

landscape
research
extra 72

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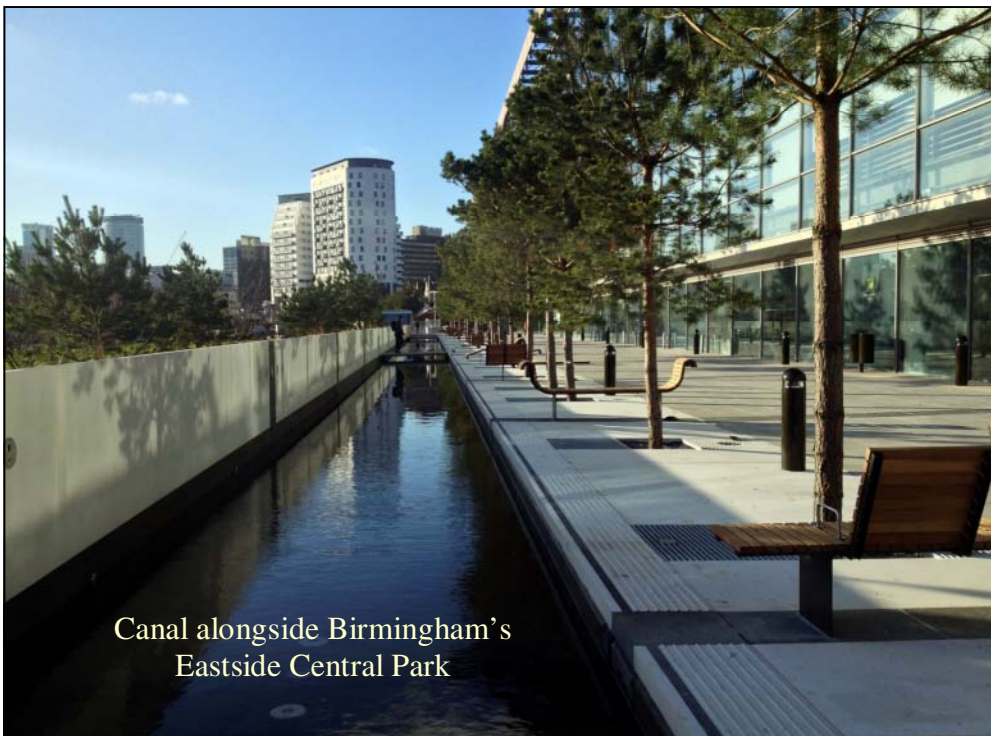


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Brian Goodey on Rethinking the Urban Landscape

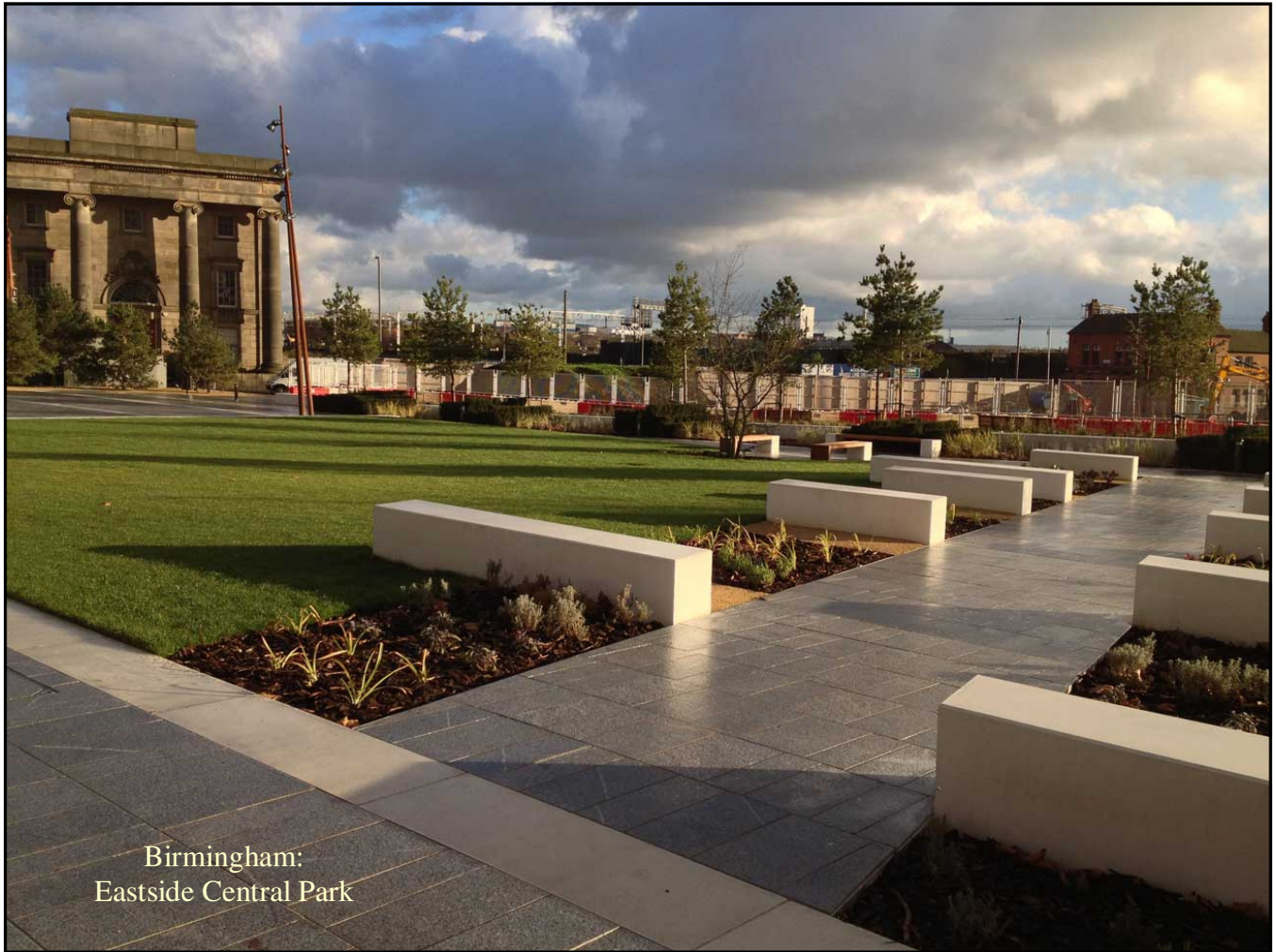


Canal alongside Birmingham's
Eastside Central Park

So, coming soon, London's latest 'public' park, The Sky Garden' situated atop the new 'Walkie-Talkie' building at 20, Fenchurch Street. This must have sounded good when Canary Wharf Group and Land Securities obtained their planning permission. Now you can have a 90 minute spell in 'the park in the sky' provided

you have booked, arrived on time, have a photo ID and a bank account that permits your eating. Not, of course, the grassy banks but rather a tiered sequence of specimen planted beds, backed by London's skyline views. This then is formal 'parkland' for the connoisseur, the probing tourist and for those who want to rise higher than Tate Modern's Member's lounge! Secure, elevated, climate controlled maybe, but not a park.

