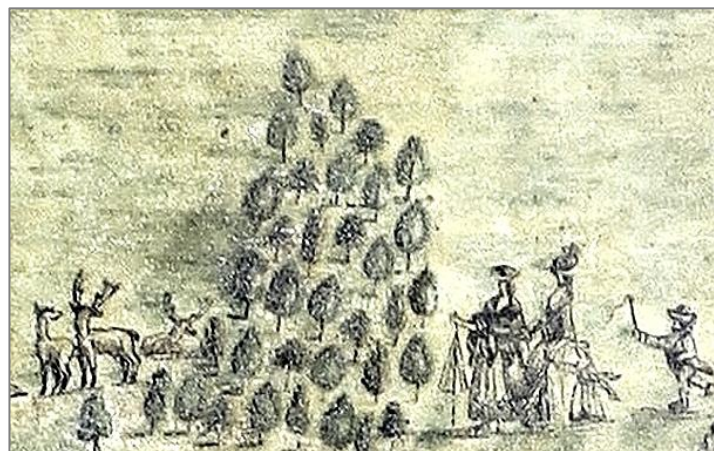
Today, Mary's Botanical Garden is regarded as "an extremely early example in the history of plant collecting of a space devoted specifically to the display of botanical specimens within a country-house complex".² Unfortunately, there remains no record of the plants Mary collected or how she displayed them.

In the early 1780s, disaster struck the Egertons of Oulton: Philip Egerton faced bankruptcy. He had spent huge sums of money on the park and its lakes, on refurbishing the mansion, and on his passions for horse-racing and angling. "It is no wonder then, that his reckless and lavish expenditure told heavily on his resources." The family fled from his creditors. They left Oulton and hid near Wallasey, in the Egerton property of Leasowe Castle, also known as Mock-Beggar Hall. Here, Mary gave birth to another two babies. Aged 54, Philip Egerton died in 1786.

As sole executor, Mary had to tackle "the gigantic embarrassments which overshadowed the family. Fortunately, she was a woman of rare ability, with a clear head, great judgment, good sense and a remarkable aptitude for transacting legal and monetary business." After struggling for several years, she had to go to Chancery. In 1799, an Act of Parliament was passed, and she could sell several estates, land and timber to discharge debts.

Mary managed to arrange good marriages for four of her daughters and to buy army or navy officer commissions for her older sons. But her main concern was to retain Oulton Park for her eldest son John. Holland's plan of 1791 was probably idealised and may have been part of Mary's attempt to persuade creditors of the Oulton estate's viability. The reality was different. A survey of 1797 reported the mansion in need of urgent repairs, farms in a very ruinous state and their lands very badly managed. John Egerton succeeded to Oulton but closed the mansion and moved to London and a political career. Mary Egerton sold Leasowe Castle and leased Backford Hall near Chester. She survived her husband by 35 years and died in 1821.

Today, the only remains of Oulton's 18th century park are Emes' lakes, the imposing entrance-gate of 1775 and Mary Egerton's copy of Linnaeus' *Hortus Cliffortianus* held at Liverpool Museum ... and, perhaps, a drawing of Mary and her children walking in the park? A detail from the 1791 plan in Cheshire Archives:



¹ All quotations, (apart from 2), are from: Sir Philip de Malpas Grey-Egerton. 1869. *A short Account of the Possessors of Oulton*. Printed for private publication. (www.archive.com)

² Mowl, T. and Mako M. 2008. *Historic Gardens of England: Cheshire*. Redcliffe, Bristol, p.81.

Barbara Wright, Research and Recording

A new Series

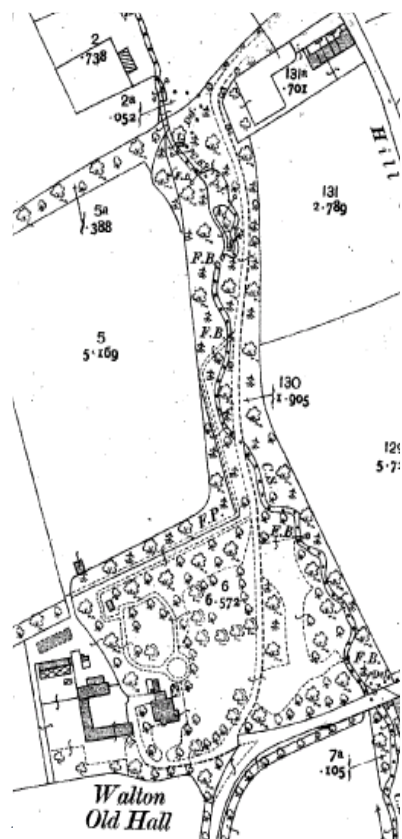
Readers will be interested to note that this article by Research & Recording Group member Barbara Wright is the first in a new series called Cheshire Women Gardeners.

