

Landscape  
Research  
Extra 81  
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2017

landscape  
research  
group

Roger Dalton  
Chris Dalglish  
Owen Manning  
Hal Moggridge  
Gert Groening  
Markus Leibenath  
Nigel Young

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## LO STAGNONE: SALT PANS AND WINDMILLS

By Roger Dalton

The first morning of the trip took me to the Island of Motya almost at the westernmost point of Sicily and close to the city of Marsala of the fortified

wines. Motya is about 0.6 ha in extent and is famous for the four centuries between 800BC and 400BC when it was a Phoenician city defended by walls along the shoreline. The remains from this period are impressive as are the objects collected in the island museum. However, more eye catching in terms of landscape/seascape, is the big-skies-context of Motya within a 2,000 ha lagoon known



as Lo Stagnone. In Italian, *stagnare* is the verb to stagnate and this is indicative of the unusually shallow water of the lagoon. At around one metre in depth, water temperatures rise to around 34 degrees at the height of summer. Hence along the shores of the mainland and lagoon islands conditions have been ideal for the creation of salt pans. It is thought that the Phoenicians were the first to evaporate sea water to create salt for food preservation. From the middle ages windmills were used to pump sea water into the pans and to grind salt. Some of these still survive along with traditional raking of salt and the use of terracotta tiles to protect the resultant salt mounds from heavy rains. Lo Stagnone provides an environment for an important range of salt tolerant flora and fauna and is a staging post for bird migration between North Africa and Europe. In 1984 it was given status as a Nature Reserve so conservation policies are in place. Ease of road access plus the range of potential interest has put Lo Stagnone firmly on the tourist trail and is a worthy destination for a visit.

RD



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# The LRG Anniversary Research Fund

This year, the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of LRG is being marked by a range of activities on the theme of *landscape justice*. This theme is one of four prioritised in the LRG Research Strategy ([www.landscaperesearch.org/research/lrg-research-strategy](http://www.landscaperesearch.org/research/lrg-research-strategy)). Injustices relating to the landscape are diverse in form and impact. There are many examples of the need for fairer access and ownership, for fairer distribution of the benefits and harms relating to landscape and for more just ways of taking decisions about the landscape. Research has an important role to play here. It can provide evidence, analysis, insight and inspiration that helps to enable people to achieve greater landscape justice.

LRG is doing a number of things to promote research and dialogue on this topic. We are sponsoring events on justice themes in Germany and Australia and holding a major LRG debate on landscape justice in London. Our journal, *Landscape Research*, will feature a commissioned paper reviewing the research on landscape justice and migration.

Through the *Anniversary Research Fund*, we are supporting six research projects. The Fund was advertised last year and received applications from 13 countries (the UK, Ireland, France, Germany, Greece, the Netherlands, Spain, Russia, the USA, Argentina, Brazil, Australia and China). The six projects we have chosen to support illustrate the diversity of ways in which people are researching landscape justice. The researchers are based in a number of different sectors and the research is taking place in five different countries. We feel that the projects will – individually and collectively – advance understanding of landscape justice as an issue and a lived reality.

In the United Kingdom, **Kimm Curran** has received funding for her project *Inequality of Access and Inclusivity* (<https://enable-heritage.com/>). This project will evaluate the access policies of heritage organisations. The aim is to identify gaps in support for children with unseen disabilities, such as ASD (Autism Spectrum Disorder), in the context of landscape initiatives and cultural heritage activities. The project will explore ways of recognising the needs of children and young people with ASD, in

both policy and practice.

Also in the United Kingdom, the LRG has provided funding for **Storey G2's** project, *Landed (Cadastral Maps) – a pilot* ([www.storeyg2.org.uk/news/new-project-landed-cadastral-maps-pilot/](http://www.storeyg2.org.uk/news/new-project-landed-cadastral-maps-pilot/)). This project aims to highlight the issue of unequal ownership of land in the UK and its effects on people's lives. The LRG grant will support research which will inform the production of an artists' cadastral map that will reveal current and historical landownership in a rural area of northern England, showing change over time.

In *Melting the Ice in the Heart of Man*, film-maker **Jasper Coppes** will investigate landscape change in Greenland and the ways in which this may impact upon native Greenlandic communities. The LRG grant will support Jasper's initial research into this topic, and help to enable the development of a collaborative documentary film production which will communicate a critical understanding of the differences between colonial and indigenous audiovisual perception of the changing arctic environment.

