

# Summertime

Well summer has arrived, along with some changes to some Covid restrictions. Not enough to permit our summer function however. As for a meeting in September, who knows? All I can tell you is to await an announcement from our secretary, Margaret King. The committee will be having another (socially distanced) meeting in early July when among other matters, we will no doubt discuss the new season's talks or necessary postponements.

In the meantime this last Newsletter, before a change of editor, has a variety of articles, one being the second part of a family history by Barbara Richardson-Todd. The fourth and final article in an excellent series by Stephanie Hemphill is 'Landscape Gardening in the 18thC'. Margaret and John King have responded to the question 'Why we live in Glemsford?' and hopefully there is another contribution for the next edition. Finally, there have been a few queries about the Glemsford Water Tower, so I have included an article written for the Spring 2008 Newsletter, by the late Gilman Game and added a map and photo of the pump house, now converted for domestic use. I hope you enjoy this mixture.



**Jenny Wears** (Looking forward to seeing another name here!)



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# The Boy who Burned Down a Barn: — a tale of transportation — (part 2)



*A 19th century transportation ship.*

There were a lot of barn fires in 1844, in three months there were 30 men and boys taken to court as arson suspects. Half of them were under 18 years old and one was only 11. Jabez was about 21.

## Some of the villages affected by barn fires in 1844:

Acton	Glemsford
Assington	Hundon
Belchamp Water	Melford
Boxted	Pebmarsh
Bures	Rodbridge
Cavendish	Stoke by Clare
Debden	Thurlow
Foxearth	Yeldham

It was a huge problem and the government called for judges to clamp down on them and give a harsh sentence. From Bury gaol, the prisoners were taken to the next assizes session in Ipswich where Jabez was given a sentence of transportation for life.

From Ipswich the prisoners were sent to Millbank prison in London and on to Downs in Kent. Here, they were put on a wooden sailing ship designed to carry bulk goods but now carrying people as a prison ship to Australia. Jabez Copsey, was one of 224 convicts transported on the Agincourt, 6th July 1844.

Inside the ship some may have had cages or if they were lucky, they may have had their own space but for the four-month journey it was doubtful that they would be on deck but were kept downstairs. Some died on the voyage.

The journey ended at Norfolk Island, named because of the tall pines which may have provided the masts for ships. This place was hell on earth and closed down as a penal colony as it had such a bad reputation, but reopened in the 1830s. Captain Joseph



*Conditions  
below decks for  
transportees.*

Childs reinstated a brutal regime and had the prisoners breaking rocks for nothing useful. In 1846 there was a rebellion from the convicts who killed the guards and many were hanged but by 1855 the government shut it down.

<b>Arrival date:</b> 9th November, 1844
<b>Place of arrival:</b> Van Diemen's Land
<b>Passenger manifest:</b> Travelled with 223 other convicts

Jabez spent three years on Norfolk Island. While there, in January and April 1846, he was punished for offences of insolence and 'misconduct in leaving the fields before being mustered' and for the second offence was given 'hard labour in chains the month'. By 1849 he had been moved to Van Diemen's Land and between then and 1852 is recorded as being in three different locations, all in the south-east of the island. The last entry in the register reads 'Abscd Gaz 4/5/52' which I think means he had absconded and that a wanted notice about him was posted in the Hobart Town Gazette of 4 May 1852. He may have died in 1852 but there is one further intriguing entry in the Tasmanian archives. The colonial authorities were careful about recording ships coming and going and who was on them. On 9 March 1853 a ship called the Sarah Ann sailed from Launceston in the north of Van Diemen's Land to London with a crew member called James Copsey. Just coincidence, or perhaps Jabez making good his escape?

This article is based on research carried out by Eric Drake to whom I am very grateful.

Jabez was an ancestor of mine.

