

THE FRIENDS OF CROOME



NEWSLETTER

Spring 2019 Issue 30



Otter at the Chinese Bridge © Brian Trott

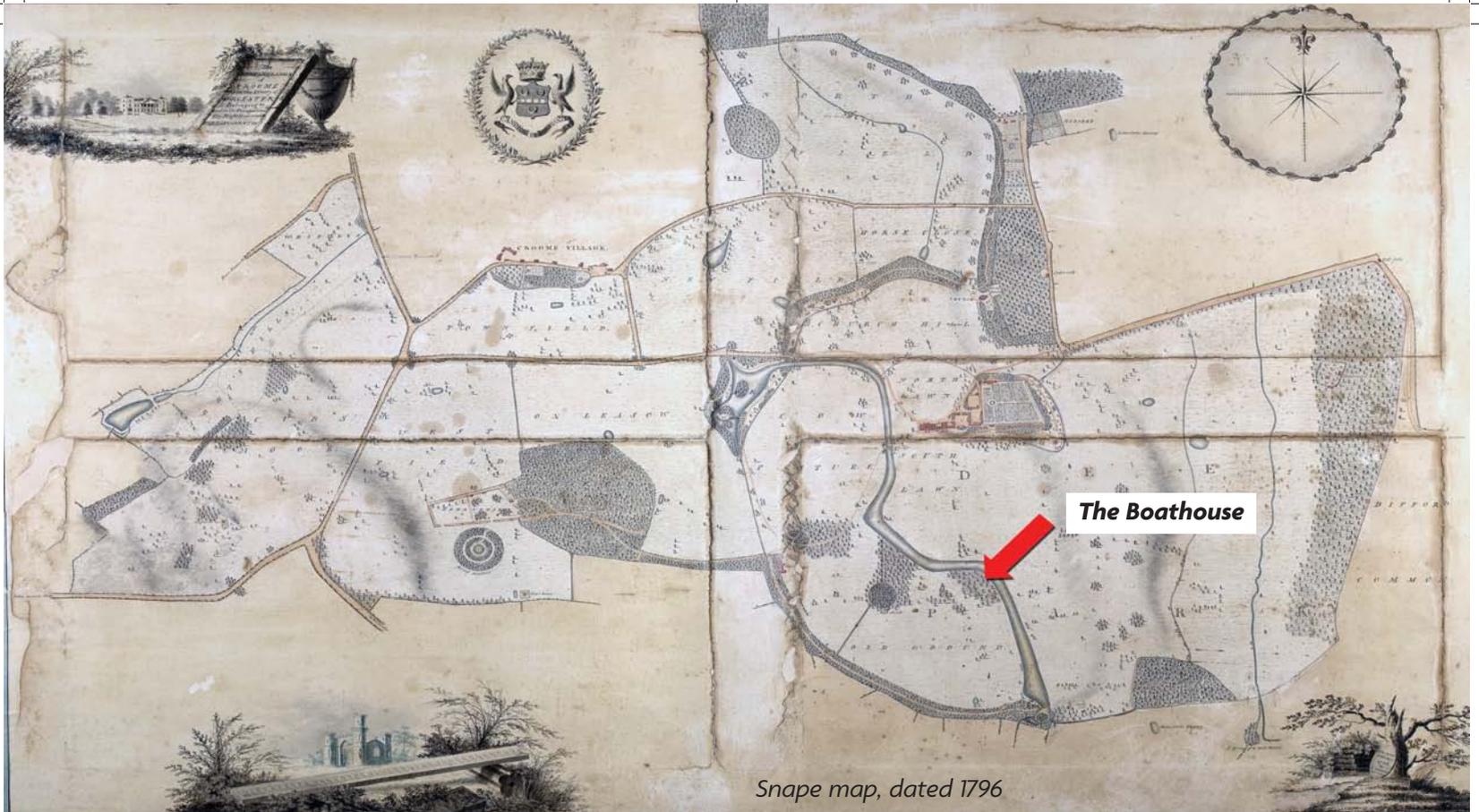
PARK AND GARDEN UPDATE

The Autumn and Winter of 2018 / 2019 has been a busy time for us in the garden and park. Back in the early 2000s when the land was returned from arable to pasture, a lot of fencing was installed across the estate and, as fence posts have a life span of about 15 years, it is almost all failing at the same time. As you can imagine this is creating a lot of fencing work and keeping the ranger team and volunteers very busy. Thankfully we have the tractor mounted post basher which makes the job a lot quicker than putting the posts in by hand - and a lot easier on the arms! We've been replacing tree guards on South Park and in Horse Close. We've also removed the old collapsing circular fencing from the clumps in South Park and are just replacing with posts and electric fence clips which suits the way that the field is grazed now.

We've also been planning the replanting of Beech Grove which was planted as part of Brown's parkland design towards the south of West Field on the bend in the river. On the 1796 Snape map (*see overleaf*) the grove can clearly be seen, along with the red rectangle which denotes a boathouse. There's no

longer any evidence of the boathouse - and there are no plans or images of it in the archive - but we may be able to get some archaeological investigation done to see if any of the foundations remain. At the beginning of February we've staked the area ready for tree planting which we'll do in early March. We've also had the corners of the boathouse marked out using GPS and the Snape map to plot its location.

In the garden we're looking forward to the internal decoration of the Rotunda. We've had paint analysis carried out which tells us that it would have been painted grey in the 1760s. Our next step is to choose exactly which grey - who knew there were so many? - then, thanks to a legacy and a donation, we shall be able to get the work done this summer. Following on from the internal work, we also want to get the steps outside the building re-laid so will be carrying out some initial investigation to find out what the foundations to the steps are made of and their condition. Once we have this information we shall be able to plan the work, probably for 2020 funding.