**Kalliopi Pediaditi's** project – *Grass Roots Empowerment for Landscape Justice* – concerns the UNESCO Geopark of Sitia in eastern Crete. This project will investigate local communities' perceptions of their landscape, their bonds to it and their visions for its future. The aim of the project is to support grass roots community initiatives and the management authority of the Geopark in their collective effort to plan and shape a sustainable future for the landscape.

**María Vallejos** will be investigating *Land Use Changes and Land Tenure Conflicts: the Case of South American Chaco*. This research is addressing the problem of the inequitable distribution of benefits and harms arising from land use changes taking place in Argentina. The aim is to study how changes in access to the landscape and in land use are differentially affecting different peoples' wellbeing and generating conflicts in the distribution of natural resources. The information generated by the project is intended to inform efforts to improve territorial planning and conflict resolution.

**Michela Ghislanzoni** has received funding for the project *Disappearance and Enclosure of Rural Public Ways in Spain: Impact on the Right to Landscape* (

<https://caminospublicos.org/>). This project will investigate the loss of public rights of way in Spain, the consequences of which are not yet sufficiently defined. In particular, the research will study the impact of this loss on people's 'right to landscape'. The ultimate aim is to promote awareness of the issue and to support efforts to protect these rights of way.

Further information about the project can be found on the websites listed above or in the LRG e-Bulletins for March and June 2017, available at:

<http://us9.campaign-archive2.com/?u=94ca2b8bfff9858c3b6d7f6a8&id=562883a08d>

<http://us9.campaign-archive2.com/?u=94ca2b8bfff9858c3b6d7f6a8&id=45ce188e06>



**Chris Dalglish,**

LRG Chair (and  
Research  
Coordinator  
prior to May 2017)

## GOING, GOING, GONE.....

**By Owen Manning**

Loss of something remembered is sometimes hard to accept. But memory is two-edged; it depends on where we are coming from. Over decades of visits to Blewbury in Oxfordshire, a certain path has taken me out onto an open brow to gaze over, and photograph yet again the great vale spreading west, east and far north beyond distant Oxford. Now I fear re-visiting this place – because Didcot Power Station will have gone! Those vast cooling towers, almost graceful as they opened to the sky: the towers which for decades rose over the plain, drawing all eyes, gathering all perspectives towards them – have one by one been dismantled, with the turbine hall and one lone chimney soon to disappear in their turn, leaving.....what?

For me, frankly, an emptiness. Didcot's towers were colossal, their absence now almost cataclysmic.

And yet, actually, am I entitled to feel this? Have I any idea what locals themselves thought about their power station? Was it for them a significant focal element or an unwanted reminder of a grubby smelly past? I'm not sure how far the loss of Didcot's towers has been bemoaned or welcomed (I am told there was widespread concern), or whether industrial communities elsewhere have necessarily wanted all signs of their own or their parents' past lives taken away (I believe not). Nor am I sure whether Kit Wright in his hilarious *Ode to Didcot*



*Power Station* is bemoaning, or just enjoying himself:

*What vasty thighs outspread to give thee birth,  
DIDCOT, thou marvel of the plain?  
Colossal funnels of the steamship EARTH.... etc*

We may forget however that Didcot Power Station was only commissioned in 1964, and never meant to last! Preceding centuries knew something very different: a very epitome of rural England: to the

west it reaches to the Vale of White Horse eulogised with quiet passion by Thomas Hughes in the opening pages of that archetypal school story, *Tom Brown's School Days*; Oxford to the north and its hills the setting for Matthew Arnold's eternally wandering *Scholar Gypsy*; and the Thames the inspiration for Kenneth Graham, his playground as a boy and immortalised in *The Wind in the Willows*.

One might ask whether this special piece of England need have suffered the intrusion of power stations and cooling towers at all, but it's too late for that. Who anyway in years to come will remember this disappeared colossus of the Vale? Few will know how its great towers seemed to connect land and sky, or, floating above a sea of mist, caught the gleam of sunrise and sunset – just as (sadder by far) few now remember the great elm-trees, archetypes for painters and poets, which towered over the countryside for all of history and which we never ever thought might just *go*.....

We have had to adjust to a humbler lower-canopied landscape since. The great spread of land from White Horse to the Thames and beyond will adapt to the loss of its temporary giant and become something else again, perhaps not so different from what it once was.

