

OXFORDSHIRE LOCAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION (OLHA)

THE HISTORY OF GARDEN DESIGN IN OXFORDSHIRE

AGM and study day to be held at

Rycote Park, Thame OX9 2PE

on Tuesday 16 May 2023

9.30 Registration and tea/coffee

10.00 **PARADISE LOST AND RESTORED: 400 YEARS OF GARDEN DESIGN IN OXFORDSHIRE**

Gardener and botanist **Timothy Walker** will explore how the art of gardening has changed, or perhaps has not, in four centuries in Oxfordshire. He will take the Oxford Botanic Garden, of which he was director for twelve years, as an example of a garden which still bears all the hallmarks of 17th-century design, but which now also reflects design ideas of the 21st century. There will be a short break after the talk.

11.30 **VOYAGES TO THE HOUSE OF DIVERSION: HANWELL CASTLE AND ITS SEVENTEENTH-CENTURY PARK**

As part of a programme of doctoral research **Stephen Wass** has been investigating the remarkable 17th-century gardens at Hanwell, a site described by Robert Plot in his *Natural History of Oxfordshire* as a “real New Atlantis”. His reference was to the community of like-minded individuals, gathered together by one Sir Anthony Cope, who made use of his garden to advance their understanding of contemporary science. As well as historical research, a series of archaeological excavations have revealed in the garden the site of Hanwell’s ‘House of Diversion’ and recovered a unique assemblage of 17th-century terra-cotta urns, some of which will be on display.

12.45 **OLHA’s ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

AGM papers will be circulated at the meeting.

1.15 **LUNCH**

Packed lunches can be eaten in the barn at Rycote. Pubs a short drive away include the Fox & Goat in Tiddington and the Old Fisherman in Shabbington.

2.00 **INTRODUCTORY TALK AND GUIDED TOUR OF RYCOTE PARK’S GARDENS**

The owner of Rycote Park **Sarah Taylor** will introduce us to the history of the site and then lead us on a walk around the gardens (re-landscaped by Capability Brown) and the 15th-century private chapel with its elaborate 17th-century fittings. The talk and tour will last approximately 2 hours in total.

TOUR SOLD OUT

There is parking at Rycote Park. The 280 Oxford-Thame bus stops in Tiddington, from where Rycote is a walk of c. 1.2 miles. For location and further information see <https://www.rycotepark.com/>. Please note that there are no disabled facilities on-site.

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If possible, please book and pay on-line at <http://www.olha.org.uk/events/study-days>. This reduces administration for our volunteers, and avoids the 40p which our bank now charges for every cheque that we pay in.

If you are unable to book on-line, send this form with a cheque for £5.40 per person made payable to ‘OLHA’ to:
Liz Woolley, 138 Marlborough Road, Oxford OX1 4LS, (01865 242760, membership@olha.org.uk)

Name(s)

Local society if applicable

Number of places FOR THE MORNING TALKS ONLY at £5.40 per person

If you would like an acknowledgement by e-mail, please tick this box and write your e-mail address here:

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