Snape map, dated 1796



Otter at the Chinese Bridge © Brian Trott

The garden team have been pruning a lot over the winter months ensuring that the natural look to the shrubberies is maintained. Now that the shrubs and trees are starting to mature this work is taking more time and more skill to keep the natural rather than manicured or topiared appearance. The daphnes, aconites, periwinkle and snowdrops are all providing some early colour - and fragrance in the case of the daphnes.

And finally - how can I not mention the otter, or should I say otters, which are now regularly seen in the river. They seem to prefer the area of water around the Chinese Bridge and slightly south. I hope you have luck when you're walking at Croome and spot one!

Katherine Alker, Garden and Outdoors Manager



© Hugh Warwick



Hilda by Croome River

*Hilda dressed for the
Servants' Ball
on the roof balcony
at Croome Court 1937*

Hilda Newman Lady's Maid

What follows are Tim Hickson's memories of Hilda Newman, who, at the end of July 2017, died just two weeks short of her one hundred and second birthday. Hilda, then Miss Mulley, became The Countess of Coventry's Lady's Maid in 1935.

In 2012, when she was 96, she came to Croome to see, for the first time since she had left in 1939, her room in the Court. By then she was wheelchair-bound and there was no stair-climber, so four of us (Michael Smith, Phil Douce, Alice Padley and I) lugged it up the stairs from the Basement to the Second Floor and to her room in the top the south-east tower. Whilst we recovered, Hilda was initially silent. Then she told us that she had never been away from home before, she was 18, and was so homesick that she often cried during her first few days. When someone asked her whether she had been unhappy at Croome, she replied, "No! They were so kind to me here." To illustrate this, she told us that when she had entered the room, she saw two beds, one either side of the window, so she asked why this was so. Her guide, a maid who had been standing in as the Countesses' Lady's Maid, said that, "It was in case she had a friend to stay." This, she said was typical of the kind thoughtfulness of her employers.

Then she told us that she had been brought up in Stamford, Lincolnshire, where her father was a tailor. He had taught her to make and to mend clothes. She said she had put herself through a hairdressing course and then found an advertisement in The Lady magazine for a Lady's Maid to the Countess of Coventry in Croome Court in Worcestershire. She wrote applying for the job and got it.

Hilda travelled by train to Worcester's Shrub Hill Station where she was met by the Croome chauffeur, Mr. Newman, (who, of course, she later married) and he drove her to the Court. She entered by the doorway under the steps and was taken to the Butler's room in the south-west of the Basement. He welcomed her and gave her a cup of tea before handing her over to the maid who took her to her room.



*Hilda with Maria
Coventry 1935*





**Hilda's embroidery, in her room
on the top floor of Croome Court**

She commented to us that she was struck by the relative splendour of the room compared with her bedroom at home. The height of the ceiling, the marble surrounding the fireplace and the magnificent view from her window were all stunning. But, of course, she was a senior servant and when I asked her about the use of rooms in the Service Wing (the Red Wing), she could not help me as she was expected not to mingle with the 'lower servants'!

Amongst the other things she told us was that when there was a Servants' Ball, dancing would be led off by the Earl with her, and the Countess with the Butler. She said they had, "Such fun". Naturally, she accompanied the Countess when visits were made to other big houses and that there were a few where the relative informality of her relationship with her employer was frowned upon. Generally, she remarked that she loved her time with the Coventry family.

When, a year or two after her visit, a ghost writer, Tim Tate, began to produce a book about Hilda's time at Croome, it

seemed it would be good that there would be an opportunity to add to what Eileen Clement had gleaned in her interview with Hilda. However, the resulting publication was disappointing as the inaccuracies were so obvious. It seems that when her family had asked for corrections, these were not made.

When she reached her hundredth birthday, there was a party at Croome and, whilst Hilda did not fancy again making the ascent to her old room, her family did. They enjoyed learning what had happened when Hilda had returned there four years earlier.

In the Eighteenth Century, the work of the Lady's Maid 'involved dressing and undressing her mistress, arranging her hair, mending and altering her clothes. In addition she accompanied her mistress abroad and offered her companionship at home.' It is interesting to see that not much had changed by the early Twentieth Century.

Tim Hickson



Hilda, with family and friends, on her 100th birthday

THE CARLISLE MAN

I never knew my grandad, John Sherwood. He was born at Birch Cottage, Birch Green, Severn Stoke in 1856 and died at High Green in 1930 aged 73. He worked for the 9th Earl of Coventry for 50 years and both men died in the same year. During his life at Croome my grandad rose from horse-man to Waggoner then finally to Head Carter on the estate. Back in the 1900s, each year, a preacher named James Robotham came to High Green with a large marquee. He seems to have been linked to a church in Cheltenham and held gospel services and hymn singing in the marquee. He set it up in a field behind the houses in the village and invited people to attend the meetings.

My grandad had not been a particularly religious man but after attending one of the meetings his life completely changed and he joined the folk at the Meeting Room at Woodmancote, taking his large family with him. I would like to know more about Mr Robotham the preacher, who had such a big influence on my grandad.

At about the same time, a wandering musician used to come with his wife to High Green. He played an unusual instrument known as a Hurdy-Gurdy. This is a stringed instrument played by turning a rosined wheel against strings and sounds like a violin. The couple would walk through High Green playing and singing.