Ignore the monstrous roads, the urban/industrial sprawl, all the mindless clutter of this century, and look between: there is still much that earlier generations might recognise. They might miss the richness of human and wildlife which our era has swept away, yet the great view from White Horse Hill still astonishes with its panorama of farmland and woodland; Wittenham Clumps still look over a scene

Kenneth Graham might have known. Even the A415 linking two roaring trunk roads must still zig-zag respectfully through quiet villages, or halt at hump-back bridges, below one of which the Thames still winds between tree-lined banks — as I found recently, wandering along miles of riverside in a golden evening, accompanied by a swan.

And perhaps in some future when we've learned to value quality over quantity, that former richness will return: the myriad flowers, the birds and bird-song, the great trees, people working the fields even: a time when we might, as in Joseph Campbell's elegaic poem *Evening*,

*...learn the things old times have left unsaid,  
And read the secrets of an age long gone,  
And out of twilight and the darkening plain  
Build up all that old quiet world again.*

## Postscript

In this matter of landscapes remembered, I now wonder if childhood experience is sufficiently considered as a factor. How many protesters at the loss of Didcot Power Station were affected not so much by mature judgement as by memory of childhood wonder at those great puffing monsters above them? As for my own regret at the loss of England's elms, I've no doubt as to its origin — in memories of the majestic trees of the Exe valley which towered over the fields where I played as a child. Enormous they seemed to me (as indeed they could be — 45m high and 8m girth not unknown), their canopies filling the sky high above, roaring in the gales. Nothing can replace them.

## The Somesville Library on Mount Desert Island, Maine.

By Gert Groening

Mount Desert Island in Maine is a significant place for the development of landscape architecture in the United States of America. I learned this on a recent visit to the island. Here Acadia National Park became established in 1916 as *Sieur de Monts National Monument* – 5000 acres of conserved landscape within a notable vacationing area. The idea for this national park originated with Charles Eliot (1859-1897). His father Charles William Eliot (1834-1926), the longtime president of Harvard University, had wanted his son to become the first professor of landscape architecture at Harvard. Unfortunately his son died prematurely in 1897.

Charles Eliot's father owned a summer house on Mount Desert Island. With the help of George B. Dorr (1853-1944) he established an association which finally succeeded in setting aside large tracts of land on the Island to create Acadia National Park. The 1942 book *Acadia National Park. Its Origins and Background* by George Dorr is an outstanding example of lobbying for a national park in a democratic society.

Beatrix Farrand (1872-1959) founding member and at that time the only woman in the American



Society of Landscape Architects also had a home on the Island near Reef Point and later at Garland Farm. She was quite a remarkable woman and worth following up if you have not heard of her though most landscape designers will have.

At the northwestern corner of Somes Sound lies Somesville Library operated by the Somesville Library Association. As I learned from Thomas V. Lange, the Librarian there, it was built around 1903 after many years of fund-raising by local ladies and community groups. It is something of a center for landscape studies. Its holdings include a section on Maine history and life. Previously, books had been housed in local resident's homes, but it was felt that having a central location would add to the sense of community, and make books equally available to all.

In 1905 the library became incorporated. Since then it has remained a privately-run library making books and other reading materials available to the public. It receives a small annual stipend from the town.

