

Razored Hedgerows, Planted Trees, and Natural Delights



Country House Gardens and Landscapes



Centre for the Study of Historic Irish Houses and Estates,
History Department, Maynooth University

19th Annual Conference, 11 May 2021





'If you have a garden and a library, you have everything you need.'

Marcus Tullius Cicero



The Centre for the Study of Historic Irish Houses and Estates, History Department, Maynooth University, in collaboration with the Office of Public Works is very pleased to welcome you to the Nineteenth Annual Historic Houses Conference. This is the first of our conferences to be held online. It is, of course, a great shame that we cannot meet live in the more august and convivial surroundings of Renehan Hall, Pugin Hall, or the elegant surroundings of Castletown House where in the past so many friendships were made or renewed, and collaborative relationships were established. However, it is still a joy to be able to meet virtually, especially for the purpose of sharing fresh and original research findings, one of the central aims of the CSHIHE. Moreover, we are quite certain that the wonders of Zoom are going to connect the CSHIHE to a whole new audience and, therefore, we extend a warm welcome to old friends, as well as new delegates whether from Ireland or abroad who might be attending their first Annual Historic Houses Conference.

The theme of this year's conference is 'Country House Gardens and Landscapes'. Country houses sit in the middle of designed landscapes. Their backdrop, large or small, might be a combination of parkland, pasture, woods, and waterways, as well as formal gardens blazoned with horticultural delights. These natural features complement the built heritage and often share similar stories about their creation, improvement, loss, or recovery. The acres surrounding a mansion house may have shrunk over the centuries but the terrain itself remains even if in different ownership and used for other purposes today. Our one-day online conference includes papers on a number of Europe's surviving country house gardens, examining their history, survival, and changing fortunes, with papers on Emo Court, Annes Grove, Doneraile, Glin Castle, Brodsworth Hall, Vaux-le-Vicomte, Lambay Castle, Illnacullin, Johnstown Castle, Newbridge, and the Glebe Churchill, as well as presentations on glasshouses, plant collections, and the art of landscape design. The day will conclude with an online forum on the subject of Gardens and Wellbeing in the Twenty-First Century.



As with all our previous events, their organisation would not be possible without the generous support of sponsors and partners in academia, the heritage world, and further afield. Therefore, we extend a very warm thanks to the OPW for its support over the last nineteen years, to Mary Heffernan for her advice during the organisation of this event, to Rosemary Collier (Director, National Historic Properties), and to Maurice Buckley (Chairman of the OPW) for agreeing to launch the conference. We owe a great debt of gratitude to Kay and Fred Krehbiel who have made so many conferences and subsequent publications of proceedings possible. We extend our thanks to the following for their continued support in a variety of ways: the Attingham Trust; ENCOUNTER, Historic Houses (UK), and in particular Ben Cowell; Historic Houses of Ireland; the History Department, Maynooth University; the Institute for the Study of Welsh Estates, and in particular Dr Shaun Evans; the Irish Georgian Society and Executive Director Donagh Cahill; the Yorkshire Country House Partnership, and Yorkshire Gardens Trust. We owe a particular word of thanks to our wonderful conference co-ordinator, Veronica Barry, and to Den Stubbs of Stubbs Design for his magnificent design work and his consummate professionalism and patience.

Best wishes,

Terence Dooley & Christopher Ridgway

Conference Schedule



09.00	Welcome/Introduction (Professor Terence Dooley) Professor Filipe Ribeiro de Meneses, Head of History Department, MU Professor Colin Graham, Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Celtic Studies & Philosophy, MU Maurice Buckley, Chairman OPW
09.30-11.00	Session 1 Chair: Terence Dooley Matthew Jebb Lutyens' Lambay Masterpiece Kim Wilkie Sculpting the Land in Ultima Thule Catherine Fitzgerald Past to Present – Adapting Historic Gardens for Today: Hillsborough Castle, Glenarm Castle, and Glenbevan
11.00	Break 15 mins
11.15-12.45	Session 2 Chair: Margaret Gormley Sarah Couch The Landscape at Emo Court, Co. Laois Michael O'Sullivan Doneraile Park – A Multifaceted Designed Landscape Cathal Dowd Smith Newbridge Demesne, the Rare Survival of a Naturalistic Landscape and Pleasure Demesne
12.45	Break 30 mins
13.15-14.45	Session 3 Chair: Christopher Ridgway Hugh Carrigan and Neil Porteous Annes Grove, Co. Cork Anne O'Donoghue The Tale of Three Glasshouses Christopher O'Neill Ilnacullin: Rejuvenating the Irish Riviera Plant Collection
14.45	Break 15 mins
15.00-16.30	Session 4 Chair: Mary Heffernan Alexandre de Vogüé The Renaissance of the Formal Gardens at Vaux-le-Vicomte Eleanor Matthews 'She thought it looked better growing wild': Restoring and Reinterpreting the Gardens at Brodsworth Hall, South Yorkshire Adrian Kelly <i>Inside Out</i> , 2021 The Year of the Gardens
16.30	Forum: Gardens and Wellbeing in the 21st Century
17.00	End of proceedings (Professor Christopher Ridgway)