People used to come out and give them what few pence they could afford. Once he had walked through High Green, he would turn off by the Coventry Arms, as it was then of course, and down the public lane to Croome Court. Once there, he would be invited in and would play some music. I have been told that the 9th Earl and his wife, if they were there, would enjoy listening. The musician and his wife would be given a meal down in the servants' hall and then they would go on their way. My dad said he had a good voice and he seems to have been, like Mr Robotham, a regular visitor to Croome.



Gustav Hamel

In 1913, Blanche, wife of the 9th Earl of Coventry, saw a flying demonstration by Gustav Hamel the famous British-born aviator, possibly on Worcester racecourse. She was so impressed that she invited him to stay at Croome. He was unable to stay due to flying commitments, but the following year he was gave a flying display at Pershore racecourse and was able to keep his promise to Lady Coventry. According to my father, a large white cross was laid out on the north lawn at Croome Court using bedsheets!



On this Sunday evening Hamel approached Croome and prepared to land his aircraft when disaster struck, he overshot the landing ground and hit a tree damaging the plane, but Gustav Hamel seems to have been unhurt. It was left to my grandad and his two brothers to transport the plane to Wadborough Junction for repair. Hamel spent several days at Croome as a guest of the Coventrys while his aircraft was being made airworthy. He was soon airborne again, once repairs were

carried out. Tragically, however, disaster struck again not long afterwards: he disappeared over the English Channel, never to be seen again!

My final visitor is a mystery man who came into the area when my father was a child. A tall, distinguished gentleman wearing a black coat, he turned up in Woodmancote near Defford and, noticing a light on in the Brethren meeting room, he went in to find a lady cleaning the hall. He told her he was trying to get back by train to Carlisle but had lost his rail fare and had no money with him. He asked her to loan him the fare but understandably she declined. In a rather strange move, she told him to go to my grandad at High Green where she was sure he would get some help!

The mystery man set off across Defford Common (no airfield then) to High Green where, after some enquiries he found my family. He managed to convince them of his dilemma and impressed by his manner and courtesy, they managed to gather the money and sent him on his way. They stood at the back door and saw him off across the fields to Wadborough Junction. He had asked them to write their address down for him because he promised to return the money when he got back home. "I will send to you," he had said. They never saw or heard from him again. No letter with a cheque or cash, nothing. Who was he? Why did he turn up in Defford? Why was he directed to my grandad's house? He has gone down in our family history as the "Carlisle Man" and this story used to be told often when I was a child. Grandma said afterwards that she was rather suspicious of him as his black coat was going green!

When I was a little boy at Worcester Lodge in the 1940s, family members used to visit us in the evening from High Green and we all sat round the log fire. I would sit like a little mouse on the corner of the fender and listen to the grown-ups exchanging family stories, storing them in my pigeonhole never dreaming that one day I would have the chance to pass them on!

Geoff Sherwood



Lady Anne Foley

In 1785, Lady Anne Foley (née Coventry), daughter of the 6th Earl of Coventry and Maria Gunning, found herself named in a trial of Criminal Conversation. Anne's husband, the Honourable Edward Foley of Stoke Edith, Herefordshire, sued her lover for compensation, citing the loss of his marital rights to his wife. It was an age when a woman was, by and large, a man's property, be it her father or husband.

Famously, Lady Seymour Worsley had taken centre stage four years earlier at a trial for Criminal Conversation, the result of a scheme hatched by Lady Anne's brother, Viscount Deerhurst (later 7th Earl of Coventry). Deerhurst had been a guest at the Worsley's Isle of Wight home and



Viscount Deerhurst, 7th Earl of Coventry

enjoyed his hostess' favours, with the full blessing of her cuckolded husband, Sir Richard Worsley.

Other men also enjoyed Seymour's favours, but then she fell in love with Deerhurst's friend, Maurice George Bisset. The two eloped and Seymour's enraged husband sued for Criminal Conversation, demanding a financially ruinous reparation from Bisset. Deerhurst came up with a plan. Lady Worsley's lovers were each asked to take their turn on the witness stand to testify to her lax morals. But, more importantly, they all pointed out that Sir Richard had encouraged his wife in her infidelities.

The audacious plan worked; the jury found in Sir Richard's favour but were so disgusted with him they only awarded one paltry and insulting shilling in damages. The case proceeded to the House of Lords to decide on a divorce. Not an easy process by any means in the eighteenth-century, a full divorce which allowed the parties to marry again was by no means a given. Worsley got his revenge by only suing for a divorce 'from bed and board'. Seymour was forced to remain legally bound to her hated husband, dependent financially upon him.

Two other men who had testified at Lady Worsley's trial were Charles Mordaunt, 5th Earl of Peterborough and an Oxford man, Joseph Bouchier Smith. Together with Viscount Deerhurst and Bisset, since their schooldays they formed a close-knit – and somewhat disreputable – foursome. Peterborough's first-cousin was a woman of some repute at the time, Grace Dalrymple Elliott, a noted courtesan and one of Lady Worsley's closest friends. Grace, tall, willowy and

beautiful, was the mistress in turn of the Earl of Cholmondeley, the Duc d'Orléans and the Prince of Wales (later George IV) by whom she had a daughter.

As a teenager, Grace married the much older John Eliot, a short, rotund society doctor. It was a brief union: when Grace was discovered with her lover, Viscount Valentia, she was thrown out of her home. In 1774, Dr Eliot sued Valentia for Criminal Conversation, and won with substantial damages.

It might be supposed the Earl of Peterborough, being such a close witness to these previous cases, would take care to avoid detection in his own amours. However, it was a licentious age and high society played by their own rules.