Some rain-sodden, jammed streets to the west of the London Building Centre may offer more useful landscape reinforcement to its **'Rethinking the Urban Landscape Exhibi-**



Birmingham:
Eastside Central Park

tion' which *'argues the case for investing in landscape in the early stages of city planning and explores innovative ways to tackle some of the big challenges facing contemporary urban society.'*

This must require more than a glance in a week in which Paris has been forced to exhibit the extreme challenges which a modern city faces. Not only did that city's 19th century defensible design hold up well, but within the week it could be converted into spaces of measured unity where 1 million plus people calmly walked the streets headed by leaders, from Ireland on the left to Ukraine on the right (as the image read). It is worth considering whether such a demonstration could claim the public space of London's morphology. No! They are French and we are British, our urban public spaces are small, informal and aside from the Mall or Trafalgar Square, do not invite such events. Note, too, that the New Year's London celebration has now moved from the spontaneity of Trafalgar Square to the ticketed barriers of the

Embankment.

So what, exactly, does the Building Centre, in association with the professional body, The Landscape Institute, offer? In large part you can share in the exhibition, as most photographic panels are on-line at the Building Centre web-

site. The presentations seem to be largely practice-led (and edited) with the result that there is little evidence of a neutral voice questioning how, or how well, landscape design is meeting the range of sustainability let alone the social challenges faced at various scales in the contemporary urban envi-



A part of the Accordia
Development
Cambridge

ronment. The exhibition is themed – Water, Beauty etc – **but for me four other themes emerged.**

First there were the major engineering projects that embodied a landscape element – the completed and then redeveloped London Olympic site, and, in prospect, the Swansea Bay tidal structure... and the projected Thames Garden Bridge (if built will this be another controlled environment?)

Second there was a leavening of overseas schemes which suggested achievements or ideas which were, in general, more space demanding – China, Iowa and Valencia all offering new landscapes in keeping with their contexts.

Third Masterplanning substantial new urban developments such as Accordia at Cambridge and public and commercial spaces at the revitalised Kings Cross.

Fourth and here I began to sense some understanding of what urban landscape should mean to the daily city user, small scale insertions and restructuring of townscape reflecting existing – rather than idealised – social life.

At the park/public space scale Arundel Square, Islington and Birmingham's new Eastside City Park would seem to deserve a visit, as would Bradford's water-dominated Central Park, where lighting is a major feature. At the smaller scale there is a clutch of greening and waymarking initiatives which should set many local agendas. Incredible Edible at Todmorden has already achieved much attention, but Glasgow's Growing Spaces are a hard-fought set of pocket allotments. The Breaker's Yard, pocket community park at Sutton House also caught the eye.

There is, it seems, an increasing gulf between the happily informal, community-based small urban landscape initiatives which rely on a committed group to help design and maintain a local space, and the larger public space projects where any reference to dense ground level interest and excitement may be sacrificed for easily maintained, 'job-finished' hard landscaping.

Truly public landscapes are harder to

come by: a plethora of rules, public and private, re-mould public use, and maintenance costs rule over planting choice. **We could not, and probably should not, aim at large new urban gathering spaces, whether for protest or affirmation, but we could encourage many more local initiatives where communing with neighbours is achieved through design, building and maintenance.**

Brian Goodey Professor Emeritus, Urban Landscape Design, Oxford Brookes University

Note The exhibition, 'Rethinking the Urban Landscape' is at the London Building Centre from 8 January to 10 February 2015. Fortunately the detailed content of the exhibition is also available under the exhibition title at the Building Centre's website.



The Landscape Research Group aspires to broaden its membership base and to extend its geographic reach. What could serve this goal better than a European,

public conference on a current topic?

This is the rationale behind the idea to organise a European Conference of the Landscape Research Group on **September 16-18, 2015, in Dresden, Germany**. There is an advisory board which involves several LRG directors, but also other experts in the field.

Dresden, capital of the Free State of Saxony, is a vibrant city with a growing population. It boasts some of the world's finest philharmonic orchestras and art museums, including a collection of landscape paintings by the romantic painter Caspar David Friedrich. It is also a city of research and technology with Technische Universität Dresden being one out of eleven "*universities of excellence*" in Germany. The city is located in the river Elbe valley, close to

the Elbe Sandstone Mountains and the Ore Mountains (Erzgebirge / Krušnohoří) on the Czech-German border. There are a number of historic castles and gardens such as Pillnitz and Moritzburg at Dresden's fringes, besides the Royal Castle with its famous "Green Vault" and the reconstructed Frauenkirche in the city centre.

The conference will be hosted by the Leibniz Institute of Ecological Urban and Regional Development, a publicly funded, not-for-profit establishment of the Leibniz Association for research in the spatial sciences (www.ioer.de/1/home/). It is supported by the Technische Universität Dresden, the German-speaking working group on landscape research (Arbeitskreis Landschaftsforschung) and the COST action, Renewable Energy and Landscape Quality" (RELY).

The title of the conference is **Energy Landscapes: Perception, Planning, Participation and Power**. Specifically it looks for papers which take up issues of perception, planning, participation or power in relation to other landscape transformations; papers without explicit reference to energy, are also welcome. There will be keynote addresses by renowned academics for each of the four "P's": Patrick Devine-Wright will speak on "perception"; María-José Prados Velasco (ES) on "planning"; Marten Wolsink (NL) on "participation" and Don Mitchell (USA) on "power".

I have put out a call for papers and this can be accessed via the conference website (lrg2015.ioer.info). It will remain open until February 28, 2015. It is intended to publish selected conference papers as a special issue of LRG's journal Landscape Research. Another set of rather practice-oriented manuscripts will be included in an edited book volume which will be published in cooperation with RELY.

More information can be obtained from the conference website (lrg2015.ioer.info) or by contacting directly Markus Leibenath who chairs the Local Organising Committee and sits also on LRG's board.