**Barbara Richardson-Todd**

<b>Another 14 Suffolk convicts were aboard the Agincourt on 6th July 1844:</b>	
Samuel BUSH	Stradbroke
James SCOTT	Woodbridge
George NUNN	Wickhambrooke
James BARBER	—— " ——
Robt. BARBER	—— " ——
Stephen BOREHAM	Glemsford
John DOUBLE	Capel St Mary
William GILL	?Drinkstone
George SMITH	Milden
Thomas BEER	—— " ——
James COUSINS	—— " ——
William PEARL	?Gt Saxham
John WILLS	Melford
Joseph FRANCIS	—— " ——

From Richard Deeks' *Transportees from Suffolk to Australia 1787-1867*.



# The Glemsford Waterworks



Many years ago Glemsford had a large water tower which occupied the north west corner of Tower Meadow, which was aptly named. Built in 1905, it was 60 feet high and the tank added another further 15 feet not including the flag mast on the top. In 1962, it was demolished removing what had become a Glemsford landmark.

At the time of construction, the Glemsford Urban District Council Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector was "Surveyor" Taylor. It had been said that the Glemsford Urban District Council was the smallest in the country until it was absorbed by the Long Melford District Council in the late 1930s.

Plainly visible from the road was a measure down the side of the tank, together with a pointer showing the number of gallons in the tank. The tank was a silvery colour but during the last war, it was painted in camouflage colours as it was thought it might be a navigational aid to enemy aircraft.

*The Water Tower (above) and the Pumphouse (below)*

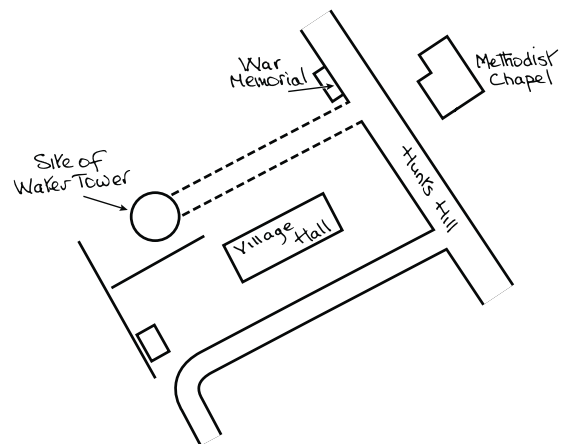
The bore, or well, together with the pump were at the foot of Skates Hill. To this day, the pumphouse remains. It is that isolated small building in the field on the left as you turn at the bottom of the hill to go to Long Melford. The bore hole is 500 feet deep. But then again, I have heard it is said that it is as deep as the days of the year, 365 feet!!!



Up until a few years ago, it was quite easy to see where the town's name, "GLEMSFORD" over the doorway of the pumphouse had been chiselled out in 1940 as an anti-invasion measure.

As far back as I can remember, Mr Walter (Wally) Levett was in charge. Every morning he pushed his bike up to Tower Meadow to check the water level and then went to the Pumphouse. He seldom rode the bike as it was usually festooned with bags of tools or spare parts. Each revolution of the pump pushed a gallon of water up to the tower. There was a rev counter on the pump so he knew exactly when the pump was full.

Mr. Levett had to carry out any repairs and if asked, replaced worn washers on taps. He had to frequently flush out the pipes. If the fire brigade were called to a fire in the village, it was a rule that he had to be informed so that he could start up the pump engine to ensure there was enough water. I did see the engine some time after the war and I believe it was diesel, but I cannot be sure. I had always wondered what kind of engine was used when it was first built in 1905. It would have had to have been very powerful because not only did it have to be pumped out of the ground, but the height difference between the pump house and the tower was about 130 feet plus the height of the tower.



I remember the Glemsford water had a very distinctive metallic taste which I think was probably from the iron pipes rather than from the tank and always thought better tasting water came from the brook on Chequers Lane.

The Glemsford Water Tower was quite an amazing feat for our village to build a water supply system and provide water to the village particularly since we were the smallest district in the country!!!