**GG**

### **HAL MOGGRIDGE, SLOW GROWTH: A book, just available. Hal is a long standing member of LRG.**

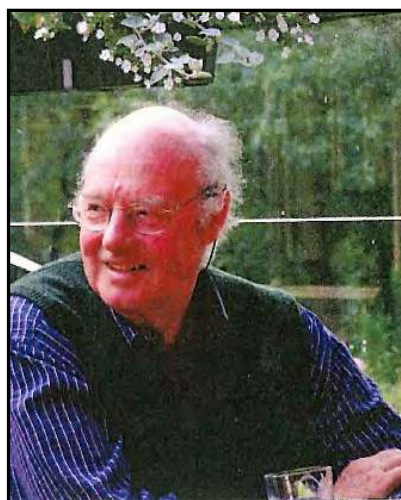
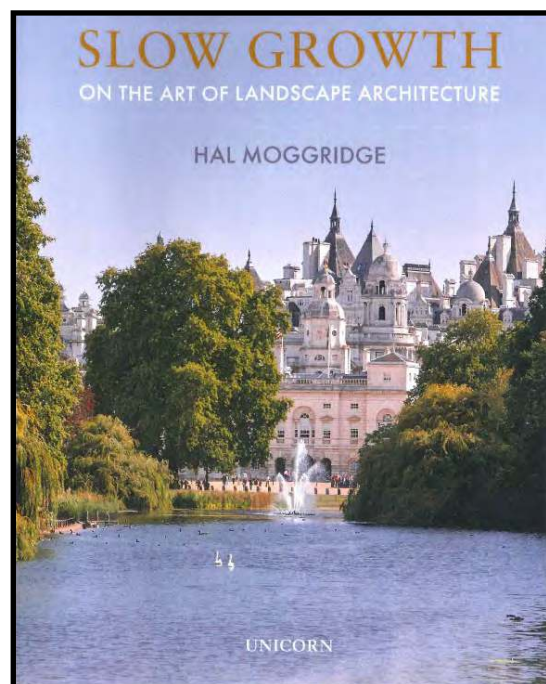
Hardback; 360 pages; 287 x 228 mm; BIC Code: AMV, WMQL; 1000 photographs and diagrams. **978-1-910787-42-7; September 2017; Unicorn Publishing Group; £30.00.**

The art of landscape architecture is in need of the description and illustration as adopted in the broad comprehensive terms adopted by this book. Ideas and techniques of naturalistic landscape design are explored in eleven chapters, often illustrated by Colvin & Moggridge's projects from before the era of digital presentation. Description of design processes is sometimes broadened into anecdotes arising from a working life. A modernised form of the naturalistic landscape design approach, invented in England in the eighteenth century, is shown still to be relevant for contemporary life.

The first four chapters discuss human responses to landscape and to being outdoors in the British Isles, concluding with examples of design organised by understanding of how people move on foot. The eighteenth century naturalistic English landscape style is then explored through a series of historical restoration projects, followed by twentieth century designs of rural parks and lakes, a direct evolution from this tradition.

Two chapters illustrate human influence on rural scenery, first, low key examples which are often mistaken for nature, then natural beauty in industrial landscape design, quarries and artificial hills. After looking at artworks and buildings in landscape the book concludes with two chapters about cities as urban landscape, the first of which analyses urban views and skylines, and ends with modest interventions in London's Inner Royal Parks. The book cover shows one of these, Horse Guards Parade in St James's Park — where the car park for civil servants was replaced by a fine gravelled pedestrian space — and removal of a few trees revealed a view of Kent's building from the lake bridge.

The sweeping scope of the book displays the breadth of landscape architecture.



Hal has been around a long time and is a longstanding member of LRG. From 1969 he was principal of Colvin and Moggridge, the oldest surviving British landscape practice. At that date he joined the late Brenda Colvin who had founded

the practice in 1922, In 1997 he became a consultant, a position he still enjoys. I haven't asked him his age! It is good to see that he has written a book. Will he send me a free copy? Forget I said that.

# RURAL SOUND

By Nigel Young\*

I had spent some time putting together a collection of extract pieces on sound in the landscape, and then feeling the need for exercise went out into the winter sun and walked. And as I walked — or stood — I listened to the sounds of ‘my particular patch’. It’s very rural and visually it is idyllic. What, I thought, is the significance of sound in landscape? In what way should one discuss the significance of an element that is not landscape in the real sense of the word — a view, a composed scene, something quintessentially visual. Here I had all of that: I am surrounded by a complexity of steep slopes at the foot of which is a precisely defined flat bottomed stream valley running down to the road; the Manor House lies just below me. Out beyond are wooded hills and on the very edge of my vision that locally well know granite prominence, Haytor, from which you can see the sea and the Isle of Portland on a good day. Over to the right, Hayne Down where bonfire smoke was rising. Close by I could see my church tower and on the steep grassland I had just crossed was a flock of sheep, nibbling, heads down. The light at 3.30 pm was a deep and luminous yellow, as the sun neared the horizon. Bracken on Hingston, far to the left, shone rich russet red. That is landscape, its shape its cover its receding layers, its associations. But what of its sounds? And should I claim that they add a further dimension to my experience. Landscape is to be experienced with all five senses? Is that what we would claim?