On first consideration it seemed that there are not many Cheshire women gardeners of note but, surprisingly, we found there are quite a few. We hope you will enjoy reading about them in forthcoming issues of our Cheshire Gardens Trust Newsletter. If you are interested in contributing, please get in touch.

Thomas Hayton Mawson

Thomas Mawson was a landscape architect. He was born in 1861 in Scorton in Lancashire moving to Lancaster where his father's brothers were builders. It was here, at the age of 7, that Thomas got his first taste for gardening, digging and planting under the direction of his parents. The family moved again to Ingleton and by the time Thomas was 14, the family was on the move again as his father wished to set up his own nursery and fruit farm. Thomas was expected to help there but in his spare time he enthusiastically read gardening books and magazines. Not long after starting the nursery and fruit farm, Thomas' father died and the family moved to London, where he and his brothers trained in market gardening.

Thomas' dream was landscape architecture. In London he learnt a lot about life, business methods and practical commercial horticulture. In 1884 he married and a few months later in early 1885, he and his wife moved to Windermere where he set up his own business. The plan was to establish a nursery and contracting landscape business for his brothers, and he would obtain all the landscape gardening possible.



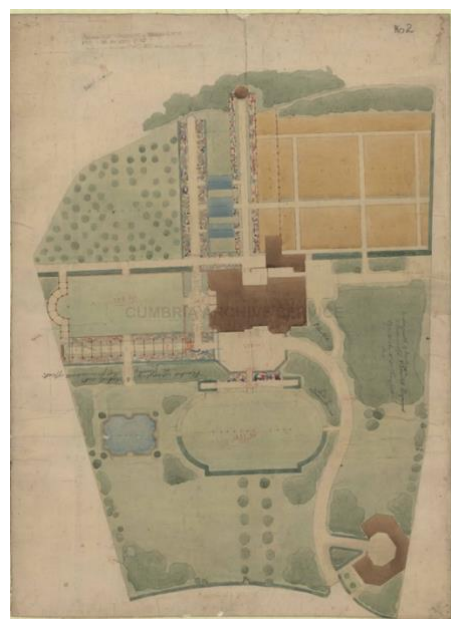
1910 OS map, used with permission

Mawson's autobiography (from which the above is extracted) is detailed and fascinating. His landscape design business – town planning as well as gardens - expanded and over his lifetime he obtained work across the UK then overseas in Europe, America, Canada, Greece, and Salonika. In her book, *“Thomas Mawson, Life, Gardens and Landscapes”*, Janet Waymark lists the commissions of Thomas Mawson and his business, starting in 1887 and ending in 1933 on his death. (His sons continued the business.) Her list comes to 282 projects and is not complete.

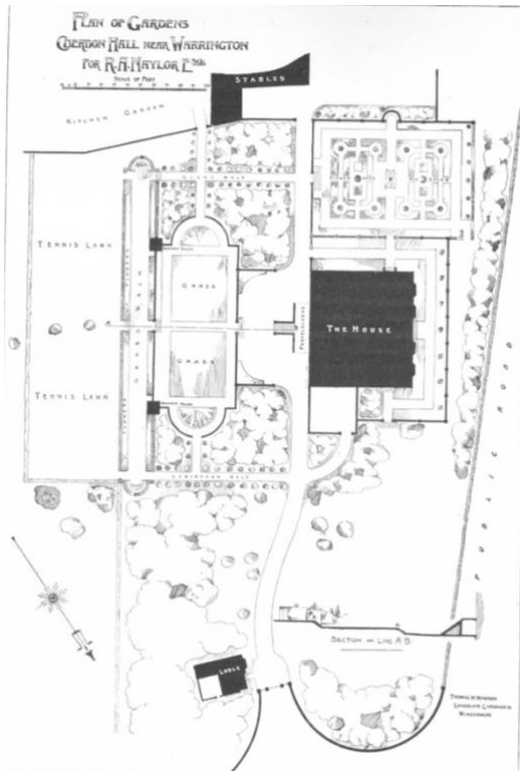
My interest in Mawson began when I researched the gardens of Walton Old Hall, Warrington, home of Frederick J Monks and his family (demolished in the 1970s). The information provided by the Research and Recording Group stated that the gardens had been laid out by Mawson. Sadly no plans were ever discovered so it was down to map evidence to gain an idea of the design (left). However, when I contacted the Cumbria Archives, I was told they had plans of a garden for Stonecroft in Appleton, quite close to Walton Old Hall. This was the home of Frederick William Monks, son of F J Monks. At the time I had not heard of Stonecroft but later, on reading Mawson's autobiography in which he mentioned both Walton Old Hall and Stonecroft, I searched on a map and found the location. Much of the original garden has been built on. No contact was made with the owners despite writing to them so it was down to Google

Earth to get an idea of what might be left of the design, though this was not very clear.