*This article was written by the late Mr. Gilman Game, farmer, for the 2008 Spring edition of the GLHS Newsletter.*

# Why we live in Glemsford

Why do we live in Glemsford? This could be answered with a number of easily arrived at platitudes – great community, lovely people, beautiful scenery and so on – but I think the question deserves a better measure of analysis. I was born in Glemsford, and know the village well, but that is not why I live in Glemsford. Fate dictates many of our decisions. I inherited my parents' house in 1965 and a few years later, when both John and I were working locally, we decided to get married and it made good financial sense to live in the house, to renovate, redecorate and generally improve it. When the children arrived the house was big enough to accommodate a family, and Glemsford offered a wide range of amenities which suited younger and older generations.

To use a cliché, living 'in the middle of nowhere' was not what we wanted! Within easy reach we had a good doctors' surgery, grocery shops, a Post Office, a butcher, bakers, some excellent pubs plus, of course, play groups and a primary school. In the days when staycations (what? never heard that word then!) were more the order of the day, we found that Glemsford was very well placed for family day trips both to the Suffolk and Essex coasts, and of course it gave relatively easy access to bigger centres — Bury St. Edmunds, Colchester, Ipswich, Cambridge and, best of all, London.

Glemsford has, historically, always been a working, industrial village, fostering a close, if not always harmonious, community spirit. It cannot compete with the chocolate box variety of villages, crammed full of second homes and basically 'dead' most of the year! It is so much more than the huddle of thatched cottages and a church clustered around the village green. No way! In fact, Glemsford has at least three village greens (in N.E. Somerset, where my daughter lives I find it virtually impossible to see one!) and a plethora of listed buildings within its environs. How good is that?

In the past twenty years, Glemsford has changed considerably. Yes, being a fairly sizeable village, it will have problems. Yes, it still has problems often associated with youth culture and petty vandalism. And, yes it has lost things. But it has gained much. The on-going building programme has ensured that it attracts not just a generation of young couples with families, but also an influx of older, recently retired couples looking for somewhere offering a rural aspect, pleasant countryside, essential amenities and, importantly, a bit of life! The vast majority of these 'newcomers' have settled, and appear to absolutely love it. They have greatly benefitted the community; their involvement in, and contribution to, all the local societies, events and pursuits has been, and still is, invaluable and quite inspirational.

So, Glemsford definitely remains vibrant, (witness the huge increase in traffic alone,) yet situated, luckily, high up and just far enough away from the beaten main road track. And it will always maintain this lofty position. Many of us have discovered, during this last year, without ever having to get the car out, the spectacular views and the most glorious scenery you could wish for; a walker's and photographer's paradise indeed. All of which I think sums up 'Why we live in Glemsford.' Finally as my husband is never tired of saying, if he did not like living here, he would have moved years ago!!

**Margaret King**

# Landscape Gardening in the 18th Century

## Introduction

Towards the latter part of the 17th century when the upheaval of Civil War had calmed, a country estate once more became the dream and reality for anyone who had money. A new class other than the traditional “landed gentry” now created and owned estates and soon these new classes were marrying into “old families” in an effort to become socially acceptable.

It was the fashionable thing to do to create a garden or make “improvements” to an existing garden; throughout the land new and old gardens were coming to life again. The journal of Celia Fiennes, a noblewoman, devoted much of her adult years travelling up and down Britain, noting places and property of interest along the way. Her writings give an insight to the beginnings of landscape horticulture. Those who had money and followed fashion gradually turned their deer parks into landscaped parks with designs that combined parkland with formal gardens; these formal gardens and terraces expressed an urge to control nature and gave dignity to land owners’ property. Walls gave a greater sense of privacy and were preferred to wooden fencing by many landowners. Suffolk was particularly known for a type of brick wall first designed and built by French prisoners from the Napoleonic wars; these walls stretched the bricklayers’ skills to the full. And soon in Suffolk the “Crinkle Crankle” wall became the height of fashion; the longest known surviving example was built at Easton for the Duke of Hamilton at the end of the 18th century.