Markus Leibenath

ANTHOLOGY — OTHER PEOPLE'S WRITINGS

Gary Ferguson

Of course when you destroy an ecosystem, you don't necessarily get the same ecosystem the second time around. In West Virginia the astonishing old-growth red spruce groves — the so called "he-balsam" and probably the finest tree in the world for making the belly of violins — never did manage much of a comeback. Red spruce doesn't reproduce well from stumps, relying instead on sprouts from seed. And the dry dessicated lands left in the wake of logging made that all but impossible. Instead we got brambles, and then aspen and fire cherry, and finally trees like maple, and yellow birch and beech.

The land is turning more southern, the steep hills gone to dogwoods and young Virginia pine, fan leaved hawthorn and shagbark hickory, locust and crown vetch, ailanthus and monsoon vines. There is so much humidity, so much transpiration from these runs of trees that the hills have grown bleary, weakened from kelly green to murky sage. There's a catchy spirited prance and gambol in these back roads: From the crest of a ridge you snake down the other side on a ribbon of pavement or dirt that looks like cooked spaghetti tossed on the plate, making your way through beautiful hardwoods and conifers along the way, finally bottoming out into a narrow strip of valley from forty to several hundred yards wide; run that to the far end, then climb up and over another wooded ridge. Over and over again, mile after sweet twisted mile. The mold is finally broken near Newport Virginia in a long and lovely bottom, cut through the centre by State Highway 42, rimmed by open country green and gold, much of it dappled by dairy herds.

*Extract from pages 76/77 of **The Sylvan Path: A Journey through America's Forests** author Gary Ferguson published by St Martins Press New York 1997.*

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Horace Kephart

A Brule (accent aigue) or burnt-wood is a nasty place to pass though. Every foot of ground that is not covered by

charred snags or fallen trunks and limbs, bristles with a new growth of fireweed, blackberry and raspberry briars, young red cherries, white birches and poplars, quaking aspens, scrub oaks or grey pines. Where the fire has occurred on one of those barren ridges that was covered with dwarfish oak (post, black or blackjack) the sharp fire-hardened stubs of limbs protrude, like bayonets at the height of one's face, menacing the eyes.

*Extract from Horace Kephart, **Camping and Woodcraft** (the second part subtitled **A Handbook for Travellers in the Wilderness**) page 44, 1916 published by the Macmillan Company New York.*

**

George Monbiot

I followed the Bwlch-y-maen—rocky hollow—trail over bare hills and down bare valleys until it brought me to a point overlooking a wide basin, cradling a small reservoir called Lyn Craig –y-pistll. I sat on a rock and felt myself slumping into depression. The grass of the basin was already dressed in its winter colours. There were no tints but grey, brown and black: grey water, cardboard coloured grass, a black crown of sitka spruce on the far hills. The occasional black scar of a farm track relieved rather than spoilt the view. My map told me that if I walked for the rest of that day and all the next, nothing would change: the plateau remained treeless but for an occasional cluster of sallow or birch, and the grim palisades of planted spruce.

*From George Monbiot, **Feral** page 64. Publisher Penguin Books 2014 (first published by Allen Lane 2013).*

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Editor's note: I have recently returned from Boston Mass (no one writes the state's name in full do they?) where my son lives in a woodland attached to the Belmont Audubon Nature Reserve. I wander through these woods and am at a loss to know what trees I am seeing. In England I have no trouble. For that reason I bought the book **The Sylvan Path** (see first extract) and am beginning to familiarise myself with American trees and forest types. It is a small beginning.

The second extract (Horace Kephart) is from a book I revered as a boy in 1951 and treats American woods as they were before they were clear felled for their rich haul of timber. Gary Ferguson's book gives some background to the history of clear felling. Capitalism at its greediest ... but not confined to the 19th century for I have seen the whole of three islands of the Bahamas clear felled in the same way in the late 1960s and early 1970s. This was done under 'Crown licence' by Owens Illinois producers of cardboard packaging. Devastation!

The third extract, from **Feral**, continues the story of impoverishment of once wooded landscapes. This is a book given me as highly recommended by my London-based son who does not live in a wood. Amazing observations from many environments — one most revealing penetrates the very creeks and runnels of a saltmarsh on foot with canoe close by. A revelation!

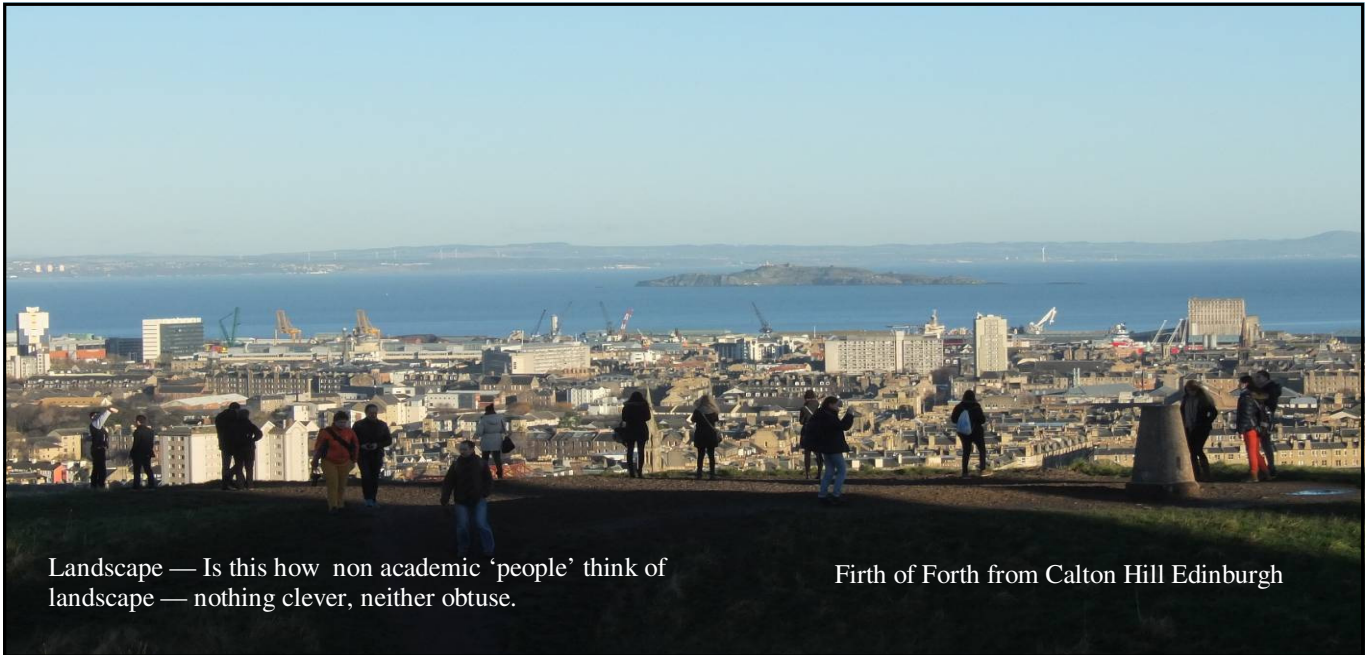
BETWEEN SPACE, PLACE, NATURE AND TIME:

The future of landscape characterization, and the future character of landscape. Research Symposium, March 3-4, 2014 Stockholm

A report by Paul Tabbush and Kenneth R. Olwig

The research symposium "Between Space, Place, Nature and Time: The Future of Landscape Characterization, and the Future Character of Landscape" was held at the main auditorium of the stately Stockholm headquarters of the *The Royal Swedish Academy of Agriculture and Forestry* (Kungl. Skogs och Lantbruksakademien, KSLA).

