

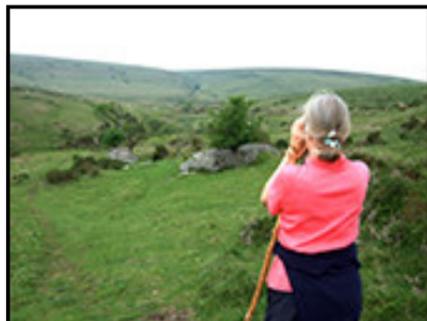


Dartmoor enigma. OK man, so what are we looking at here? Like who needs to understand, man, just enjoy it. No I got to know WHAT IT MEANS.

Meanwhile ...Is this man (arrow right)



.....enjoying the landscape as much as this woman?



CONSIDER & EXPLAIN.

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Landscape Research Extra

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Hot summer issue!
July 2008



Copy deadline for LRE 48
October 5th

Contributors

- William Young
- Philip Pacey
- Terry O'Regan
- Brian Goodey
- Edward Klein
- Peter Howard
- Gareth Roberts
- Juliet Hutt
- Tim Collins
- Bud Young

Letter from Texas

William Young
Texas June 4th

Dear Parents

Drove back from Abilene to Houston yesterday, leaving at about 6am, enjoyed the drive slightly less this time but still astounded by how big and fertile most of Texas appears to be — vast swathes of what in the UK I would call parkland – something like the area between Reading and Oxford, around Pangbourne and so on, lots of unimproved grassland and lots of good quality trees (some form of oak?). Occasionally cattle in the distance and frequent driveways leading off the A-roads which run alongside the big interstate highway (which in turn is actually only two lanes wide so more like the A30 up to Okehampton than a motorway). Next to these driveways there are often big paddocks and rather nice barns, home to fine horses and the requisite 3 litre Chevrolet pick up with double wheels on the back axle.

This afternoon driving through Texas, and later reading the US version of the Economist and shopping in *Wholefoods* (like a cross between *Sainsbury's* and *Fresh and Wild* but bigger



and better) has confirmed and added colour to what I have come to understand about the US and why I think the whole country is so easily misunderstood by Europeans. Frankly it is no wonder that we don't quite get what this place is about. The outlook here is so very different.

Away from New York, other parts of the East Coast and maybe San Francisco, this is still a frontier country, still a vast tract of land which is being shaped, carved,

and developed from nothing. Given they've had 300 plus years they've done an amazing job, but the fact is this is only 300 years and, at least initially, a few million people. The ongoing growth and development of this country should be one of the biggest stories — they have so much left to do in agriculture, mining, government, legislation, and culture to get anywhere close to the penetration and intense 'we've been over this ground before and are now only able to tweak it' perspective that we have in the UK.

With so much left to do, it is no wonder that consumption is high — why should they feel they are wasting things when they can go out and build more, grow more, mine more. It is plain difficult to feel resource constrained in a country like this. Except, that is, when the front cover of the economist proclaims "\$135 - recOIL" and gas hits 4 bucks a gallon. Again, no wonder that Texas oil men are getting into wind farming and that with gold at \$900 an ounce membership of one gold mining association has shot up to something like 45,000 over the last year. **Consumption isn't bad here, it's business, and jobs and growth and opportunity.**

Passing through Bush Intercontinental Airport (Houston) yesterday I came across a bronze statue of the first President Bush, striding into a gentle breeze with a book titled "The Winds of Change" under his arm. More interesting than that were the pictures and text that surrounded the statue on a back-lit wall. Bush as a WWII fighter pilot, Bush with his family — a Wall Street banker, Bush deciding not to go into the City but instead head down to Texas to try his luck in the oil business. Starting his second company named after a film about a Mexican revolutionary — "Viva Zapata!" with Marlon Brando - specialising in drilling offshore wells, taking his son (George W at the age of 11 or so), to see the inauguration of his first offshore drilling rig (which appeared to be not much more than a bunch of steel welded together). And so on.

The reason I thought I'd share this with you is because it illustrates for me the long clichéd "land of opportunity" spiel — young man, go somewhere, do anything, end up president — but more importantly the fact that these opportunities are in construction, resource extraction, business building, and pioneering — new frontiers; "boldly go where no man has gone before" style areas of expansion which just don't exist in Europe these days (partly for lack of opportunity, partly because of attitude). Can you imagine a businessman/tradesman/Michael Bloomberg type figure being Prime Minister of the UK?! No, I thought not. Also looking back on it, it struck me that in the 1940s and 1950s and around the time a lot of the photos were taken, most of the interstate highways just didn't

exist, it would have taken *ages* to get anywhere, the back country (or Big Country) of Texas really was the back country — how isolated do you want to get?!