Throughout the English garden many European influences were incorporated in the designs of the day; French, those from the Low Countries, and of course Italian style gardens were favoured and introduced by Inigo Jones. The influence of using water fountains grew, as did the ornamental style, which was very effective. Planting avenues of trees not only underlined status but became all the rage, not only fashionable but timely and beneficial as the Civil War of the 1640s

had seriously depleted English parkland and woods, also adverse weather conditions during the autumn of 1703 saw 18 days of terrible storms culminating in a hurricane which swept across England on 26th & 27th November, destroying property and uprooting trees. The damage done to London alone was estimated at £2,000,000 – a colossal amount; in December 1703 more storms were to follow.

Vast tracts of parkland were re-laid and long avenues of trees set. Not only would the mature trees become aesthetically pleasing but would also connect a big house with its surrounding land in a natural and unbroken way. Soon enjoying a walk through parkland became a typically English pastime and more landowners “followed suit” by laying gravel paths through their estates. At Wimpole Hall in Cambridgeshire (which prior to alterations made in the 1640s by Thomas Chicheley was a modest moated house with a small deer park), the new owner the Earl of Radnor planted five new avenues of trees which set the house in a “landscape of radiating avenues”. A walk was then created to pass all the new planting and avenues, leading up Park Hill and passing a spot overlooking a medieval post-mill, before returning through Beech Avenue and back to the garden.

Walls were changing and becoming interesting; wrought iron gates were placed along sections of boundary walls to give views of the surrounding countryside. The neat formality of the garden was a planned contrast to the wild disorderly land beyond.

As the 18th century progressed ideas once again changed and the formality of the walled or enclosed garden gave way to a merging of garden and parkland, where one ended the other began. Landscape gardening had evolved into the beautiful countryside seen today surrounding Stately Homes.

The new and modern landscape movement was really taken up and developed to the full



by two men who made their names and fortunes in the 18th century. Many beautiful parklands were created by Lancelot “Capability” Brown and his successor Humphry Repton. It would however be unfair to assume these two men were the only ones working in the horticultural profession; there were many whose work was of quality, however Repton and Brown remain uppermost in people’s minds, when great landscapes are discussed.

### **Lancelot “Capability” Brown (1715-1783)**

Possibly the most famous and respected of the landscape designers of the 18th century, Brown was born in Kirkharle in Northumberland in 1715. He attended the local grammar school, which taught to a high standard, and at 16 years of age he entered the employment of Sir William Loraine as gardener. Here Brown learnt his trade and developed his ideas. In 1739 Brown moved to the neighbouring estate of Wotton owned by Sir Richard Grenville, from there he moved to Stowe, a grand estate.

At first Brown started humbly working in the kitchen gardens but eventually his craft became known and he was promoted to position of Head Gardener. With the permission of his employer Lord Cobham, Brown was allowed and encouraged to design landscapes for other members of the gentry. Finally after considerable planning he submitted a scheme for Packwood (Warwickshire) in 1751; his name and reputation were rising and Brown was able to set up in London. After a short while his skill and genius became common knowledge amongst the aristocrats and he was given the nickname “Capability” after using his own phrase “the estate has capabilities of improvement” after viewing each prospective project.

During his working life Brown is thought to have been responsible for over 170 gardens throughout Britain, his ingenuity bringing lakes to useless marshy land, trees and hidden (ha-ha) drives to the fashionable country houses. His love of the natural British tree is evident in his work, preferring to use oaks, ash, beech, Scots pine and sometimes the Lebanon cedar (a touch of the exotic).

At Wimpole Hall Capability Brown was commissioned to create a landscape and

buildings for the then Lord Chancellor Philip Yorke, 1st Earl of Hardwicke. The Sham Castle on the estate, built on a hill overlooking the house is thought to be the combined work of Lancelot Brown and Sanderson Miller. After several initial problems work was started around 1772, but delays set in when Miller fell prone to bouts of insanity, and most of the work was overseen by Brown and James Essex. The Earl of Hardwicke not leaving anything to chance used an intermediary, Sir George Lyttelton who worked on the project and was a man who knew exactly what was required. His precise building instructions were very clear:

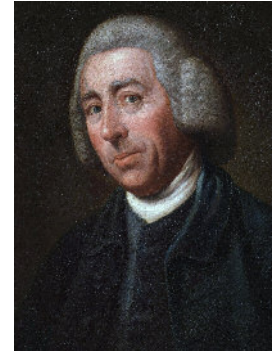
“As the back view will be immediately closed by the wood there is no regard to be had to it, nor to the left side, but only to the front and right side as you look from the house. As my Lord desired it merely as an object he would have no staircase or leads in any of the towers, but merely the walls built so as to have the appearance of a ruined castle.”

