

Dear Members,

Happy New Year!



Save the date.....

We are pleased to announce our next major event:

The therapeutic value of landscapes and gardens: evidence-based design and beyond

Penny Brohn Cancer Care Centre, Bristol, UK

Friday 22 September 2017

The conference will provide a forum for those wishing to discuss and debate the role of therapeutic landscapes and gardens today. It will introduce current research and innovative approaches to nature, everyday landscapes and wellbeing.

There will be four key themes:

- The role of volunteers
- The value of collaborative/holistic design processes
- Therapeutic opportunities in the everyday landscape
- The idea of healing spaces and settings.

Key note speakers include:

Dr Olivia Chapple, Chair and Executive Trustee, Horatio's Garden

Dr Anna Jorgensen, Senior Lecturer & Editor, Landscape Research, University of Sheffield

Jeremy Parker, Director of Fira Landscape Architecture & Urban Design, Birmingham

Dr Anne Stobart, Consultant Medical Herbalist & Honorary Fellow, University of Exeter



There will be an opportunity to present short papers, to contribute to group discussions and to engage in practical garden-based activities. The event will consider the role of research within health care design. It will explore the ways in which therapeutic garden design, activities and landscape research can also offer different ways of understanding - beyond the measurable and prescriptive.

It is hoped that the event will expand the LGHN online resource and all attendees are invited to contribute materials for the website.

LGHN are delighted to be working again with the Penny Brohn Cancer Care Centre in Bristol, where the 5 acre garden is central to therapeutic and healing work. The venue and delightful garden will provide a perfect conference setting. Its position, so close to the city of Bristol and its transport hub, is a practical location for national and international attendees.

Further information and a call for papers/contributions will be circulated shortly.

European Landscape Conference Autumn 2016

This inaugural conference was launched to address the impact of urbanisation on mankind's relationship with the natural world. Its director, Jennifer Gayler, brought together a wide range of speakers who left us with little doubt about the scale of the problem.

The extent of our disconnection from Nature was well illustrated by award winning garden designer, lecturer and writer, Andrew Wilson. Andrew drew examples from his own experience of working with clients. For some, a garden is expected to be as undemanding as the interior of a house. Falling leaves, for example, rather than demonstrating the natural life-cycle of a tree, are often seen by clients as a failure of design. It would appear that garden designers and landscape architects could have a pivotal role in client education.

However, as Michael Westley of Westley Design demonstrated, there is no room for complacency on the part of design professionals. Landscape architects and garden designers must also be prepared to listen to and learn from the communities in which they are working. See [Weblink](#) for Michael's review of *Design for Healing Spaces – Therapeutic Gardens*, which includes details of his work using inclusive community consultation and co-design.

Presentations from all quarters of the landscaping industry explored what is possible and practical to enable ethical landscaping in an urban environment. In conclusion, it was agreed, that those of us who work in close contact with the natural world have a responsibility to help society to understand and appreciate its importance.

Despite the responsible, forward-thinking approach demonstrated during the weekend, no one appeared surprised when, during Q & A, speakers were asked how best to achieve the goals outlined during the conference while ensuring constant economic growth. Not one person questioned the wisdom of 'ensuring economic growth' on a planet with finite resources. A topic for the next European Landscape Conference perhaps?

Key texts about therapeutic landscapes and gardens

Our editor is often asked which research and articles best explain the role of therapeutic gardens. In response, we have compiled a short article and bibliography [\[weblink\]](#). We welcome your suggestions and additions.



Help us build the LGHN resource

We hope our bibliography will kick start the research base of the website. A key aim of our network is to provide a valuable resource. That will only be possible with your help.

Please send:

- details of your research
- links to your projects and publications
- news and events

to our editor, Liz Ware, at info@lghn.org.uk

With best wishes

LGHN Committee