Photograph by Benson Russell, courtesy of the Office of Public Works



Photograph by Jonathan Hessian, courtesy of the Office of Public Works

Conference Biographies & Abstracts



Hugh Carrigan and Neil Porteous

Annes Grove, Co. Cork

In late 2015 Annes Gove House and Gardens were taken into state ownership under the care of the OPW after four centuries of ownership by the Grove family who had the gardens developed over successive generations. In the first half of the twentieth century, under the guidance of Richard Grove Annesley, the gardens underwent an extensive expansion and embellishment, and were richly planted with rare and unusual species. He was a keen plants-person, supporting the plant hunting expeditions of Capt. Frank Kingdon-Ward, and he also swapped plant material on a regular basis with the National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin. This paper will focus on the history of the estate and gardens, and outline the OPW's vision for their future as a key visitor destination for horticultural specialists and garden enthusiasts alike.

Hugh Carrigan is Parks Superintendent for the OPW, and Neil Porteous is Head of Gardens at Mount Stewart, and consultant to Annes Grove Gardens Project.

Sarah Couch

The Landscape at Emo Court, Co. Laois

This paper will show how map analysis and exploration of design context sheds new light on our understanding of the complex historic landscape at Emo Court, which bears traces of many phases of garden history: from Baroque avenues to informal park, acquiring the qualities of a picturesque landscape, and later embellished with high Victorian horticulture. The Portarlingtons were highly cultured and well connected owners who brought influences from some of the most significant figures in designed landscapes of Britain and Ireland. Emo's significance derives from several phases of landscaping, illustrating the changes in taste through the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Although it now appears as a mature informal landscape park overlaid with Victorian gardens and exotic conifers, analysis has shown



Photograph by Benson Russell, courtesy of the Office of Public Works

how it absorbed and retained fragments of much earlier phases: a deer park and fish ponds and parts of the extensive avenue layout with eyecatchers, focussed on the earlier Dawson Court.

While working as an architect Sarah qualified in the conservation of historic parks and gardens at the Architectural Association in London, and has specialised in the conservation of historic designed landscapes. In Ireland she has worked at Dromoland Castle, Heywood, Annes Grove, and Emo Court. In the UK she has worked for the Royal Parks, the National Trust, English Heritage (now Historic England) and a range of public and private owners. In 2009 Sarah co-founded Historic Environment Associates, a group of heritage specialists based around Oxford.

Alexandre de Vogüé

The Renaissance of the Formal Gardens at Vaux-le-Vicomte

Vaux is a garden in name only; rather, it is a designed landscape that raises the enterprise to the level of art. As such, at Vaux, Andre Le Nôtre established a gardening tradition universally recognized as the 'French formal garden', a model that would henceforth inspire the greatest European monarchs, beginning with Louis XIV at Versailles. In 2010-2011, the first signs of problems with the boxwood

parterres were detected, and following a devastating attack of box blight in 2017, 70% of the boxwood plants were dead. Consequently, the parterres were not presentable to the 300,000 annual visitors to the garden. This presentation will explain how the team at Vaux responded to this catastrophe, by removing the boxwood from the two parterres, and also inviting artists, landscape architects and designers to create an Ephemeral Work in their place. This initiative has signalled a renaissance at Vaux, demonstrating how contemporary art can be harmoniously integrated into an iconic French formal garden.