My patch is an essentially quiet place, no helicopters today and no vapour trails. But I could hear occasional cars and vans along the B3212 road which snakes its way from our town to Exeter. I hear traffic well, because that is what my hearing aids achieve on standard setting. The sound of the stream I had followed, changed from acutely noisy to calm as I walked up it — it has pools and stretches of differing gradient. It is a very small stream, one might call it a rivulet. Once out on the farm lane, I got the sound of crows which I like to distinguish between jackdaws, rooks and ravens, which last, croak as they fly. A cow sounded — Victorians might say ‘lowed’ — always as if in distress and did this three times. I was aware of a cluster of twittering from smaller birds which Peter Howard, would carefully recognise and disentangle: to me it formed a pleasing springtime background. Field-fares were working a pasture but made no noise. Two dog walkers were quietly talking on a path above me. No church bells! And then a single metallic clunk of something being moved at Bradford’s Builders merchants. The real world! So I may count the noises on the fingers of two hands. I can hear

the absence of noise which we call silence. There

## A note from Steven Shuttleworth, Treasurer to LRG

“Bud I spotted something that means you will need to publish a correction in LRE81, please. On LRE 80 page 3 under the article by Markus Leibenath was a note to say that he was now the Treasurer. He isn't - he has taken over as Company Secretary; and I remain the Treasurer. Can you please insert a line or two in LRE81 to make clear which of us doing what!”

Thankyou for that clarification, Steven. **Editor**

are no electric hums, no continuous roar of traffic, not even the sounds of leaf blowers — for it is winter — or lawn mowers for the same reason. Nor did I hear those sounds which most appeal to me, of children released into the playground — of carpenters hammering together joists on sunlit roofs: the sounds of a small settlement getting on with its business. The church clock had not yet struck 4.

## RNY

**\* I hear on the BBC that not a single newborn child in the UK was registered as ‘Nigel’ this year. I have therefore decided to revert to my given name.**

The views and opinions in this publication are those of the contributing authors and the senior editor individually and do not necessarily agree with those of the Group.

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[www.landscaperesearch.org](http://www.landscaperesearch.org)

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Editorial enquiries for LRExtra contact

[young@airphotointerpretation.com](mailto:young@airphotointerpretation.com).

For the refereed journal Landscape Research

Contact Editor Dr Anna Jorgensen

[a.jorgensen@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:a.jorgensen@sheffield.ac.uk)

## Navigating Between Conservation, Wilderness and Economic Development. The 5<sup>th</sup> Workshop of LRG's German Partner Organisation.

A report from Mark Leibenath

Delegates from landscape planning firms, civil society, public authorities as well as academia gathered in September for the 5<sup>th</sup> annual workshop of the "Arbeitskreis Landschaftsforschung" or "Working Group for Landscape Research", LRG's German partner organisation. The event, which was sponsored in part by LRG, took place in the rural municipality of Odernheim, not far from Mainz, in the midst of rolling hills and vineyards (see figure 1). Odernheim, or more precisely the so-called Disibodenberg, also is the place where 12<sup>th</sup>-century saint and sage Hildegard of Bingen spent 30 years of her life. The place is still littered with remnants of the Benedictine cloister in which she lived.

The workshop programme focused on "Protecting and using landscapes: Large protected areas caught between the conflicting interests of conservation, economic development and politics". It included a mixture of presentations, group discussions and field trips.

Large protected areas cover nearly a third of Germany's territory. As the country has committed itself to a far reaching energy transition or "Energiewende", there are many tensions between conservation and landscape protection on the

one hand and renewable energies facilities such as wind turbines on the other hand. One speaker presented a sophisticated, GIS-based methodology for analysing and minimizing such conflicts. Other presenters talked about the relations between wilderness development and tourists' expectations, about trans-boundary conservation efforts as well as about approaches to use protected areas for developing local or regional brands.



Vineyards and rolling hills overlooking the workshop venue (photo: Markus Leibenath).

The Land (or state) of Rhineland-Palatinate, where Odernheim is located, boasts a number of large protected areas such as a biosphere reserve, several nature parks and since recently also a national park. The area of the new national park is called "Hunsrueck-Hochwald" and was identified in a com-



Quartzite quarries create major conflicts between conservation and economic development in the nature park Soonwald-Nahe (photo: Markus Leibenath).



bination of expert-led assessments and grassroots democracy. As one representative of the state forest authority explained, there had initially been three potential areas. However, only the local councils of the Hunsrueck-Hochwald region endorsed the idea of becoming a national park.