The tower was in fact built with floors, stairs and a roof. It had some 200ft (61m) of curtain wall, with doorways and arches, and a Gothic window; far grander than the Earl expected.

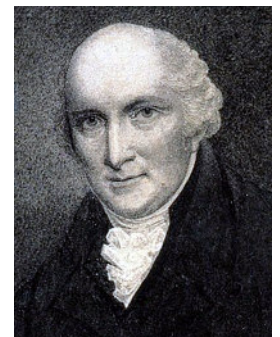
In Madingley Hall also in Cambridgeshire, Brown worked on the landscaping introducing a serpentine lake with a sham bridge at the end. But in February 1783 Brown, after returning home to Hampton Court (where he held the position of Head Gardener) he collapsed and died. Although a clever and well respected man Brown did have his critics who blamed him for the destruction of every notable garden created before 1700. His idea that the house must look as if it was sitting in a sea of green was not to everyone’s taste and with Brown’s death the way was clear for a new man with new ideas.

### **Humphry Repton (1752-1818)**

Born in Bury St Edmunds on 21st April 1752 to John and Martha Repton, Humphry and his parents remained in Suffolk until 1762 when they moved to Norwich where Humphry attended the local grammar school for a couple of years before his father decided that an education in Holland would be in his best interest if he was to become a great merchant and prosperous man.



*Lancelot “Capability”  
Brown*



*Humphry Repton*

Contd... ►

While in Holland Repton lodged with Mr Zachary Hope, a merchant banker of great wealth and with high society connections, and with this influence Repton soon became an accomplished gentleman and musician; he was a skilled flautist and had a natural talent and good eye for sketching. When he returned to England after a brief time in business, he set up as a country gentleman and developed a keen interest in botany, history and architecture. After using connections made while in Dublin, coinciding with the timely death of "Capability" Brown, Repton undertook to improve the landscapes of the gentry he knew, and now in middle-age he became very successful. Great landowners such as the Duke of Portland engaged Repton to transform his landscape at Welbeck. Throughout his career Repton created and improved over 200 landscapes, some of them the work of Brown. Repton's key theme was "appropriation" which he explained as: "everything nearby to appear a part of one's own property."

He was also famous for making circuitous drives to houses to give the impression of a greater extent of property.

Repton set out his ideas in beautiful coloured sketches carefully bound into his famous Red Books in which he laid down his plans, a "before" picture and with the clever use of flaps and overlays, "after" sketches, how the landscape would look on completion of all work. At Attingham Park in Shropshire, the home of 1st Lord Berwick, Repton produced his Red Book with proposals of avenues of trees, the removal of outbuildings and barns, and the diversion of the river. While many of Repton's ideas were carried out, Lord Berwick stopped Repton from adding a spire to the tower of Wroxeter Church, which Repton thought would focus one of the main views from the house. Repton did not get his way on this estate; however on the Gt. Livermere Estates in Suffolk alterations were made to the tower of the local church.

Repton continued to work and produce his Red Books; however on 29th January 1811 after returning from a ball near his home at Romford, his coach overturned on an icy road and Repton sustained damage to his

spine which confined him to a wheelchair for the remainder of his life. Although he did continue to work the injury and constant pain left him embittered and after several bouts of illness Repton died on 24th March 1818. He was remembered by many as an "obliging and liberal minded cheerful man".