In 2011 Alexandre joined the family company at Vaux-le-Vicomte first as communication and marketing director, and then as director for development, creating the International Friends of Vaux-le-Vicomte Conservancy, a not-for-profit fund based in New York. During the last few years, he has taken over responsibility for the collection of art and archives in the château, establishing a scientific committee, as well as partnerships with museums and universities in France and abroad. Together with his brothers, the fifth-generation owners of the family estate, he oversees an ongoing and ambitious restoration programme, balancing a rigorous attention to historical preservation and cultural heritage.

Cathal Dowd Smith

Newbridge Demesne, the Rare Survival of a Naturalistic Landscape and Pleasure Demesne

Despite its size as a historic demesne of 'middling sort', the 360-acre parkland at Newbridge House is today a significant and rare survival for Dublin. It is perhaps one of the best recorded Georgian naturalistic landscapes in the country to survive. Despite its rich archival sources there has been little research on Newbridge demesne, and this paper will chronicle its inception and history. Managed and preserved by Fingal County Council since 1985 as their largest and most complete parkland, Newbridge continues to function as a space for leisure and sport today.

Cathal Dowd Smith is curator of Newbridge House, Co. Dublin. He has been researching the history of Newbridge and its collection for nearly a decade. A graduate of Trinity College Dublin, his research interests are in architectural conservation, and landscape and environmental history.

Catherine FitzGerald

Past to Present – Adapting Historic Gardens for Today: Hillsborough Castle, Glenarm Castle, and Glenbevan

The subject of this paper is my work, with partner Mark Lutyens, in reviving and bringing to life three very different Irish gardens: Hillsborough Castle Co. Down, Glenarm Castle, Co. Antrim, and Glenbevan in Co. Limerick. The paper will discuss early influences from growing up and gardening at Glin Castle where my parents were opening up views, planting trees, shrubs and bulbs, and restoring the walled garden which had been abandoned during the war. Further inspiration came from visits to the cultivated wilderness gardens of Co. Kerry – Derreen, Garinish Island, and Derrynane; and my ideas were broadened by working for Arabella Lennox-Boyd.

After studying at Trinity College Dublin, Catherine FitzGerald trained in horticulture at the Royal Horticultural Society, Wisley, and took a diploma in garden conservation at the Architectural Association in London. She went on to work as a planting designer for Arabella Lennox-Boyd Landscape Design before forming a partnership with landscape architect Mark Lutyens in 2006. Together they have worked on many gardens in the UK and Ireland.

Matthew Jebb

Lutyens' Lambay Masterpiece

When Maude and Cecil Baring bought Lambay in 1904 they had little idea of the consequences of inviting architect Edwin Lutyens to Lambay a year later. Over the next twenty years the island's buildings were transformed and added to, in what many regard as Lutyens' masterpiece of romantic domestic architecture, as well as one of his most successful remodelling and enlargements of a building. The mutual respect and friendship between the Barings and Lutyens was no doubt key to this successful collaboration of architect and client. As Lutyens was to write in 1915, 'There will never be great architects or great architecture without great patrons'.

Matthew Jebb is Director of the National Botanic Gardens of Ireland. He read botany at Oxford University and conducted many years of botanical research in South East Asia, before moving to Trinity College in 1994 to work on the flora of Thailand. He moved to the Gardens in 1996 as the taxonomist and keeper of the herbarium. He has been director since 2010, and

manages the National Botanic Gardens at Glasnevin as well as Kilmacurragh in Co. Wicklow, the John F. Kennedy Arboretum in New Ross, and St. Enda's Park in Rathfarnham. Besides his botanical and administrative work, Matthew has a particular interest in architecture and the works of Sir Edwin Lutyens.

Adrian Kelly

Inside Out, 2021 The Year of the Gardens

The Covid-19 pandemic has forced many museums and historic properties to rethink their offer, and focus on the opportunities presented by their outside spaces. During 2021 the gardens at Glebe House and Gallery will host the annual visual arts programme, and feature contemporary sound artwork by renowned artist Sven Anderson. This work has been in development for several years and uses our collection of classical and opera recordings as source material. This paper will look at the opportunities and benefits of moving gallery-based artworks outdoors.

Since 2000 Adrian Kelly has been the curator of the Glebe House and Gallery – former home of artist and collector Derek Hill. The property, which includes 20 acres of landscaped gardens, hosts several visual art exhibitions annually. With a background in fine art and museum studies, Adrian's curatorial work embraces both the contemporary and historical, and he has worked extensively in cultural programming with a strong educational focus; he is also a practicing artist and musician.