The seminar was jointly sponsored by The Landscape Research Group; The Royal Swedish Academy of Agriculture and Forestry (with funds from The EU Rural Development Programme) and The Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (Sveriges Lantbruksuniversitet, SLU). KSLA is able to draw an audience both from the distinguished members of the Academy and also from members of the public, including representatives of relevant state agencies, local governments, special



Landscape — Is this how non academic ‘people’ think of landscape — nothing clever, neither obtuse.

Firth of Forth from Calton Hill Edinburgh

interest organizations, and interested people from the general public.

The central issue was the future of landscape characterization and its role in determining the future of landscape. Landscape characterization was largely pioneered in Britain, but it has subsequently spread throughout Europe, mainly due to the influence of the European Landscape Convention (*ELC*), which promotes its use. Because the promulgation of the *ELC*, and hence landscape characterization, has primarily been the responsibility of the Swedish Heritage Board, the focus of the seminar was particularly upon the method of *Historic Landscape Characterisation* (*HLC*) which was developed by English Heritage, which is the English parallel to the Swedish Heritage Board. Some papers, however, also discussed Landscape Character Assessment (*LCA*), a method developed to a great extent by landscape architects, and promoted by Natural England and its predecessors.

Seminar Programme

The seminar program gives a good idea of the seminar’s content. (The programme and many of the power-point presentations are available on KSLA’s website as pdf files <http://www.ksla.se/aktivitet/landscape-characterisation/>).

Marie Stenseke (University of Gothenburg) pointed to some of the challenges, for example the time-related challenges of integrating what is important in old and new cultures, traditional

meanings and the interest of incomers. There are often hidden, power-mediated negotiations behind *LCA* classification.

UK presentations from **Graham Fairclough** and **Peter Herring** explained and positioned *HLC* and *LCA*, while several of the Scandinavian presenters raised issues concerning current philosophy and practices that affect landscape management. For example, **Katharina Saltzman** from the University of Gothenburg used the Man and Biosphere Application form as an example; it concentrates on species lists rather than cultural practices. Zonation in relation to conservation plans often seeks to exclude people from sensitive areas, so keeping culture and nature separate. Similarly, **Jorgen Primdahl** (University of Copenhagen), used an example of a Danish landscape that had hardly changed visually in the last 50 years, while its function had changed totally from agriculture to commuter town. How can Landscape Character Assessment reflect this? **Chris DalGLISH** concentrated on governance issues ‘*characterization should address the things that matter*’. Again this points to the need to include human factors rather than just aspects of physical and biological science.

Discussion points included **What is the most important issue to pursue?** ... for example:

What effect classification and characterization will have. Who will use it?

Are there any dangers with this kind of quantitative way of looking at landscapes? Can it become a tool of power, and if so who will use it and for what?

#Whether Sweden feels able to have a multi-pronged approach to landscape. Could it undertake systematic characterization programmes (perhaps melding *HLC* and *LCA*) that would serve as a relatively objective framework for more particular and subjective studies at more local levels?

Interest in generating a multinational team to form an international consortium to request European projects such [as] Horizon 2020 or another similar proposals.

It would be worth considering how to organize a follow-up seminar – in two years from now.

Landscape ‘Node’

The seminar was followed by an afternoon meeting with **Åke Classon**, from KSLA, who offered information about the organization’s plans for a *Landscape Node*, and a discussion took place between Classon, other representatives of KSLA, **Paul Tabbush**, LRG Chairman, and the other LRG board members present, to consider possible future cooperation between KSLA and the LRG. It was agreed that **Marie Stenseke** and **Ingrid Sarlöv-Herlin** would be the contact persons for LRG linked with KSLA.

KO/PT

THE NATURE OF LANDSCAPE SENSITIVITY

By Josh Peacock, Landscape Architecture Department, Leeds Beckett University.

An appraisal of how landscape sensi-



I am beginning to trust this man?

tivity is approached within landscape and visual impact assessment (lvia), through a review of four coastal projects undertaken as environmental impact assessments for the UK Environment Agency. My dissertation aimed to develop an approach to address the issues identified, supported by a review and conceptual synthesis of relevant philosophical and psychological theory and science

Within 'The Experience of Landscape' (1974) Jay Appleton, a Geographer suggests that there is no generally accepted theoretical basis for the aesthetics of landscape, which might be used for describing landscape. I consider this to remain the case and sketch an exploratory proposal to remedy this, with the parallel aim of defining a more explicit method for informing landscape value or sensitivity, such as might better guide human-centered design and management responses.

The approach to landscape value or sensitivity within standard impact assessment methodology defines landscape based on its character, prior to any evaluation. The evaluation draws on and relies on subjective cultural and aesthetic terms of reference. As a preservation-based approach, the resulting baseline and its influence on change management can be predictable and un-engaging.

As regards natural scenery, one of the founders of modern Landscape Architecture, Frederick Law Olmsted



[Floating by the edge] of the sea



[Fishing from shingle] into the sea



[Walking adjacent to] breaking waves

(1865), suggested that it, "*employs the mind without fatigue and yet exercises it; tranquilizes it and yet enlivens it; and thus, through the influence of the mind over the body, gives the effect of refreshing rest and reinvigoration to the whole system*" (Ibid, p. 22)." Environmental psychologist, Stephen Kaplan (1995) identifies that this observation suggests a physiological response to natural scenery, which is at root biological. He refers to this as a 'restorative experience' and provides a theory through which it can be explored. He named this 'Attention Restoration Theory' (ART). I explore a synthesis between this and philosopher Arnold Berleants' (1993), 'aesthetics of engagement' to derive the concept of 'Restorative Engagement' (RE), which results from a synthesis of the landscapes restorative effect with its aesthetic value. RE is then used to inform an impact assessment tool: REIA — 'Restorative Engagement Impact

Assessment'

The method of REIA identifies patches of tranquillity, focussed on green/blue infrastructure and both their current access and barriers to access. Where possible, cross-referenced against the cultural and social factors identified as part of landscape character assessment to identify how access is culturally framed. The current use of these areas is surveyed through identification of 'patterns of optional activities' both present and absent, to inform capacity of these areas. Optional activities are informed by Jan Gehls' (2003) definition as, "participated in — if there is a wish to do so and if standing around enjoying life, or sitting and sunbathing." This approach enables public consultation based on individuals' experience of RE. Examples of such patterns are exemplified in the three adjacent images.