### **Livermere and Ampton Parks**

The 18th century was a time when the rich landowners had complete power over their land and how it was used; throughout Britain estates were being transformed into natural works of art by the fashionable and talented men of the time. Not only did the "great estates" such as Chatsworth, Stowe and Uppark undergo transformation but smaller estates, which were home to men whom also aspired to follow fashion did likewise.

In Suffolk at the Ampton and Livermere estates their respective owners also wanted to change and improve their property. In Livermere the new owner Thomas Lee, a rich London merchant, like so many rich artisans of the time had an ambition to one day have a title with his wealth. The first step on the social ladder was to buy a country seat. Lee knew by becoming a respected "gentleman" that within his grandchildren's lifetime they as a family would be rich and powerful and their "tradesman" roots forgotten. So, in 1709 Thomas Lee bought Gt. Livermere; with this purchase the Lee family began to accrue land to create a park. Over a period of 15 years Thomas Lee acquired land neighbouring, or near his acreage by a clever policy of exchanging certain parcels of land which were sometimes Glebe land (land used and created by the church to generate an income for the Rector). In 1724 Thomas Lee gave 20½ acres in exchange for 17 acres of Glebe land in Lt. Livermere. It was not unusual to "swap" more of your land for less of your neighbour's land, if that particular portion of ground adjoined or divided your acreage, and it was a method in which to enlarge your property and rid yourself of land which had little use or value.

Over the following years the landscape around Lt. Livermere began to change. Thomas' son Baptist made significant changes over the next 20 years by



exchanging land and enlarging the family's property; now the land was marked by a fence or pales which deterred people from entering the parkland. By 1736 Baptist Lee had increased his land further to include the Glebe of Gt. Livermere including a farmhouse, the parsonage house and barn. It was not uncommon for the local rector to make no attempt to prevent the landowner from acquiring Glebe as life could be made very difficult and awkward. Few minor clergy would thwart rich men's plans - even the wealthy had influence over ecclesiastical matters. With Lee the owner of both Great and Little Livermere he could do more or less as he pleased with his land, and if housing spoiled the view from the Hall, homes could be demolished and tenants moved to a more convenient site.

On the adjoining estate of Ampton the Calthorpe family were also busy creating their parkland and by the second half of the 18th century a lake had been established which ran through both properties. The estates parish boundary ran through the middle of the lake so they shared a water feature; land was exchanged by both estates amicably and a small wooden bridge erected for the use of coaches, chaises and sedan chairs to pass over it. This example of two separate unrelated families working together to improve and create a better park, or landscape was very rare, but both estates did benefit; the new Hall at Lt. Livermere now enjoyed beautiful views of the park and lake.

During the last decades of the 18th century further improvements were commissioned when Humphry Repton landscaped the park; improved the new village of Gt. Livermere; raised the Church tower, made a spire and planted shrubs and trees to provide screens for the village houses which would hide them from the Hall.

The work carried out on both estates attracted very favourable comments; those who visited the estates were impressed and pleased with the overall appearance and novel idea of a shared lake and beautiful flowing landscape, a success for both estate owners and notable credit for local landscaper Mr Humphry Repton.

**Stephanie Prythergch-Hemphill**

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## Livermere Park, Suffolk

From the "Red Book" 1790.



*Plate 1: Livermere Park before Humphry Repton's landscaping improvements.*



*Plate 2: Landscape improvements including picturesque bridge and raised church tower.*



**And finally, a few photographs showing some recent changes around the village:**



*Where Downs' Foundry stood at Fair Green there is now a development of mixed housing, called Foundry Close.*



*The Silk Mill, Chequers Lane. The building has been demolished and further land obtained for erection of housing, still in progress.*



*The house built for the manager of the Co-op, now 2 houses on Egremont Street, with 3 or 4 bungalows to the rear.*



## **Newsletter** | Summer 2021 edition

**Annual Subscription:** £12.00 **Visitors:** £2.50 per time

We meet on every 2nd Thursday of the month in Glemsford Primary Academy at 7.30pm.

We welcome your continued support and that of others. Please encourage your friends and neighbours to join us. No further meetings until Covid restrictions end.