Grace Dalrymple Elliott by Thomas Gainsborough
Metropolitan Museum of Art

During the summer of 1784, Peterborough and his friend Bouchier Smith were invited to stay at Stoke Edith, Edward and Lady Anne Foley's home. Peterborough, in particular, overstayed his welcome as far as his host was concerned, but the hostess was more than happy in his company. As was later testified: 'Lord Peterborough's visit to Stoke was not upon an honourable intent'. Behind Edward's back, the couple began an affair, meeting surreptitiously and endeavouring to keep their trysts secret: they failed miserably. The unhappy husband entertained suspicions and set the servants to watch their mistress and unwanted house guest. With a small militia of 'peeping toms' spying on their every move, it was not long before Lady Foley and Peterborough were discovered in flagrante delicto amongst Stoke Edith's shrubbery. The coachman at a nearby inn was also recruited to spy, peering through the coach windows with the couple entwined inside.



Wall hanging depicting Stoke Edith's gardens

Victoria & Albert Museum

Predictably, Peterborough found himself facing Edward Foley across a packed courtroom, accused of Criminal Conversation and faced with paying out £2,500 to the aggrieved husband in reparation. Taking a leaf from Deerhurst's book, Peterborough portrayed Foley as complicit in matters. It was suggested that Foley, a spendthrift, had run through his wife's dowry and sought to end his marriage: Lord Peterborough simply presented himself at the right time and Foley had encouraged his wife in her indiscretions.

With echoes of the Worsley v Bisset trial, witnesses, including Joseph Bouchier Smith, defamed Lady Foley who, like Lady Worsley, submitted to have her reputation besmirched in an attempt to minimise her lover's financial ruin. Details of the many men who had graced Lady Foley's boudoir, with - it was claimed - the full knowledge of her husband, were related to the jury and a packed public gallery, eager for salacious titbits of gossip.

Foley mounted a stout defence and proved his marital devotion. Peterborough's case failed; Foley won the day and full damages. If Peterborough was going to pay, then he was going to have a return for his money and his relationship with the fallen lady continued. A full divorce was granted, Lady Anne was now free to remarry and would become the Countess of Peterborough.

However, there was one further twist in the story. Lady Anne tried to return to her ex-husband, saying that: 'notwithstanding she was in a few days to be a Countess, she had rather live with him on any terms, than be united to Lord Peterborough - whom she hated'.

Having burnt her bridges, Lady Anne instead married a Nottinghamshire banker's son, Captain Samuel Wright of the 15th Hussars, a deeply cruel and unhappy arrangement with Anne predeceasing her husband by all of 17 years.

Joanne Major and Sarah Murden

For further reading: An Infamous Mistress: The Life, Loves and Family of the Celebrated Grace Dalrymple Elliott (Pen and Sword, 2016).

I'll behave I promise!

A story of plots against the Crown

One of the joys of working at Croome is meeting the visitors, especially those who have a link to its past. They come with stories or memories of one of the past incarnations of the house be it as a family home, school, religious institution or business. There are also those that contact us having had a fantastic day out and who share pictures and information about Croome related artefacts that they have in their possession. I thought I would share one of these with you.

A direct descendant of Barbara St John and the 6th Earl of Coventry visited Croome and was interested in the portrait of the 9th Earl of Coventry and Countess Blanche on horseback by Francis Grant. He asked if we could give him some more information on the painting as his parents had a coloured print of the picture. He also sent us photos of two other items in their possession, a muffin dish bearing the St John family crest, and a warrant signed by Henry Coventry (1619-1686), son of Thomas 1st Baron Coventry and his second wife, Elizabeth.

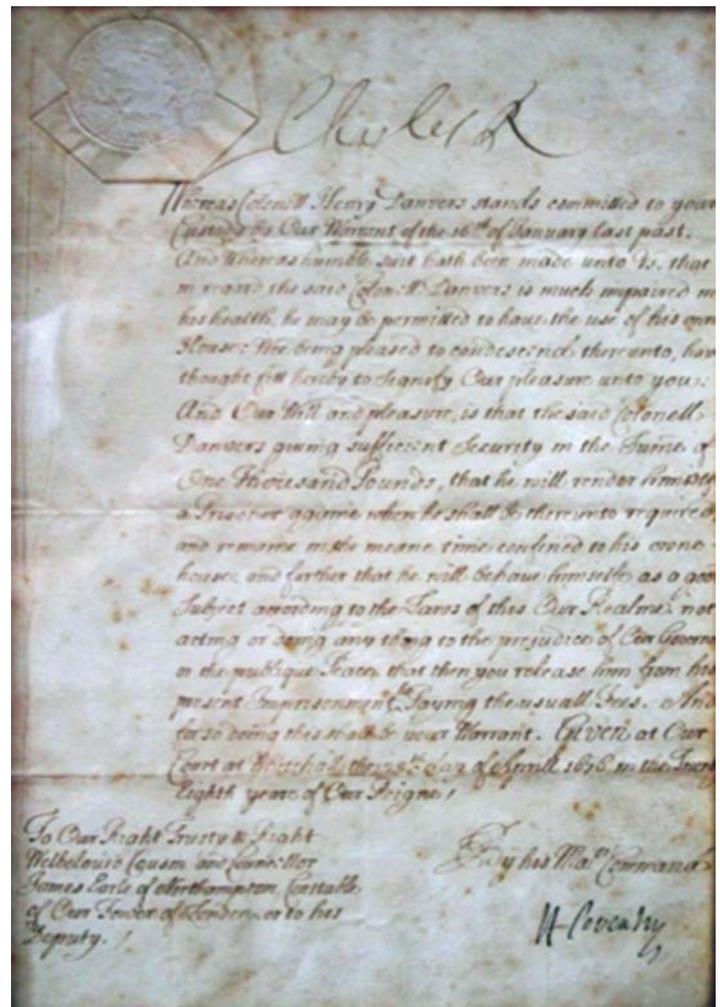


Muffin Dish (Picture from E Coventry)