As an exploratory concept, the method requires testing in the field to inform practice and perhaps with the benefit of empirical data, such as that collected by Aspinall (2013), through mobile EEG (electro-encephalography) in the environment to measure brainwaves, and 'known associations with frustration, arousal, directed attention and meditation'. With regards the UK National Ecosystem Assessment the method of REIA has the potential to inform how health and 'shared (social) value' aspects are linked. The explicit approach to informing landscape sensitivity may enable improved appreciation and enhanced ownership of the value of landscape by decision makers and the public.

JP

DO 'KEYSTONE STRUCTURES' INHIBIT SPECIALIST PLANTS?

A STUDY OF WOODLAND HERBS IN THE WEALD

By Tim Hoyland

It is widely acknowledged that global biodiversity is under threat and that an important contributory factor is the intensification and spread of agriculture and pastoralism. The expansion of

farming has created increasingly fragmented landscapes in many global regions, while at the same time pockets of habitat are preserved. Traditionally the study of fragmented landscapes has been dominated by two paradigms, island biogeography and metapopulation dynamics. These provide the theoretical framework for a large proportion of ecological research and conservation



efforts. Recent criticisms of the binary island-matrix approach have led to an increase in matrix studies, whereby the matrix is not treated as an entirely hostile environment.

Despite their popularity the effectiveness of landscape conservation management techniques based on the binary island-matrix model is relatively poorly documented within agricultural matrices. One development that has arisen as an alternative or potentially complementary strategy to traditional conservation techniques such as corridors and stepping stones and this is the concept of '**keystone structures**'. This idea is relatively new and as such it remains largely unexplored. However, studies examining the effects of keystone struc-

"A keystone species is one that has a larger impact on its environment than its numbers alone would suggest. This impact creates the conditions which allow other species to live there."
George Monbiot page 81 **Feral** 2013 Penguin Books, discussing the role of beavers.

tures on landscape matrices and habitat islands may offer an effective technique of helping to address the biodiversity decline in areas where land is at a premium.

Within the scope of this investigation keystone structures were defined as

vegetated habitat islands with the following attributes: a leaf litter of 16m² or greater; and a canopy at least 3m high, and that these be located 50m – 150m from a significantly larger habitat island (2.2ha - 4ha). This study explores whether the quantity of keystone structures within a matrix affects the woodland herb species richness and species assemblages of habitat islands and their surrounding matrices. In doing so an important aspect of the matrix is examined and this increases knowledge of the interactions between habitat islands and their surrounding matrices. At the same time it has the potential to provide a useful conservation strategy.

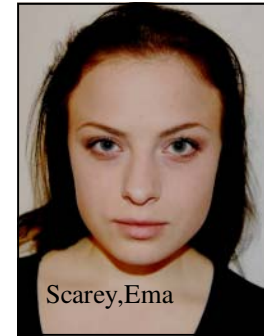
Thirty three woodland sites and their surrounding matrices were sampled for woodland herbs in the Weald of Kent and East Sussex, using a quadrat based sampling technique. Results indicate that keystone structures contain distinct species assemblages and harbour woodland herbs, thereby promoting biodiversity within agricultural matrices. Species assemblages within keystone structures were demonstrated to be slightly more similar to the edge habitat of some habitat islands and marginally different to habitat island interiors. *However, the results indicate that keystone structures do not facilitate the invasion of edge habitat by generalist species thereby leading to them outcompeting interior specialists within habitat islands. Furthermore, keystone structures appear to negatively affect some aspects of interior habitat island species richness, but have no significant affect upon edge or total habitat island species richness.*

Further research is needed to investigate how keystone structures negatively affect interior species richness. Furthermore, a full understanding of the ecological function and importance of keystone structures for other taxon is required before any management action could be recommended. This study concludes that available evidence indicates that keystone structures should be maintained within agricultural landscapes in the Weald of Kent and East Sussex.

TH

COLLECTIVE MEMORY, SOCIETY, AND A COMMUNIST MONUMENTAL SPACE AFTER THE FALL OF THE REGIME

By Ema Baužytė



This research seeks to address how current day societies in the former Soviet Bloc engage with spaces that still bear tangible and intangible

associations with the ideologies of the earlier regime and how the changes that these municipal spaces undergo relate to questions of shared, collective and constructed memories or amnesia. It is based on a case study from Lithuania – the former Lenin's Square in the capital Vilnius – and evaluates how the post-soviet society interacts with a public space that was the setting for important ideological statements of the communist regime. It asks what material and immaterial exchanges can be seen, and particularly how these exchanges resonate with the theoretical framework of collective and post-trauma memory.

Firstly, the work defines the material changes that have occurred in the square since the demolition of Lenin's monument in 1991 assessing the gradual metamorphosis of the space against theoretical interpretations. It is argued that immediately following the collapse of the Soviet Union, material changes in the square point to a period of 'latency' when the urge to ignore the very recent past redirected the focus of memory towards earlier, more distant historical episodes. The monument marking the



significance of the late 20th century events, and recognising the centuries of national freedom wars as a continuous and concluded part of history, was not built until 2009. The most recently erected monument, however, is dedicated to an influential local singer-songwriter. Drawing on the theoretical literature, the author argues that such deviation from patriotic themes is reflective of a society that is only now coming to terms with its past, and accumulating new diverse practices and meanings.

Secondly, analysis of social events that occurred in the square and have been reported by the media are discussed, arguing that from 2010 onwards it is possible to discern a significant increase in cultural events that have little to do with historical narratives. While commemorative events have maintained their popularity, it is notable that society has begun to utilise the square for a wider range of activities, including cultural, artistic and social events.