### List of Principal Speakers

Prof. Dr. Olaf Kuehne; *Universitaet Tuebingen*

#### **Landscape theory and large protected areas**

Dieter Gruendonner; *Gutschker-Dongus landscape architects and planners*

#### **Wind energy plants in a nature park: How many turbines can a landscape bear?**

Dr. Cormac Walsh; *Universitaet Hamburg*

#### **Crossing Boundaries: Wadden Sea National Parks in Denmark and Germany**

Joerg Liesen; *deputy chief executive of the German Association of Nature Parks*

#### **Conserving cultural landscapes by means of regional marketing and tourist offers**

Prof. Dr. Heidi Megerle; *University of Applied Sciences Rottenburg*

#### **Protected geotopes – torn between conservation and use**

Erik Aschenbrand; *Nature Park Reinhardswald*

#### **The bark beetle – an enemy of conservationists? Tourist demands regarding landscapes and their implications for large protected areas**

Dr. Markus Leibenath; *Leibniz Institute of Ecological Urban and Regional Development*

#### **“Natural Capital Germany – TEEB DE” – a step towards neoliberalising German nature conservation policies?**

The main field trip consisted of a bus tour with interspersed walks through the nature park Soonwald-Nahe that features large swathes of beech forest including pockets of near-natural stocks of trees. Representatives of the park authority and the district authority showed us sites of conflicts between conservation, hiking, wind energy developments as well as

large quarries. There is a close monitoring especially of the hydrological impacts of the quarries, which already existed before the nature park was established, as one our guides told us while we were standing right on the rim of one quarry.

## ML

### Editor's footnote

It is extraordinary, No! it is unexpected and exciting! to go via Google Earth to the sites Markus refers to in his report. I will not spoil it for you but cannot resist wowing at the vineyards, the terraced hillsides, and rather to the north west of the town of Odernheim a huge photo voltaic power station, a fieldfull that is! This vineyard rich landscape is altogether non English. What a wealth of different fielded landscapes there are within and between different European lowland areas. Landscape characterisation in the UK is the job of public bodies not of academics, but it does seem to me that explanation of difference justifiably qualifies as a research topic.

PS I see for (my) first time that the Ordnance Survey show a photo voltaic site on their 1:25,000 scale map (Sheet 142 Shepton Mallet and Mendip East). The revision date is 2010. Does anyone know when they began to record them? NB a village at the same scale.



[Book tickets NOW](#) (early bird rate until 31 October 2017).

## Landscape Justice

### A Debate

**What is landscape justice and why does it matter?**

Wednesday 6 December 2017, 2 – 6 pm

The Wellcome Collection, London NW1 2BE

Followed by a drinks reception and optional dinner

#### Join us on 6 December for a debate with:

[Dr Aviva Rahmani](#), an eco-art activist whose public and ecological art projects have involved collaborative interdisciplinary community teams with scientists, planners and environmentalists



[Peter Peacock](#), a land reform campaigner, who acts as the Policy Director of Community Land Scotland. He has an extensive background in public policy as leader of a large regional local authority in Scotland and a former MSP and Scottish government Minister

[Professor Emily Brady](#), Professor of Environment and Philosophy at the University of Edinburgh, is a senior academic and philosopher who writes and speaks widely on landscape, aesthetics, and environmental ethics.



[Professor Ken Olwig](#), a geographer and philologist, who is interested in the relationship between different concepts of law and different concepts of landscape, and the consequences for landscape justice. He lives in Scandinavia, but his lecturing and research takes him all over Britain, Europe and the world

The event is chaired by LRG Director [Chris Dalglish](#) whose bearded face appears on page 3.

*(For more about the speakers and their 'take' on landscape justice, search on their names. Email us if you require more information about the event).*

**As this issue has a lot to say about landscape justice, it is salutary to consider this excerpt from LRE 57.**

#### **'Sercombe Griffin's 1936 Palestine Transformed'**

An extract from LRE 57 February 2011

"Envisage this 40 foot high concrete wall immediately behind your house separating you from your land, with its vegetables, fruit trees, olives. The Wall and new roads also denies you access to your business, to markets, and often to hospital and school. Forget about getting to the next village, let alone Jerusalem unless you have a pass, rarely granted. Much of our visit was behind the Wall, but we kept hitting it. It does not run in a logical line along the 1948 armistice boundary, when it could realistically be used for security. No, it runs four times that distance to surround a profusion of vast new settlements, which may house many tens of thousands of Israeli Jews. It also includes swathes of Palestinian land round these new cities, and all sources of water, much from aquifers deep below West Bank territory." **Chris Griffin visiting 75 years after his grandfather who wrote of a tour through the land of Palestine. Chris aimed to follow the same route!**

# A Cooperative Agricultural Landscape at Osh in Kyrgystan.

Some people do the most amazing things. My nearly retired neighbour Ian and his twenty something daughter



Photo copyright of Ian Stewart Watson, 2017.