The warrant relates to Colonel Henry Danvers (1622-1687) a parliamentarian who was violently anti-monarchist. Danvers was involved in the Rathbone plot of 1665, a plan to assassinate King Charles II, put London "to the flame", establish a republic and redistribute property. However, the plot was discovered, and warrants were issued for the arrest of the ringleaders including Danvers. But hearing of this, Danvers went on the run for the next 10 years amassing followers during this time.

Eventually, in 1676, he was discovered, arrested for treason and thrown into the Tower of London. Danvers and his supporters claimed he was "gravely ill" and appeals were sent to the King for him be allowed home to die.

The warrant addressed to James Earl of Northampton, constable of the Tower of London, signed by Henry Coventry and King Charles II, affirmed that as Danvers was so ill, he should be released. He will be under house arrest in his own house on the promise of good behaviour and the payment of £1,000 surety. This sum was in addition to the normal release fees that prisoners were charged for board and lodging during their stay in the tower.

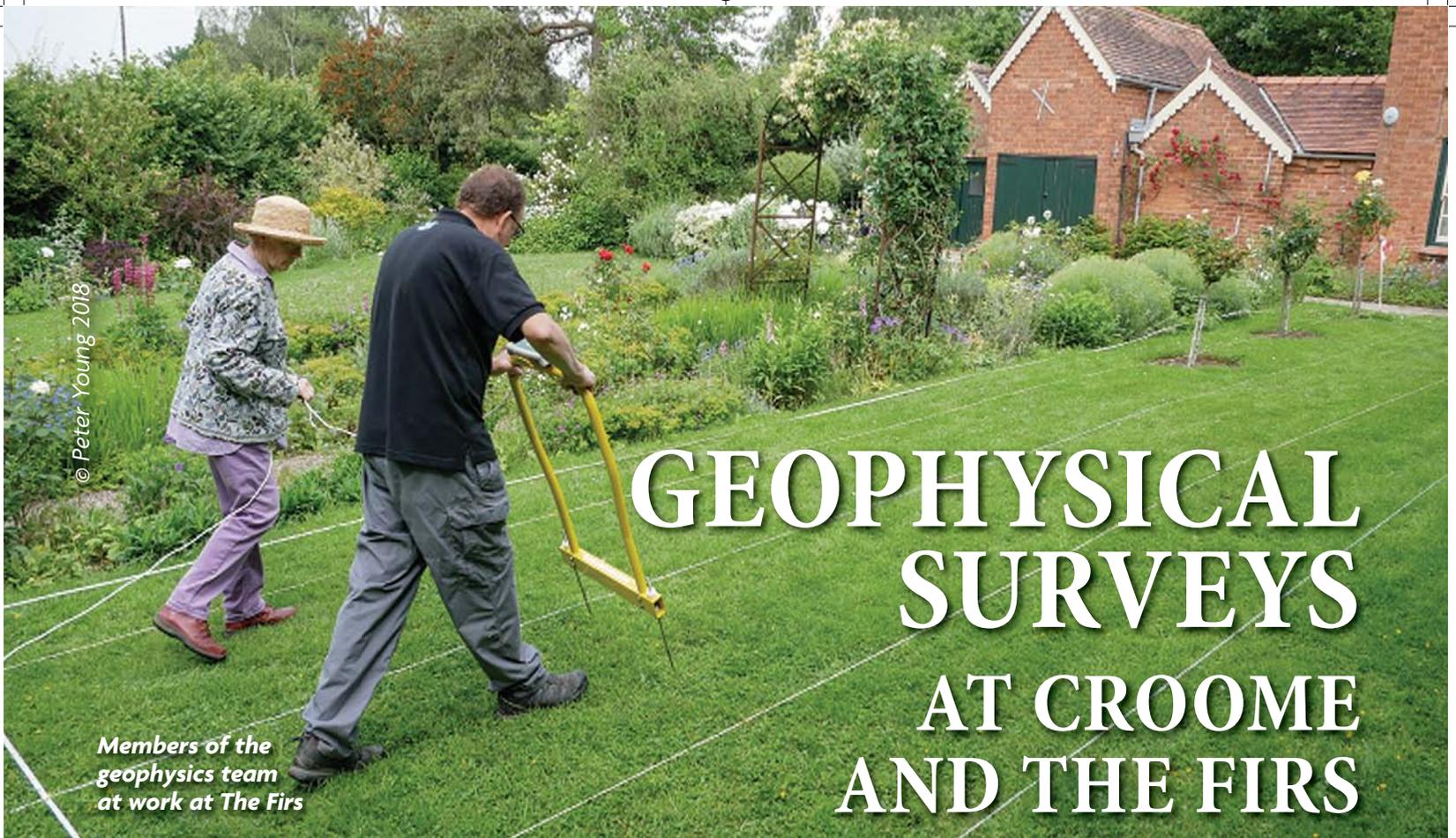


The Release Warrant

Foolishly, his promises were believed. Within a year he escaped and was once again plotting against the Crown. In 1685, Danvers planned an insurrection for the day of the coronation of James II, but the plotters fell out and he was given 20 days to surrender. He again went on the run, this time to Holland where he died in 1687.