Eleanor Matthews 'She thought it looked better growing wild': Restoring and Reinterpreting the Gardens at Brodsworth Hall, South Yorkshire

In 1866, the extensive gardens for the newly built Brodsworth Hall were largely completed with the arrival and installation of fifteen Italian figurative sculptures and a three-tiered fountain. By 1988 the gardens had become heavily overgrown and derelict, yet were thought to retain 'sufficient remnants of original features to make an authentic reconstruction feasible'. This paper explores English Heritage's continuing restoration of the gardens at Brodsworth, focusing on recent projects to restore and reinterpret garden buildings such as the Target House, Garden Privy, and Game Larder. These important structures reflect the social and leisure interests and needs of the Victorian estate, and

were integral to the vision of Charles Sabine Augustus Thellusson, whose inheritance enabled the extensive remodelling of Brodsworth. The paper will also consider how the recent reinstatement of later Edwardian areas such as the Target Garden move away from this Victorian vision, and reflect on what the future holds for Brodsworth's gardens.

Eleanor Matthews is a curator of collections and interiors for English Heritage, with a particular responsibility for South Yorkshire and the North Midlands. Her work involves researching, exhibiting, managing and sharing a broad range of collections and sites, from castles to a country house. Eleanor has degrees from the University of Nottingham and University of Oxford, and is currently researching the nursery suite at Brodsworth Hall.

Anne O'Donoghue

The Tale of Three Glasshouses

The three Irish Heritage Trust properties, Strokestown, Fota, and Johnstown, all share common features in the form of important glasshouses and walled gardens. At each site the Trust has embarked on a programme of restoration and interpretation, highlighting their history and contemporary significance in an era when the virtues of 'Plot to Plate' are increasingly evident. This paper will discuss the challenges posed at each site by phased restoration programmes, funding needs, and technical issues with regard to the structures themselves. It will conclude by considering how these three sites generate wider messages within IHT that focus on how gardens are integral to the enjoyment and understanding of historic house sites.

Anne O'Donoghue worked at senior levels in the financial services industry for over three decades, and also held many executive and non-executive directorship roles, spanning both the public sector and commercial enterprises. She has served on the boards of the Irish Museum of Modern Art, and the Irish Heritage Trust from its inception in 2006. Anne was appointed CEO of the IHT in 2018 and leads a team of 70 colleagues and 270 volunteers in delivering the Trust's mission of cherishing and improving Ireland's heritage, respecting and valuing the participation of all stakeholders, and ensuring that its stewardship results in an enduring legacy for future generations.

Christopher O'Neill

Ilnacullin: Rejuvenating the Irish Riviera Plant Collection

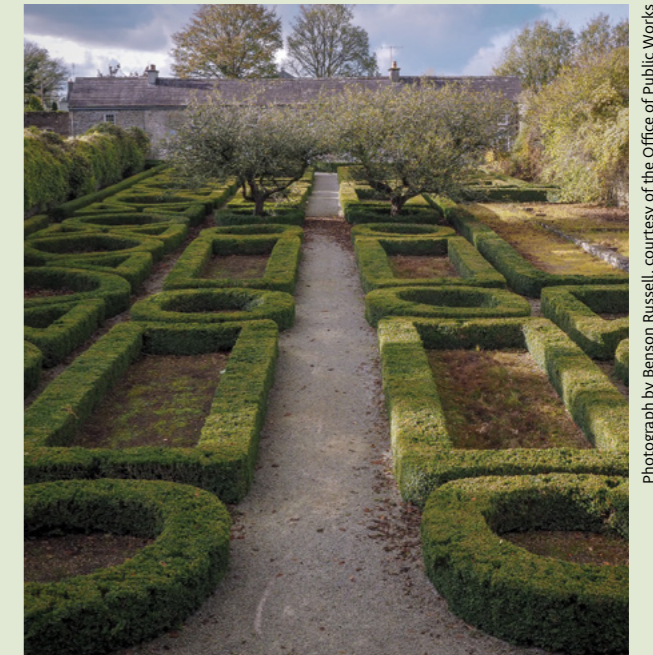
The island gardens of Ilnacullin were expertly laid out in the Arts and Crafts style in late Edwardian times. The gardens comprise beautiful neo-classical architecture with a diverse plant collection that includes many rare species. There have been three main stages in the development of the gardens: the initial creation by Garinish Island's visionary owners John Annan Bryce and his wife Violet Bryce, with the assistance of renowned architect/garden designer Harold Ainsworth Peto; the eclectic planting carried out predominantly by Roland Bryce and gardener Murdo MacKenzie; and the ongoing conservation, maintenance and management of Garinish Island by the OPW, begun in 2013, restoring paths, walls, metalwork and garden structures; opening up of vistas; rejuvenating planting beds; soil testing; and sensitive re-planting.