Sarah, have been driving in a loose agglomeration of cars to Mongolia. And the car they are using is a 13 year old Nissan Micra. I have just logged in to their blog. I read that they had passed through Osh in Kyrgystan and were moving on along the M41, the Pamir Highway. They show a photo of this highway, a stony track, as it climbs into a mountain area. Now they are back in England and with their agreement I am showing you one of their many startling landscapes — horses moving out to graze at Son Kul, also in Kyrgystan — but alongside of that amazing landscape I will tell you that the most exciting aspect of this journey for me — as I sit in my armchair (smoke my pipe etc) is to examine the farmed landscapes of Osh using Google Earth. Their travels have opened my eyes to a whole new area.

I have often voiced the opinion that we in the landscape research clique have narrowed landscape down to an academic level that begins to ignore what we see around us. I correct myself here for it is not so in the latest issue of LR which is about the land use of shrunken cities, nor in the previous issue which I have to hand. Articles in these

issues look almost like geography, embracing modern computer mapping, ecology and sociology. What then of landscape as something seen and experienced?

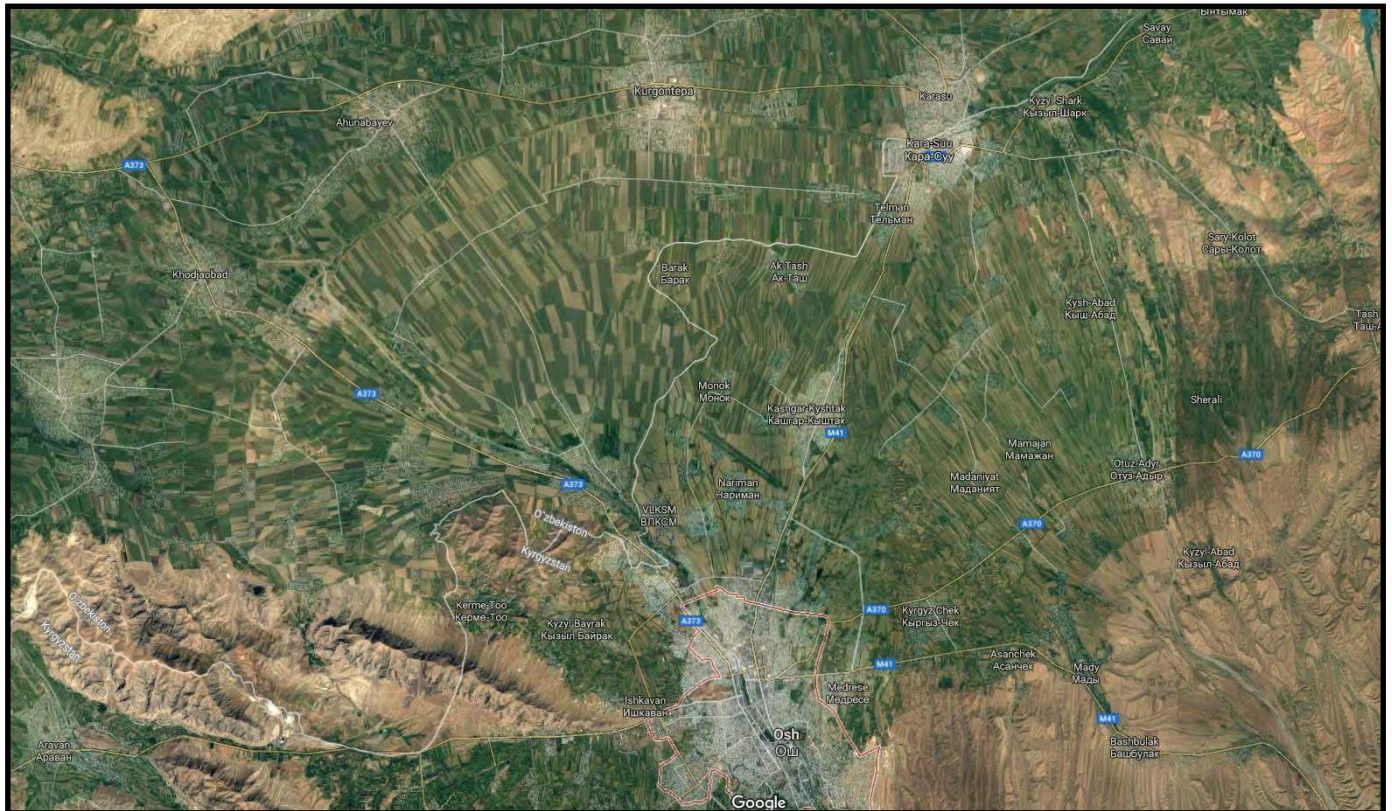
I have a book in front of me *Types of Rural Economy* by Rene Dumont (1954 in French, 1957 first English edition). It was withdrawn from the stock of Herefordshire County Libraries in 1970 having been stamped out to readers 16 times. It is by now a fascinating but dated archive in that it deals in great detail with sixteen (that number again) of distinct regions - ten in Europe as far as Hungary and six in 'overseas colonialized countries'.

