



Hampshire Gardens Trust

## Research Group Study Day

### Water in Motion

***“How changing taste and technology have influenced the design of garden water features”***

**Wednesday 3 October 2018**

**at Chawton House, Alton, Hampshire GU34 1SJ**

#### **Programme**

**10.30 – 11.30**

***The Beginnings of Ornamental Water in England (1500 -1730)***

***Speaker Wendy Bishop***

The origins of ornamental water features in England lie a long way back, in the fishponds introduced by the Romans, and adopted by monastic & royal estates. These appeared in Tudor landscapes, but not in the gardens, where almost the sole water feature was often a fountain. This changed towards the end of the 16C, as water gardens became popular. After the Civil War, these water gardens were largely replaced by geometric ‘canals’ & ponds. An exciting development of the early 18C was the appearance of ornamental lakes.

**11.45 - 12.45**

***A Crystal Fountain, an Emperor Jet and more***

***Speaker Sally Miller***

The tranquil lakes of the English landscape garden had been the dominant style of water since Capability Brown’s day. But around the middle of the 19C new technology married confident Victorian taste in impressive & ornate water features. Re-discovered hydraulic theories combined with new technologies in cast iron, glass & artificial stone enabled wealthy landowners to install even grander fountains, often commissioned from Paxton, master of the new technologies. Designs for wealthy clients were copied and mass produced for the growing middle classes & for public parks. This talk will trace how water features developed into the early 20C, when taste shifted towards Italian romanticism & inspired the water designs of Harold Peto.

**2.00 – 3.00**

***The Design, Construction & Practicalities of Water Features & Major Land Forms in the Present Day***

***Speaker Robert Orford***

Robert Orford is the director of a private company that has worked at historic locations with some of the most prestigious landscape architects in the country. Whether it be dancing water outside a shopping centre, wetland habitat or moving gallons of water as part of an irrigation system, the company designs, builds and renovates. This talk will cover the following elements: soil types, water storage, pumping & natural water flows, above ground retaining banks, erosion protection, bank edging and legislation in modern times.

The Study Day will take place in the lovely surroundings of Chawton House, home to Jane Austen’s brother Edward Knight and now home to a unique library of early women’s writing. The day will begin at 10.00am with registration & coffee or tea and will include a sit down lunch in the Great Hall.

The cost for the day will be £50.00 for HGT members £55.00 for non – members.

A booking form is available on Hampshire Gardens Trust website: <http://www.hgt.org.uk>

or email: [admin@hgt.org.uk](mailto:admin@hgt.org.uk)

or write to The Administrator, HGT, Jermyn’s House, Jermyns Lane, Ampfield, Romsey SO51 0QA

## **Biographical Notes on our Speakers**

### ***Wendy Bishop***

After a career in teaching, including Malawian secondary schools and a 'borstal' for special needs children in Calne, Wendy received a stern 'health warning', and retrained, firstly doing a degree in garden design at Sparsholt, and then an MA in garden history with Prof. Tim Mowl at Bristol. This was then followed by a PhD on ornamental lakes at UEA with Prof. Tom Williamson. She is now an independent landscape historian.

### ***Sally Miller***

Sally Miller, MA, is a garden historian, a Trustee of Hampshire Gardens Trust and leads the Trust's Research Group. Before moving to Hampshire several years ago she filled similar roles with the London Parks and Gardens Trust. Sally has been published in academic journals and has written two books on London parks.

### ***Robert Orford***

Robert Orford has 45 years' engineering experience, mostly working in the UK with some overseas work. He is the director of a family business with a variety of clients in both the public and private sector. Work includes the Blue Water Lakes, many National Trust properties, the Orangutan and Spectacle Bear areas at Jersey Zoo and very recently completed water features within the Temperate House at Kew Gardens. He has worked on numerous private landscapes, custom constructing Kim Wilkie designs.