CONSERVATION & RECONSTRUCTION

Retaining the historic integrity of our significant heritage parks and gardens is essential in their ongoing management and conservation. This necessitates a comprehensive evaluation of their content, design and history. However, while detailed investigation into the original form of gardens and parks is an essential aid to accurate repair and renewal, it often highlights tension between preservation, reconstruction and simple enhancement. Discovering the directions to take, how and why, is the underlying theme of this year’s NIHGT conference. Accordingly, we have invited a wide range of speakers to talk about their own experiences in the conservation, rejuvenation and restoration of our historic parks and gardens.

LISSADELL, CO. SLIGO

Lying at the foot of Ben Bulben, ten miles from Sligo on the north shore of Sligo Bay, Lissadell, is one of the most delightfully situated demesnes in Ireland. Its sweeping parkland surrounds a large austere classical house of 1831-35, the ancestral seat of the Gore Booth family until its sale in late 2003. One of its many features is the restored stable yard and riding house, the venue of our conference. Since 2004, the present owners, Edward Walsh and Constance Cassidy, have initiated a major programme of restoration of the house, yards and both the walled gardens; this work is ongoing.

Opening day, July 2001, of the restored slip garden at Strokestown

The restored Lower Garden at Lissadell
**THURSDAY 5th OCTOBER**

6.00pm  Registration, Reception and Refreshment

7.30pm  Welcome by the chairman (NIHGT) Introduction to our opening speaker by Mike Snowden.

**FRIDAY 6th OCTOBER**

9.15am  Christopher Gallagher

*Mystery Plays, Restoration Dramas & the Rise of Significance: parks and gardens management since the mid-1980s.*

10.45am  Brian Dix

*Here’s one that was made earlier – thirty years’ experience of archaeology and garden reconstruction.*

11.35am  Neil Porteous

*Restoration, Reconstruction and Reinvigoration at Mount Stewart, Co. Down.*

**SATURDAY 7th OCTOBER**

9.15am  Seamus O’Brien

*Restoration of the gardens at Kilmacurragh, Co. Wicklow.*

10.30am  Catherine Fitzgerald

*Rejuvenation of the gardens at Hillsborough Castle, Co. Down.*

11.10am  Alan Ryan

*‘Diamond in the mine’ The restoration of Colclough walled garden.*

**FRIDAY 6th OCTOBER**

11.50am  Christopher O’Neill

*Ilnacullin: Rejuvenating the Irish Riviera: The OPW’s approach to the restoration and rejuvenation of the gardens on Garinish Island, West Cork.*

1.00pm  Lunch

2.00pm  Todd Longstaff-Gowan

*Kensington Redivivus: the recent refurbishment of the gardens at Kensington Palace.*

2.45pm  Gretta Doyle

*‘(It) captivates the eye at a distance, invites an approach, and is delightful when near’ - restoring the park and gardens at Castletown, Co. Kildare.*

3.00pm  Adam Whitbourn

*Sympathetic garden management, Is it all Blarney?’*

**THURSDAY 5th OCTOBER**

1.00pm  Lunch

**FRIDAY 6th OCTOBER**

2.00pm  Edward Walsh

*Restoring Lissadell – a work in progress* Site Visit to Lissadell park and gardens.

7.30pm  Dinner

*Venue: Riding House, Lissadell Speaker: Richard Wheeler*

*The Renaissance of the Renaissance Garden – restoring formality.*

**BOOKING FORM**

Conference fee: £150.00 €190.00
Including coffee/tea, luncheons & dinner.
Conference fee excluding dinner: £125.00 €175
Students fee excluding dinner £50 (€70)
(Limited offer to those who can demonstrate they are registered on an approved course in horticulture/architecture/landscape design)

Name(s) ..................................................

Address ..................................................

Tel./email: ..............................................

I enclose: ..............................................

Please advise of special dietary needs.

The Conference Hotel will be: Radisson Blue, Rosses Point. Other nearby hotels can be found on-line.

*Cheques or BACs payable to: Northern Ireland Heritage Gardens Trust*  
Send to: NIHGT  
12 Meadow Way, Crawfordsburn Co. Down, BT19 1JJ

Payment can be made via the NIHGT website: www.nihgt.org

http://www.facebook.com/nihgt  
https://twitter.com/nihgtc

No refunds will be given for cancellations within 3 days of the conference. £30/€30 will be retained on other cancellations.