Interestingly, it may be that plotting was in his blood: his mother's family were involved in several plots, including 'The Babington Plot' of 1586 to assassinate Elizabeth I and put Mary, Queen of Scots on the throne and the earlier attempt to install Lady Jane Grey as Queen.

Nicola Hewitt



© Peter Young 2018

Members of the geophysics team at work at The Firs

GEOPHYSICAL SURVEYS AT CROOME AND THE FIRS

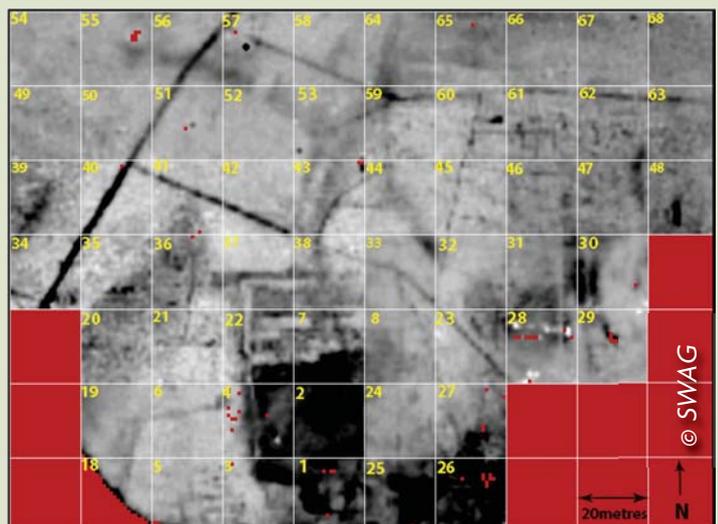
At the beginning of 2017 the new RM Frobisher TAR-3 resistance meter, which was generously purchased for our use by the Friends of Croome, was delivered to Croome by the manufacturer who also provided a training day for the South Worcestershire Archaeological Group (SWAG) geophysics team. The team has been working with the equipment and becoming more familiar with its use since then, continuing the survey of the North Lawn at Croome (which was started using SWAG's own equipment) and also deploying to The Firs.

At the request of the National Trust, members of the SWAG geophysics team undertook a geophysical survey in the garden of The Firs in the summer of 2018. Conscious of the size of the lawn area and the possibility of trip hazards, the work was undertaken when the property was closed to the public. The current garden layout was created by Carice Elgar Blake soon after the property was opened to the public in the 1930s to the design shown in the 1856 watercolour by John Chessell Buckler. The aim of the survey was to try to determine if any evidence existed of earlier paths in the garden or the decorative fountain. Sadly, when the survey data was processed, the plots did not display any evidence of previous layouts of the garden area or other man-made features.

All surveys incorporate an element of archival research undertaken alongside the fieldwork. Research in connection with this property revealed it had remained in the hands of the same family from 1828 until purchased by 'The Mayor, Aldermen and Citizens of the County of the City of Worcester' in 1935. The tithe map of 1840 shows the property with a dwelling and outbuilding much as it is now, except for another outbuilding at the bottom of the garden – which may have been an earth-closet. The Ordnance Survey map of 1904 shows the property situated within an area of orchards. Our fieldwork and researches suggest that it is

unlikely there are any sub-surface archaeological features. Interestingly, the research revealed that the cottage was once known as Newbury Cottage and this was borne out by the Reflections written by Edward Elgar's sister Lucy, in 1912.

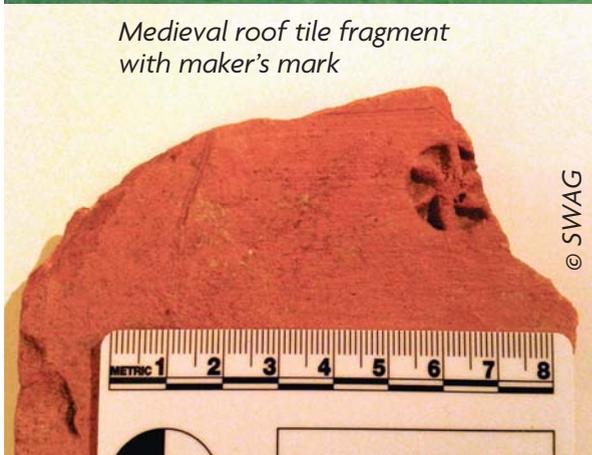
The glorious summer of 2018 was not conducive to good geophysics, so it was not until after a period of rain and when the hay bales had been removed from the North Lawn at Croome Court in late September was it possible to deploy the equipment again to resume the geophysical survey (some initial findings were reported in the Friends of Croome Autumn 2014 Newsletter, Issue 21). A total of 68 grids have now been completed, extending 140 metres in a northerly direction with an estimated 60 metres left to complete.