Some years later I researched Cuerdon Hall, another property connected with Mawson, situated in the Grappenhall/Thelwall area of south Warrington. This proved to be quite amusing. Mawson had been invited by the owner to redesign the garden. Plans were submitted and rejected. Mawson described the site as being “a very difficult one, with the house on the lowest ground; but there were opportunities, and these we endeavoured to interpret”. He was of the opinion that “we produced one of the best designs so far turned out of the office, and I remember with what pride I showed them to Mr



Mawson's plan: Design for Stonecroft, used with the permission of Cumbria Archive Centre, Kendal



Plan for Cuerton Hall from Mawson's book, *The Art and Craft of Garden Making*

Naylor, and the cold douche which I experienced when he remarked with great severity: "This isn't art. If I wanted straight lines I could have done them myself." Mawson was not impressed, writing "I merely relate this incident for the purpose of showing the deplorable state into which landscape architecture had fallen. Mr Naylor represented a wide class of garden-owners who had no conception of garden design beyond that debased form illustrated in current literature and characteristic of the efforts of the nursery gardener". Mawson still included the design in his book *"The Art and Craft of Garden Making"* and even used it on the book's cover. I wonder if Mr Naylor ever saw it!

Another site I researched with a Mawson connection was Grappenhall Hall, although at the time I was unaware he had designed a garden here. The site was a school at the time of my research and most of the formal gardens had been covered with new buildings. It was only recently that Barbara Moth was looking through Cumbria Archives' list of Mawson's plans when she came across mention of Grappenhall Hall. Mawson had been asked by Mr and Mrs Frost to design a sunken garden as part of the formal gardens. This time it was built, as mention is made of it in an inventory taken

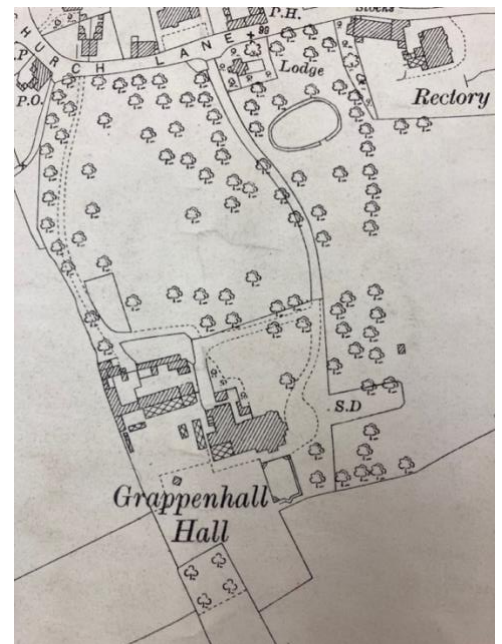
around 1913, and it also appears on the OS map of 1928.

Some of Mawson's other commissions in the Cheshire area include The Grange, Hoylelake; Burton Manor, Wirral; Thornton Manor, Wirral; Braeside, Prenton; Bidston Priory, Birkenhead; and Tirley Garth, Tarporley. He also worked on the gardens at Rivington in Lancashire. There are probably more, now lost to time.



Plan for Grappenhall Hall. Used with permission of Cumbria Archive Centre, Kendal

Working with the Research and Recording Group and uncovering these little gems makes the work fascinating, but sad when you realise how much has been lost.



1928 OS map. Used with permission of Cheshire Archives and Local Studies. This shows the garden down in the bottom centre near 2 trees and next to the house. It has a feature in 3 of the corners of the rectangle.

Julia Whitfield, Research and Recording and Events

Forthcoming Events

Cheshire Gardens Trust events

Thursday 11th May 10.45 Visit to Bolesworth Castle – information already circulated

Wednesday 28th June 10.30am - Mayfield Park in Manchester – featured in the last newsletter

Wednesday 5th July visit to Ashton Grange, our treasurer Martin Slack's garden

Wednesday 20th September Visit to RHS Bridgewater

Information on these and other events, including the AGM and Field 28, a fascinating market garden in Daresbury, will be circulated soon and information can also be found on the website [CGT Events](#)

The Gardens Trust News and Events

The Gardens Trust summer programme of online lectures starts on 17th April with *Roses from the Arctic to Australia*, a 7-week series of talks in conjunction with the Historic Roses Group, with speakers from Iceland to Australia, and looking at subjects from a C19th rosarian to pruning and training.

Shorter series start with *Gardens of the Gods* – 4 weeks, from 18th April, looking at the role of plants and gardens in belief systems over the past 5000 years; and *A Celebration of Play in the Landscape* – 4 wks, from 19th April, from mazes to follies.