Anyway, this is a slightly unstructured take on things but I think helps to explain (at least for me) why the US frequently appears so clumsy and provincial and why it's actually such a good place — because they are trying to do so much -- with so much and with so little. As I think Churchill said "America will always do the right thing, but only after having exhausted all the alternatives!" Thank goodness they are fast learners, and systematic, and can deal with the peaks and troughs of the economy and political sentiment that such inexperience and size naturally results in. What a country!

All the best to you both
William.

*Of course one should watch the film "Wall Street" with Charlie Sheen and Michael Douglas for a separate and brilliant perspective on the subject of opportunities and what they really mean.

William Young is manager of matters to do with Wind Energy in the company New Energy Finance and takes his view of the United States from time spent in in Washington,, New York ,San Francisco, Houston and, Boston. Photograph on mobile phone held at arm's length avoiding sun's glare.



The state of Texas is larger in area than France. Think about it! Editor.

Brian Goodey **LANDSCAPE & SUSTAIN- ABLE DEVELOPMENT.**

Anglo-French Seminar between CEMAGREF & the Landscape Research Group. Parc de la Deule, Lille, France. 3-4 April 2008

Thanks to the enthusiasm and energy of a few members — in this case Peter Howard deserves credit — international meetings have long featured in the LRG programme. The insistence of Daniel Terrasson, the Programme Co-ordinator of Cemagref, the research arm of the French Ministry of Ecology and Sustainable Development, paid off in the first of a proposed sequence of seminars in April.

The purpose was quite clear in outline — though blurred in the event. British exchange with its nearest neighbour with regard to landscape change and assessment has been poor, but the European Convention places both countries in a leadership position in terms of landscape conservation and design ideas, which deserve some reconciliation.

Context, hospitality and facilities were excellent and the numbers were just right for exchange on the first day's study visit and seminar discussions: with 23 French registered, the 9 UK, Belgian, Dutch and Ger-

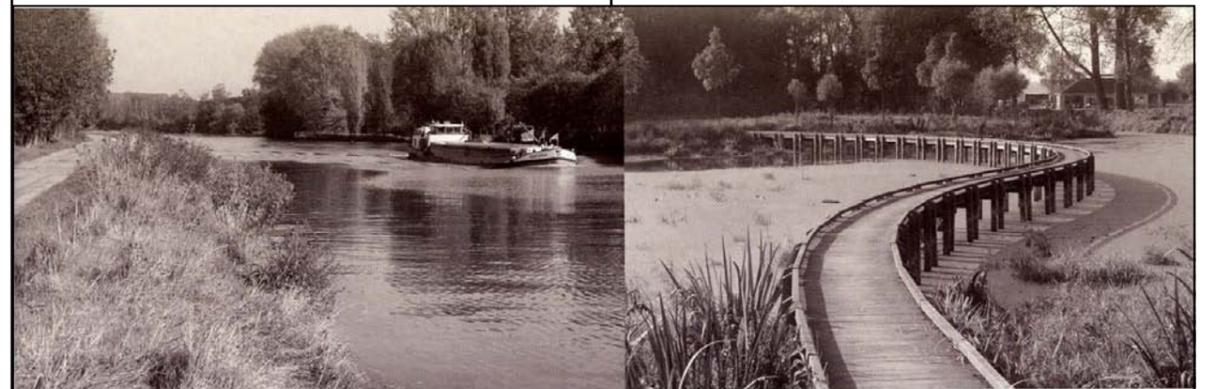
man attendees managed to put forward their perspectives — excellent simultaneous translation helped!

The announced themes both related closely to the award-winning locale. On the second day the first session focused on the relevance of Landscape Awards — who do they serve, relevance of criteria, impact on sites etc? The second theme was encapsulated in the concept of 'Grandfather's Landscape', raising the issues of landscape memory, removal of key employment landmarks, and the survival of landscape references for future generations.

Sensibly, the seminar was guided not by extensive papers (although these may be forthcoming) but by the group's shared experience of Lille regional sites on the first day. Few may have fully digested a programme which kicked off at 9.30 a.m. and concluded very close to the same time p.m!

We began the first day at MOSAIC, a quality visitor facility in the Parc de la Deule, one of a series of developing green areas within Metropolitan Lille. Here Pierre Dhenin, the Director General of Natural Spaces for Lille Metropole, and evidently the recognised leader of Lille's green movement, provided the essential introduction.

Later we took measured pace through a canalside environment, which had been re-shaped for carefully



managed leisure. Past landscapes had been obliterated (industry, conflict, even hunting) and a careful mix of opportunities for the urban population provided. It was visually a success, and as we found later from survey evidence, a success in terms of visitors and new markets. A strolling debate began to develop. A lunchtime pause for award of the plaque for the Grand Prix National du Paysage 2006 reminded us of the next day's theme.