The dark areas on the plot represent high resistance areas (e.g. masonry) and light areas represent low resistance (i.e. areas of higher moisture content). The high resistance linear feature running through grids 34, 40, 50, 51 and 56 is the main culvert



Medieval roof tile fragment with maker's mark



© SWAG

Training day with new resistance meter purchased by Friends of Croome

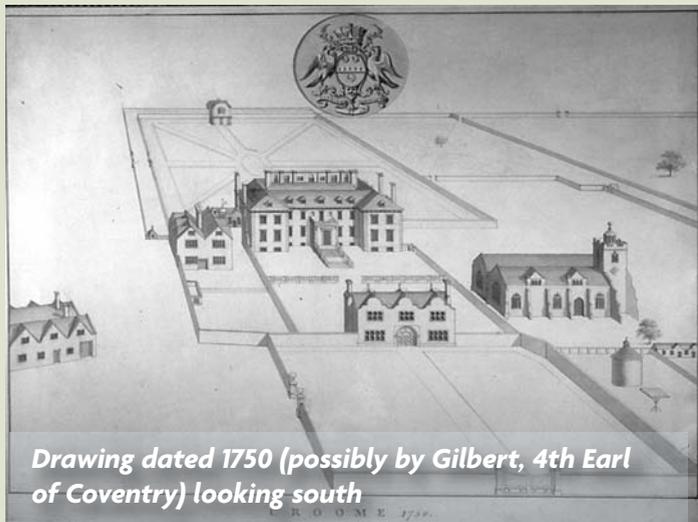
© SWAG

which runs under Church Hill and south-west under the North Lawn before discharging into the Croome River on the east bank. The linear feature running in a south-easterly direction through grids 40, 41, 42 38, 33 and 23 towards the north-east corner of the Court was confirmed as a culvert when a trench dug for the LPG tanks exposed it. Amongst the spoil from the trench was a broken roof tile. During the medieval manufacturing process a maker's mark was impressed on tiles. This same mark was noted during an excavation in Deansway, Worcester in the 1980s. The upper linear feature running south-east has been interpreted as another culvert.

The rectilinear feature in the centre of the plot (grids 7, 22, 37 and 38) is thought to indicate robbed out walls associated with the gatehouse whilst the dark area to the south may be demolition rubble from the gatehouse or previous structures. The rectilinear feature in grids 28, 29, 30 and 31 towards the east of the plot is again thought to indicate robbed out buildings shown on pre-Brown plans. The dark rectilinear feature in grids 46 and 61 may indicate some residual sub-surface archaeology.

Since acquiring the new meter, the speed of progress of surveys has increased greatly and the ease with which the data downloads to produce the plot on completion of the fieldwork is a joy. We are very grateful to the Friends of Croome for this asset as we continue to explore the archaeology of Croome Park.

South Worcestershire Archaeological Group



Drawing dated 1750 (possibly by Gilbert, 4th Earl of Coventry) looking south



Culvert on North Lawn © National Trust



Sue Haslam

FRIENDS EXTRA

You might have heard about Friends Extra. It's a new initiative set up and designed for members of the Friends of Croome and the volunteers who help to make Croome work. Aimed at singles or couples who want a little extra out of life - going places, doing different things, starting new hobbies and following new interests - we try to encourage like-minded people to pursue these dreams in the company of others. We want to bring out people's willingness to contribute and sometimes take the lead, but essentially, we want everyone's company!

If you have the desire to get stuck in and enjoy the various activities on offer - from short talks by members or their contacts, card and board games, a book club, walks, theatre visits, garden visits and wherever your imagination takes you, come and join us.

Ideally, you should be a member of the Friends of Croome, (if you're not, you may find you are missing out on many other opportunities) but don't let that stop you from getting involved. Come to our meetings wearing a smile and a willingness to be involved. Refreshments are available, now on a rota, so different cakes each month!

Our monthly meetings so far have been at Severn Stoke Village Hall but when the weather improves, we will enjoy more outside events. We hope to take advantage of and the use newly refurbished Sergeants' and Orderlies' Quarters building at Croome from April. Attendances have been growing and we want to keep it growing.

So, if you'd like to join us for our monthly forum, with coffee, chat and friendships in the making just come along.

Please contact **Sue Lloyd suzilloyd01684@gmail.com** or **Gill Collin gillcll@aol.com** More information will be on the Friends of Croome notice board in the corridor near Visitor Reception. We will meet on the first Monday of the month when possible:

Monday 2nd March 10.30am
Severn Stoke Village Hall

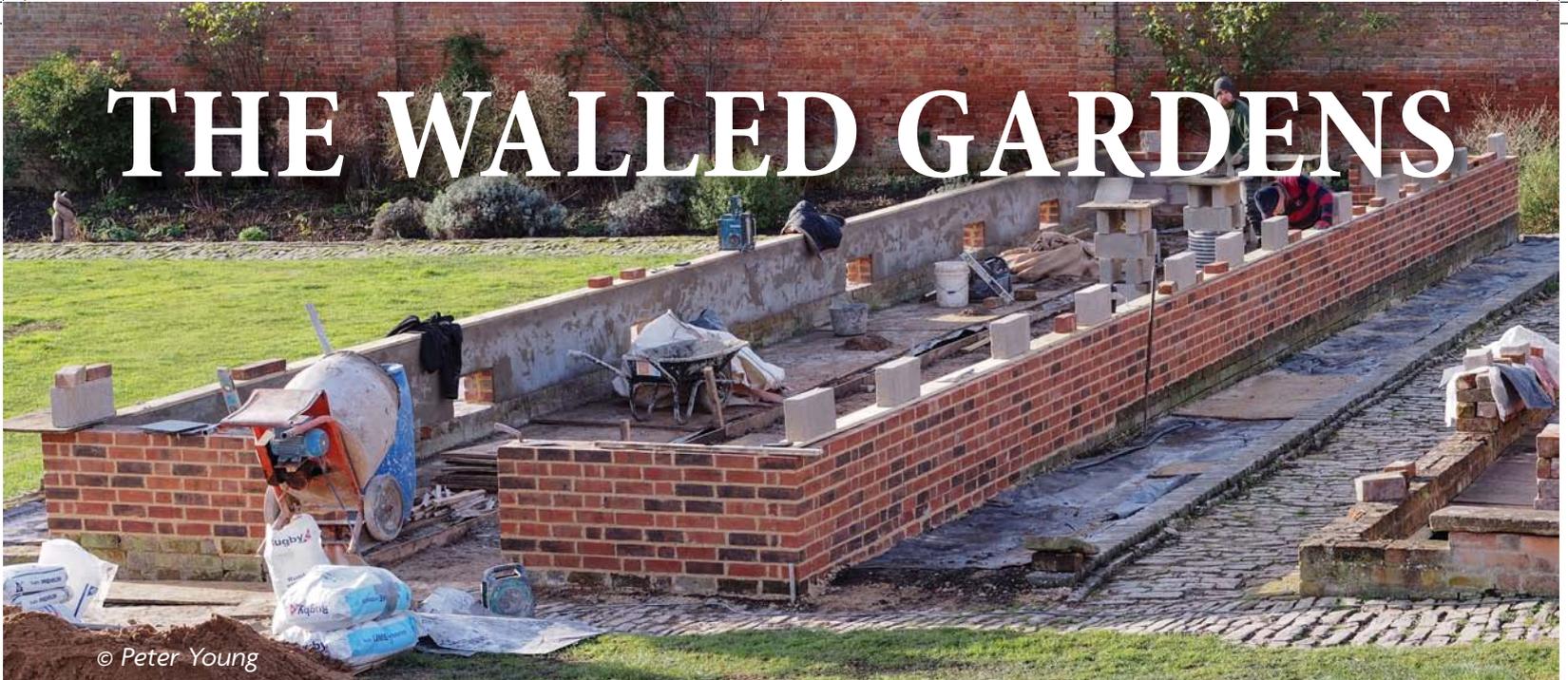
Monday 1st April 10.30am
Sergeants' and Orderlies' Quarters Building, Croome Park

Monday 29th April 10.30am
Sergeants' and Orderlies' Quarters Building, Croome Park

Monday 3rd June 10.30am
Sergeants' and Orderlies' Quarters Building, Croome Park



THE WALLED GARDENS



Work commenced over the winter months to restore the Tomato House, with plans to progress with the Pineapple House and finally the Mediterranean garden throughout 2019. Visitors will be able to see significant progress in the gardens this year, and will be able to see the developments throughout the seasons.

Following the interest with the art installations last year, co-owner Karen Cronin reveals: “we will again be working with more artists as we host another series of exhibitions. During the six months the gardens are open to the public there will be three exhibitions, each one running for seven weeks and each one showcasing the work of four talented artists. We are delighted, and more than a little excited, to be exhibiting the work of: renowned sculptor and member of the Royal British Society of Sculptors Ian Marlow, member of the Royal Society of Painter-Printmakers Frans Wesselman, and illustrator Joe McLaren, whose clients include Penguin, Faber and Terry Pratchett. Each exhibition will be made up of two artists and two outdoor sculptors and will include the mediums; fused and stained glass, stainless steel, bronze, silver, ceramics and wood, among others.



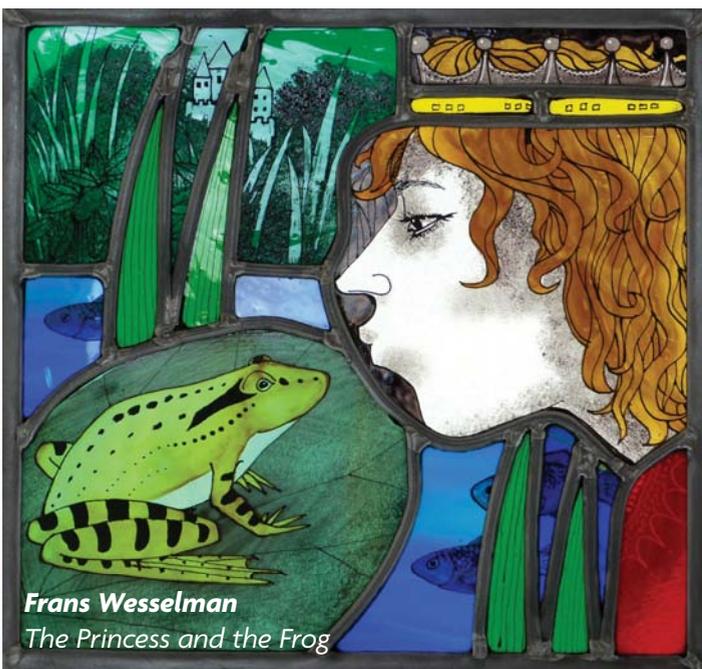
Ian Marlow
Seasons Drifting

The Walled Gardens at Croome Court will re-open on Good Friday (19 April 2019) and will be open to visitors every Friday, Saturday, Sunday (and Bank Holiday Mondays) until the end of September 2019. Opening times are 11am-5pm (last entry 4pm) and tickets (£5 adult / children free) are available from National Trust visitor reception. Funds raised go towards the gardens’ ongoing restoration, which was entirely funded by the Cronin family prior to the gardens being open to visitors.

National Trust volunteers can sign up to the Walled Gardens 2019 preview taking place at 10:45am on Wednesday 13 March, firstly meeting at the RAF visitor reception. The volunteers and reception staff will be given a tour and update by Chris and/or Karen Cronin and fully briefed on the progress over the previous six months.

Chris and Karen look forward to welcoming visitors old and new, for another exciting year for the continuing restoration of The Walled Gardens at Croome Court.

Victoria Richardson



Frans Wesselman
The Princess and the Frog