What attracted me to Dumont's survey was the detail he offers of land use and land holding — so many examples of tiny farms, small holdings supporting individual families on subsistence basis. By small think of 2.5 acres. Landscape justice comes to mind. And he describes small elongate holdings only as wide as the family's roadside house and attached stable. [He also deals with the redistribution of land in 1945 and 1946—I found the expulsion of ethnic Germans from Sudetenland particularly astonishing — and sovietisation]. It is a book offering a wealth of hard fact. Can it be that European Agricultural policies have digested, understood and accommodated the whole of this (post war therefore 'recent') historical background.

**Let me return to Osh.** My interest in the size of holdings and their effect on landscape was aroused by the 'open field systems' of that region. Google Earth imagery portrays the area in a way that is akin to art. I see the town of Osh clustered around the debouchment of a river which carries down sediments from the country's huge (towering, magnificent) Tien Shan mountains. I look more closely and identify two ranges to the west of the city and a markedly eroded landscape to the east. Out to the north the agricultural area spreads in the shape of an alluvial fan — surely an inaccurate and over simplified picturing of a much more complex geology. It has a fan shaped grain, the scale is massive (so not an alluvial fan) and the centre line of the fan is northwards from Osh.

The grain is provided by an immense number of elongate narrow parcels of cultivated land. In England or France I would look at these and call them Open Fields. But that is not what I conclude here. They are, I think redistributed plots in a cooperative farming system. (A reader more knowledgeable about cooperative farming in Kyrgystan will be able to help me here). I include an image published by Google Earth. In it, at first hardly obvious, is the distribution of dozens of tightly bound settlement areas. All the hallmarks of centralised rural planning.

What I do not have is the 3-dimensionality of this landscape. Or does Google earth offer this facility? Yes it does in that it shows the mountains in the background but



it falls down in flat land. Flatland seen from ground level it registers as a monotonous foreground/midground soup. And I hazard a guess that to travel through the land of Osh by car is rather similar. From the road it will be impossible to see the amazing strips of farmed land and the carefully distributed, tightly limited cooperative settlements that this landscape offers. It will be impossible to discern the different strip patterns and the size range: some of the strips are narrow, **very** narrow, and some are much wider. Farmed strips on gentle slopes which arrange themselves in complex chevrons will go unnoticed. I must therefore ask my readers to go to Google Earth and see the landscape that ground observers are denied. I will ask my neighbours what they recall of that particular landscape. I am pretty sure that it will be a 'nothing landscape' just a road through flat farmed land. There may have been roadside bill boards.

So this leaves me with the two big questions: is treeless flat land seen from the ground really landscape? Alternatively, does land seen from the air in all its complexity of subdivision, its pattern of holdings and its settlement/farmland interface qualify as landscape? Or is it land use? Today watch your television and it's all about drones. Drone cameramen are achieving a breakthrough in our appreciation of landscape.

And the second question: has anyone ever studied and written about this amazing landscape! Is it landscape justice or just land use justice?

*As a helpful note if you are examining this issue of LRE on screen go to view at 200% to examine the detail. Alternatively Google Earth 'Osh' which allows you into the most minute detail.*

*You may also see this article as an invitation to examine the landscapes of a dozen other parts of the World. Perhaps I don't mean landscapes at all! RNY*