The research finally touches upon the government's role in the attempt to re-define the square. Since the 1990's three competitions were organised by the authorities in search of a new design for the square. Each is discussed, with reflections on what ideals and historical preferences are expressed by both the organising and the suggesting parties. It is concluded that, since the first two competitions failed due to the lack of clear criteria and fierce disagreements among the members of public, this was reflective of the fragmented and heterogeneous collective memory, and the diverse ideals present in clearly divided age groups; this in addition to the government's attempt to cater to everyone's preferences. The final and conclusive competition, contrary to the previous two, did not have a requirement for a 'freedom' monument and increased the required space dedicated to cultural and social events. Although such shifts appear to be consistent with the changing nature of social interactions, the authorities excluded the public from the final decision making process and it is argued that the official discourse, 'the grand narrative' as opposed to collective memory is soon to appropriate the landscape.

EB

Sarah McCarthy LRG's new Development Officer in her own words

I was born in Galway in the west of Ireland but grew up in a village on the outskirts of Dublin, at the foot of the Dublin hills. A lot of my childhood was spent singing in choirs and exploring, by bike, the rapidly-expanding suburbs that were engulfing the city. During extended holidays in the West I had the opportunity to explore a different type of life and landscape – that of fields, livestock, stone walls, mountains, rivers and coral beaches, of fishing and farming communities – increasingly providers of tourist services.

My first degree was in Communication Studies – an exciting romp through the theory and practice of how, to whom



and to what end we attempt to communicate with each other. Although that was a few years ago now, I have not forgotten the basic tenet – that we do not and cannot communicate in a vacuum: Communication is a discursive, two-way rather than a didactic, one-way process.

A timely present of a recent translation of the medieval tale *Táin Bó Cuailnge*, the Cattle Raid of Cooley, inspired my final year project. Assisted by several of my classmates, including Ardal O'Hanlon, now well-known as Dougal in the TV comedy series, *Father Ted*, and some willing interviewees, I made a drama-documentary exploring the mythological and archaeological world of the oldest vernacular epic in Western Europe. Landscape would never be the

same again.

I then spent a couple of years in Germany, working in bars and hotels and learning how to build bicycles, and returned to Ireland with fluent German. I trained as a tourist guide, attaining approval and certification as a National Tour Guide in 1993. Thus began my career in engaging all shapes and sizes of visitor with all aspects of life in Ireland. For over twelve years that kept me occupied in the spring and summer so I looked for interesting things to do in the winter. The mountains of Wicklow, Kerry and Galway provided superb map and compass skills development and a marketing course curiously gave me a healthy respect for economic politics. At a winter seminar on the karst landscape of the Burren, the poet Dara Beag O'Faharta encouraged me to come to his island, Inis Meáin, one of the Aran Islands, to improve my Irish. I spent two winters there, learning the rhythms, patterns and enormity of life on a small windswept island as well as perfecting the art of pouring a pint of Guinness.

To formalise my proficiency in German and growing familiarity with Ireland's historic landscape, I went back to university to do a BA in German and Archaeology. Courtesy of a scholarship, I spent a wonderfully stimulating year at the University of Freiburg. An MA in Public Archaeology at UCL combined my experience and interests in communications, tourism and archaeology. A growing concern with how the portrayal and perception of archaeology impacts on the conservation, preservation and use of the historic environment led me to do a PhD, also at UCL.

While at UCL, I began working with Prince Research Consultants, a small but dynamic cultural heritage consultancy based in London. This took me into the realms of conservation management, interpretive planning, exhibition design and delivery – both overseas and in the UK.

After a decade enjoying all that London has to offer, I moved to North Wales and worked with the National Trust on two European-funded heritage tourism projects, as Project Manager and Visitor Experience Consultant. I am now working freelance with a number of

companies as a Project Manager/Heritage Consultant and, since December 2014, as the Development Manager for the LRG.

I still live in North Wales – in the heart of Snowdonia – indulging my enduring passions for photography, hiking, cycling and engaging with the landscapes around me. I might not be practicing archaeology anymore but a new-found flair for DIY and gardening keeps me rooted and booted.

SMcC

A COMPANION GUIDE TO LANDSCAPE RESEARCH VOLUME 40(1)

**By Anna Jorgensen, Editor
Landscape Research.**

This issue opens with Stephen Daniels' and Lucy Veale's paper about Humphry Repton's work at Sheringham Park, North Norfolk, entitled 'Revealing Repton: bringing landscape to life at Sheringham Park'. The paper is fascinating on many levels: it provides a concise account of Repton's oeuvre (over 400 commissions, with around 40 having material remains of Repton's work on site); his ways of working: 'Repton seemed more concerned with meaning than making, or rather book making than place making'; the temporal and spatial currency of Repton's work over his lifetime and subsequently, as well as detailing a temporary multi-media exhibition of his work at Sheringham. The exhibition was funded by the AHRC's Care for the Future programme, which marks official approval for a more collaborative approach to the construction of historical meaning. In this case the installation was a co-production between academic teams from the universities of Nottingham and East Anglia, a Nor-

wich-based design consultancy (Ugly Studios) and property staff and volunteers at Sheringham Park, with visitors also adding their own interpretations in response to the show. The installation exploited the theatrical and revelatory aspects of Repton's approach, staging the exhibition in a barn, (themselves 'places of performance' in Repton's time) and including a magic lantern-style audiovisual show, depicting the phases of Repton's commission at Sheringham.

The paper by Arnar Árnason, Sigurjón Baldur Hafsteinsson, Tinna Grétarsdóttir, Kristinn Schram and Katla Kjartansdóttir, entitled 'Speeding Towards the Future through the Past: Landscape, Movement and National Identity', also deals with meaning, examining how Iceland's national identity is closely bound up with perceptions of changing modes of travel through the landscape. Motorised vehicular transport has become the norm in Iceland since the 1920s; however great changes have taken place since then in the quality and coverage of Iceland's roads, which have affected people's experience of travelling by road greatly. At first the roads were so bad that travel by car was tortuous, and storytelling about the landscape and its relationship with family history, folklore and national history became the only means to survive these lengthy and uncomfortable journeys. 1974 saw the introduction of Iceland's first ring road around the whole island, and further road improvements have greatly increased the speed and ease of motorized travel. The authors explore the ambivalence Icelanders experience in relation to this new-found mobility. On one hand it is equated with modernity, freedom, independence and a progressive and prosperous national identity: the sense of a nation finding itself and its home; yet on the other, this mobility is seen to be gained at the price of road accidents and fatalities, and a dulling of the relationship between travellers, the landscape and the stories it represents.