In June, there is a study weekend on *Women and Gardens*, run in conjunction with University of Oxford Dept. Continuing Education.

All details on above from [The Gardens Trust events](#)

National Garden Scheme



The full list of garden openings is now online for the **NGS**, with plenty within Cheshire opening from April to September. Of note, Manley Knoll and Tirley Garth, Tarporley (Thomas Mawson designed) are opening on 21st May and The Old Parsonage at Arley Green open on 20th and 21st May; in June, Tattenhall Hall, Tattenhall (left) is open on 4th and Sandymere, Cotebrook on 25th; and in July, Bluebell Cottage Gardens, Dutton is open on 1st and 2nd; Ashton Grange, near Chester on 2nd; and Stretton Old Hall, Malpas 22ⁿ and 23rd.

Details [National Garden Scheme](#)

Plant Hunters Fairs:

Cholmondeley Castle, Malpas SY14 8HN – 23rd April 10am – 5pm

Capesthorpe Hall, Macclesfield SK11 9JY - 14th May 10am – 4pm

Norton Priory, Runcorn WA7 1AX - 21st May – 10am – 4pm

Details [Planthunters Fairs](#)

Rode Hall Bluebell Walk - 28th April - 4th May [Rode Hall](#)

Wilmslow Wells for Africa Saturday 24th June

Other open gardens:

Goostrey 11th June

Heatons 18th June

Further information available soon [Open gardens in Cheshire](#)

This year **Ness Botanic Gardens** is celebrating a double birthday - 125 years since the gardens were founded by Arthur Kilpin Bulley, and 75 years as a university botanic garden. Mr Bulley's daughter Lois Agnes Bulley bequeathed the gardens to the University of Liverpool following her father's death. As part of the celebrations, they are offering free guided walks to discover more about the garden. The tours on 2nd and 3rd Saturdays every month start at 11am booking essential. See [Ness anniversary tours](#)

Other events in which CGT involved

There will be two exhibitions that CGT Research Group have been contacted about, and hope to have some involvement/event around. The first, **Women of the Welfare Landscape**, is being organised by School of Architecture, Liverpool University, in conjunction with the Landscape Institute, and looks at the work of Brenda Colvin from 1922 till her death in 1981. This is a travelling exhibition, and will be at Styal 10th-15th July.

The second, **The Influence of Salt on Local Parks and Gardens**, runs at the Lion Saltworks, Northwich from 17th July, and will feature Marbury, Verdin Park and Winnington.

Full details to follow.

Elizabeth Roberts, Research and Recording and Newsletter

People's Parks Pop-Up Museum in Crewe!

The Gardens Trust is delighted to team up with Cheshire Gardens Trust to run a "pop-up museum" in Queen's Park, Crewe, as part of [Heritage Open Days](#) : England's largest festival of history and culture. On Saturday 16th September 10.30am – 4.30pm we'll be in the park, learning from visitors what they love about Queen's Park and other Cheshire landscapes; collecting their memories of these landscapes; and photographing any related images or objects they'd like to bring along, with a link to Cheshire's parks. These will then be woven into a pop-up display, which will grow during the day, reflecting everything we cherish about our public parks. Please contact tamsinmcmillan@thegardenstrust.org or barbara.moth@btinternet.com if you are interested in helping us with this event or would like to hear more. This will be a great opportunity to share CGT volunteers' knowledge and love of landscape with a new audience.

Tamsin McMillan and Barbara Moth

The Gardens at Dunham Massey

On a visit in early February to the gardens at Dunham Massey I was reminded that we are fortunate to have them on our doorstep. At this time of the year the Winter Garden was looking lovely with snowdrops, winter aconites and iris making a show among a variety of interesting trees and shrubs. There will be a succession of flowering plants and bulbs over the following weeks.

An enthusiastic team of gardeners work to provide and maintain interest around the year at the gardens. On the day of my visit, they had been pruning and tying in the roses in the rose garden and their hands were suffering from the work!

I would recommend taking a guided tour around the gardens from mid January to early November on weekdays (excluding bank holidays), lasting about an hour and subject to volunteer availability. Tours vary as to the season and to the particular interest of each guide, two of whom are members of the Cheshire Gardens Trust. Patricia Hazlehurst is usually there on Tuesdays and Pat Sponder does alternate Thursdays. The meeting point for tours is just inside the garden entrance.



The Rose Garden in June

Janet Horne, Events

Copy date for July newsletter is 30th June

Contributions to the Newsletter are very welcome. If you want to comment on articles in this edition or would like to contribute one for the next, please contact the Newsletter Editor, 148 Chester Road, Hazel Grove, Stockport SK7 6HE or email newsletter@cheshire-gardens-trust.org.uk