Christopher O'Neill, chartered landscape architect, joined the OPW National Historic Properties team as a park superintendent in 2013, and is responsible for the conservation, management and presentation of Derrynane House & National Historic Park, Ilnacullin/Garinish Island, and Fota Arboretum & Gardens. He previously worked for Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council, and as a landscape architect for the Heritage & Design Section of City of Durham Council.

Michael O'Sullivan

Doneraile Park – A Multifaceted Designed Landscape

Thirteen generations of the St Leger family resided at Doneraile Court between 1630 and 1970. An estate map of 1728 depicts large and enclosed formal terraced parterres adjacent to Doneraile Castle; nineteenth-century OS maps identify extensive parkland and vistas of woodland, grassland and water radiating from the house; and in the twentieth century a large walled garden was modified. Remarkably many of these expansive features remain today in Doneraile Park. The historical record is silent as to design influences, but ongoing historical, genealogical, cartographic and field research points to family association with the Duke of Buckingham, influences of the Earls of Cork & Burlington, and a close association with Kew Gardens in the nineteenth century. This little known garden is a unique inheritance in a provincial setting.



Photograph by Benson Russell, courtesy of the Office of Public Works

Michael O'Sullivan has worked full time as a project director of major multidisciplinary conservation and infrastructural environmental management projects throughout Ireland over the past 30 years. He provides environmental, conservation and planning advice for industry and government alike. He holds qualifications in science, engineering, and law, and lives in Doneraile, Co. Cork.

Kim Wilkie

Sculpting the Land in Ultima Thule

Our northern islands have been sculpted into amazing forms over the last 6,000 years or more. The grass-covered chalk and clay substrates hold their sculpted shapes through the millennia and cast long shadows in the low northern light, frost and mist. From Avebury Ring through to the work of Charles Bridgeman and Andy Goldsworthy, there is a wonderful tradition that has inspired Kim's work. He will talk about those traditions and how it has influenced him in places like the Gulag Archipelago in the Russian Arctic Circle, Boughton in Northamptonshire, Heveningham in Suffolk, and Shawford Park and the Holt in Hampshire.

Kim Wilkie is a landscape architect, environmental planner and farmer with longhorn cattle on a small holding in the South Downs. His work is summarized in Led by the Land (2019). He has sat on a number of UK government bodies, including the Mayor of London's Public Realm Advisory Group, and the Royal Parks Advisory Board. Currently Kim is working on a range of projects for sustainable agriculture and new landscape-led designs for cities around the world.

The Irish Georgian Society Celebrates the Irish Country House Garden



In September 2021 the Irish Georgian Society plans to host two unique exhibitions in the City Assembly House, Dublin, on the theme of the Irish country house garden. The first of these features more than forty specially-commissioned paintings of walled gardens throughout the country by four contemporary artists: Lesley Fennell, Andrea Jameson, Maria Levinge and Alison Rosse. Walled gardens have a long history going back millennia, often simultaneously serving not just as places to grow fruit and vegetables, but also areas of privacy and of protection from intemperate weather conditions. All four of the artists are themselves keen gardeners with a great understanding of plants, and this is reflected in their work.

Simultaneously, the second exhibition will explore the history and evolution of gardens attached to Irish country houses, using paintings, engravings and photographs as well as film and other media to create an exciting, engaging and informative experience. The show will open c.1600 with the cultivation of sites around castles and fortified houses such as those at Lismore, County Waterford and Portumna Castle, County Galway, and move across some three centuries to end with a number of great gardens created just before the onset of the First World War, not least those at Garnish, County Kerry, and Lambay, County Dublin.

Curated by Robert O'Byrne, former vice-President of the IGS, both exhibitions are not to be missed and will be of exceptional interest to anyone with an interest in Irish gardens and gardening.





Razored Hedgerows, Planted Trees, and Natural Delights



Country House Gardens and Landscapes