In her paper entitled 'The Role of Landscape in Regulating (Ir)responsible Conduct: Moral Geographies of the 'Proper Control' of Dogs' Katrina Brown explores how the multiple meanings attached to wilderness landscapes and human-animal relation-

ships may conflict with each other. These issues are explored in the context of the Cairngorms National Park (CNP), which dog owners have the right to access with their dogs, provided they do so 'responsibly', by keeping their dogs under 'proper' or 'close control'. Yet the CNP is both represented and understood as a place of wilderness, free from the constraints that apply both in urban areas and the countryside more generally. Consequently many dog owners see the CNP as a place where dogs can be allowed to return to their natural state, permitting them to run free, off the lead, with varying degrees of control, and consequential risks to both livestock and wildlife. These visions of the CNP as a wild and empty place are contested both by livestock owners and the park authorities, and all three groups have differing moral geographies as to appropriate human animal relationships in the landscape. The author ends with the wry observation that hyper-separated notions of landscape as wild (uncontrolled) or domestic (controlled) are in themselves dangerous, and that paradoxically, for dog owners, greater control, in the sense of 'proper' or 'close control' of their dogs, may actually equate with greater freedom.

The next two papers both deal, in their own way, with the visual aspects of



landscape. In 'The Workplace Window View: A Determinant of Office Workers' Work Ability and Job Satisfaction', Lene Lottrup, Ulrika Stigsdotter, Henrik Meilby and Anne Grete Claudi provide definitive evidence of the relationship between human wellbeing and visual access to natural landscapes in the context of the workplace. Six knowledge-based companies in Denmark provided email/online access to their employees for the purposes of questionnaire survey participation. The study found that satisfaction with the



view is positively related to job satisfaction and the ability to work; and that satisfaction with the view is boosted by general wellbeing, the presence of indoor plants in the working environment and the content of the window view itself, with views of green space and natural elements being more strongly related to high view satisfaction than views of buildings or signs, or workplaces without a window view. The authors suggest that this positive relationship between window views of nature and job satisfaction/ability is related to our tendency to experience short bursts of relaxation and stress relief when looking at these views, a proposition that is under-pinned by the foundational theories of Rachel and Stephen Kaplan, and Roger Ulrich. However, they also point out that many aspects of this relationship need further exploration, such as whether the relationship is more efficacious for stressed individuals, and whether directed attention to the window view can provide enhanced effects.

In the second 'visual' paper, by Alain Nadaï and Olivier Labussière, 'Wind Power and the Emergence of the Beauce Landscape, Eure-et-Loir, France', the scale shifts dramatically from the micro-environment of the office window view to the vast open landscapes of the Beauce, an agricultural region surrounding the settlement of Chartres and the Cathedral Notre Dame de Chartres. This paper traces shifts in planning practice in response to a massive increase in wind power development in the region, and assesses their implications for the landscape,

and for the participation in planning of the communities that are affected. They show how a traditional centralized state approach based mainly on the visual aspects of the landscape has given way to a more experiential and localized approach. The former state approach consisted of protecting radial cones of visibility (defined on a 2D map), centred on sites of architectural and landscape heritage, leading to a 'primacy of the visual and the geometry of space'. However, the advent of wind power proved to be too much for this traditional approach, and the discourse has changed to one of landscape development rather than preservation. Along these lines several planning innovations have been introduced in the region, including a photographic observatory intended to capture the changes in the landscape from different viewpoints systematically, over time, and new ways of framing the spatial regulation of the windfarms: e.g. 'wind power basins' and 'breathing spaces' (areas in which the turbines are less visually dominant). However, the authors find that, whilst these new approaches offer possibilities for the planning process to become more democratic and participatory, this is not happening, as the administrative process does not permit members of the public to have a say until the final stages of the decision making process.

The next paper, 'Is Landscape a Driver



of Short-term Wildfire Recurrence?', by Anna Brabati, Piermaria Corona, Enrico D'Amato and Rosaria Cartisano, examines the relationship between landscape factors and short-term wildfire recurrence. A sample of 256 sites were randomly selected from sites that had burned in 2006, divided into 128 sites that had burned again in the next 3 years and 128 that had not. A table showing the incidence of forest fires by prevailing forest type across the sampled sites confounded my personal expectations. Whereas I had expected that Mediterranean maquis would be very

prone to burning (62/256 sites), I did not think broad-leaved deciduous stands would account for the highest number of forest fires (75/256), or that pine stands would account for such a small proportion (37/256). This

in itself shows the value of this type of research, which concluded that the landscape factors affecting short-term wild fire recurrence are slope roughness (with smoother landscapes favouring wild fires); exposure and aspect (south facing slopes more prone to burning); distance from the nearest water body (burning increases with distance) and pre-fire dominant forest type.

The final paper returns to a historical landscape perspective: in 'Crossing the Boundary: Memories and Narratives of

a River Valley Landscape during Zimbabwe's War of Liberation, c. 1976-1980' Ivan Marowa investigates the multiple meanings of the Musukwe River, and especially its crossing. The River be-



came a significant demarcation line in the 1950s, when black South Africans (in former Rhodesia) were resettled in the so-called Rengwe Tribal Trust Land by the white colonial authorities, and the river became a boundary marking the territories of people settled from the Zambezi valley and Sipolilo (now Gुरुве) respectively. At the same time the river has a dynamic of its own. Disap-

pearing completely in the dry season, the river became impassable during the floods of the rainy season between late January and March, and claimed the lives of many people who tried to cross it. Later, during the liberation struggle, the river became both a frontier and a boundary between the Zimbabwe People's Revolutionary Army and the Rhodesian Security Force and its successors. However the events that unfolded around the river and its crossing do not tell a clear cut story of freedom versus oppression. For example, the river crossing became associated with 'sellouts': civilians who

were perceived as not supporting the Revolutionary Army, who were severely penalized for their transgressions. Thus, Marowa concludes that 'studying struggles

from a landscape perspective [is] interesting...the interest not in the narrative as such, but in the difference between the narratives, on which a reconstruction of social history can be founded.'

AJ.

SEASIDE LANDSCAPE IN DEPTH

In the last two issues we have considered the sea as landscape (thanks to Maggie Roe and Owen Manning) and the following quotation may have a bearing on this idea:

— "It is the drawback of all seaside places that half the landscape is unavailable for purposes of human locomotion, being covered by useless water".

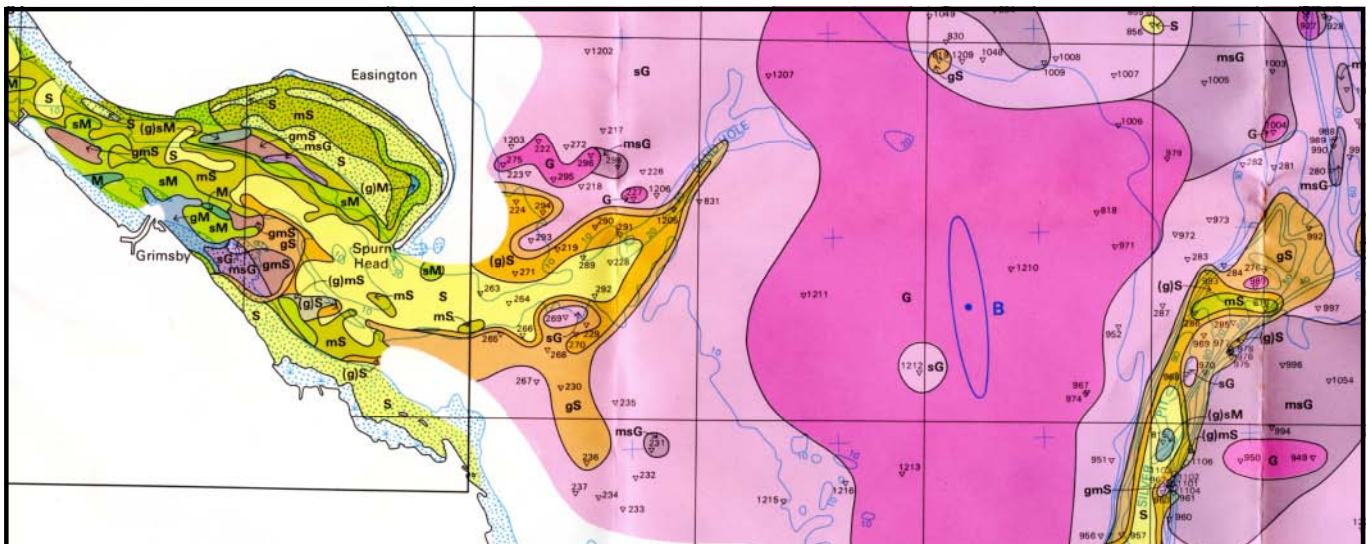
Norman Douglas (1868-1952 British writer 'Mentone', Alone (1921).

And further to consider the underwater, look at the extract below showing the Humber Estuary (England) (surrounded by white space which is a bit of Humberside dryland). The colours represent the seabed sediments graded by type.

Who among us knew of this kind of mapping, presented here as a tiny extract of the Humber Trent British Geological Survey 1:250 000 series: 'Sea Bed Sediments'. 1990. Most of the sediment load within the Humber Estuary is of marine origin rather than brought down in the rivers that discharge to it. But what of that NE/SW submarine valley form in the east? It carries a name **Silver Pit**. Readers, you may find it satisfying to research it and its relation to Dogger Land and sea level rise. But perhaps you know all about it and in depth!

SECONDHAND BOOK SHOP

While in Boston Rosemary and I visit bookshops and I was pleased to pick up two valued titles: Kevin Lynch **City Sense and City Design: writings and projects of Kevin Lynch** edited by Tridib Banerjee and Michael Southworth. The MIT Press, Cambridge Massachusetts and London. 1995. Great value at \$20 for 850 pages (as the bookseller told me!) I add this to "The View from the Road," "Managing the Sense of a Region" and "Site Planning—second edition." Cambridge Mass. is of course the home of MIT. I was also delighted to find Nan Fairbrother **The Nature of Landscape Design, as an art form craft and social necessity**. Publisher Alfred A Knopf New York 1974. This was a book written in her last year before an untimely death. It goes with the influential text **New Lives New Landscapes** (1970). This was the first landscape architecture books I read. John Gittins (whom I should refer to as 'the late' — see end page) — was avid for books and would have approved our forays into Boston bookshops. The first thing he did when once he visited was to scan my shelves for attractive titles. And back in England I found a book I was too hard up to afford when my children were small: **The English Path** by Kim Taplin, published by the Boydell Press, Ipswich 1979 — So pleased. BY



REMEMBERING JOHN GITTINS

The Board of Directors of Landscape Research Group Ltd is greatly saddened to announce the unexpected death on 7 January 2015 of John Gittins. He was a nice man, much respected and particularly generous in his praise and encouragement to others.

John was a long-serving member of the Board of Directors and thus a charity trustee of Landscape Research Group, first joining the Board in May 2001 having been a member since 1987. He will be remembered by his past and present colleagues for his commitment to the Group's work, in particular his contributions to *Landscape Research Extra*, and the wise counsel and calming influence he gave in Board meetings, particularly when matters relating to charity governance needed to be considered.

He went to the same primary school as Bud Young in Albrighton, Shropshire towards the end of WW2 and recalls this in an LRExtra article about his childhood entitled '*Same School, Different Journey*'. He was strongly committed to landscape and countryside issues, spending much of his childhood on his grandparents' farm, Tan-y-foel in Montgomeryshire, mid-Wales and wrote about this in LRExtra 42, emphasizing the notion of *hieraeth* - Welsh for that intimate knowledge and attachment of a person to his landscape. While there he learned what it was to be a farmer's boy practised many rural skills, enjoyed a wide range of outdoor activities - canoeing, rock-climbing and bird-watching (an interest that grew stronger as he got older). With a Churchill Fellowship he investigated National Parks in Japan; he later became involved with the Cheshire Landscape Trust. By training, John was a geographer in the broadest sense with an interest in environmental philosophy. He appeared from correspondence with the Editor of LRE to be widely read and according to his daughter had a voluminous personal library. Most of his working life was spent in the voluntary sector. He also spent time with Welsh Water at some time around 1975 and 1980 meeting then

with notable landscape architect Hal Moggridge and the celebrated Brenda Colvin then aged 80. Under discussion at that time was the construction of the Brenig Reservoir in Denbighshire, North Wales. As well as being actively involved in the Landscape Research Group, John was a trustee of the National Library of Wales which satisfied his deep interest in books.

LRG's chair Paul Tabbush represented the Group at John's funeral as did the editor of this obituary. It was conducted at Pentrebychan, Wrexham and about 230 people attended. Paul has formally passed on our condolences to his wife Sue (to whom he was married for over forty years) and to his family son David and daughter Sean and four grandchildren. Many LRG members thought to register their sadness at his passing.

BY



John Gittins, bare headed, 3rd from right. Seen smiling at an LRG conference in Nove Hradky, Czech Republic. Also in the picture Rosemary Young, Brian Goodey (top row), Peter Howard with dark beard (lower back row) Gareth Roberts (far left) and editor on right in funny hat.

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