The afternoon began at the top of the inevitable tower block, at Tourcoing, examining L'Union, part of a major inner city development proposal for a canalised

La Parc de la Deule, c'est....

300 ha de surface d'intervention
2000 ha d'aire d'influence
40 kilometres de cheminements
45 000 arbres et arbustes plantes, des
kilometres de clotures agricole et de
haies vives restaures
15 ha de prairies d'élevage restaures
10 ha de friches revalorise en prairies
20 ha de marecages et prairies humides
amenages. Des lieux d'observation, des
sentiers pedagogiques.
Et demain, 750 ha de surfaces
d'intervention

location. Resonance of Birmingham, Yorkshire and Lancashire whispered through the air as we realised that we were, sensibly, on the urban sector of the visit. This became more evident at the PCUK site in Wattrelos & Leers, a major landfill, decontamination and re-structuring site where we observed at three levels, which would have been precluded by British health and safety practice. The coordination of elements, and the tight timescale were impressive. So too was the tour organisation with a van load of Wellington boots following behind our coach.

Bridging the gap between green leisure and urban we also visited a former wool and silk proving house, La Condition Publique in Roubaix, which did the diverse local community as a cultural centre. Green roof, massive performance spaces, low budgets and enthusiastic staff.

Already dusk, we took in a boat circuit of another element of Lille's green space from Armentieres, which nudged the ancient memory of some UK representatives. The lake reserve which we circuited was, via Franco-Belgian historic trail, the final observation point as sun set over flocking starlings. Over dinner it

was the integration of spaces and the effective powers which managers had over remnant activities such as hunting that stimulated discussion.

The second day, at MOSAIC, went at speed, only slowed by the always generous French lunch.

In the morning **Yves Luginbühl** stressed the critical importance of both international teams and cross-sectoral research groups, and the need for political will, demonstrated both by the Ministry's funding of this research programme and seminar, and also at both Roubaix and Lille. **JeanFrancois Seguin**, from the ministry which had largely funded the seminar, challenged us to match the expectations of the public.

The Award issue was introduced by **Kathryn Moore** of Birmingham City University, with considerable competition skill from her spell as President of the Landscape Institute. She was supported with a Sheffield case study from **Paul Selman**. **Serge Briffaud** from Bordeaux used three World Heritage Site vineyard landscapes to highlight the problem of connecting with local people, and **Walid Oueslati** an economist from Angers approached the question via the concepts of the common good and hedonistic pricing. Differing professional backgrounds, perspectives and values were evident.

The afternoon session was introduced by **Brian Goodey**, who emphasised the respect which a detailed heritage landscape could engender in future generations. He regretted the absence, thus far, of historical images in the presentation of sites in the seminar. **David Crouch** from the University of Derby reflected on landscape aesthetics and linked the second topic to the first, though the implicit debate was never joined. He was followed by **Christian Tamisier**, landscape architect from Marseille discussing the iconisation of public spaces and **Pascal Marty** of Montpellier and Prague, concerned with the participation not only of the human but also other species.

The session was closed by an effusive **Peter Howard**, who like **Daniel Terrasson** who followed, endorsed the success of the encounter and the possibilities for what might follow.

The day had featured 'excellence'. 'participation' and the European Convention in exchanges. Seldom was there conflict, but certainly considerable room for negotiation. The urban fringe/peri-urban landscapes so evident at Lille were frequently recognised as the research and practice zone for the next generation of landscape research. Increased mobility, relocation and migration were also highlighted as having very different impacts on landscape association and memory.

This fits well with first thoughts as to the next semi-

nar, for which the UK and the LRG will be hosts. *Minds moved towards the Thames Gateway (or even to the Olympic site) and venues, sponsors and participants are sought.* Certainly Lille mobilised the campaigns, literature, hospitality ... and solid facts, which the casual observer seldom sees in exploring place.

LRG has long regretted the difficulty in mobilising busy, RAE laden, academics to such inter-disciplinary explorations. We should be glad that some retirees still see LRG as an important configuration, much admired by the French. We were graced with one graduate student from the UK, others would benefit from discussion, casual association and the enduring tradition that LRG offers discovery together. **BG**

From Juliet Hutt— Researcher graduate student. The trip to Lille hosted by L'Espace Naturel Lille Metropole was hugely inspiring. The theme for discussion "Still living in Grandparent's space" prompted much debate about how far we should preserve the industrial character of a place, and the relevance of industrial heritage to current local populations. How can we re-build a productive landscape from the post-industrial, ensuring a true connection with the place and avoiding the creation of lifeless monuments to the past?

The setting of the Parc de la Deule and the questions raised throughout the two days were extremely useful to my topic of research, "Does the preservation of industrial character in the landscape benefit a local population? Is the current fashion for the Post industrial among landscape architects encouraging the development of landscapes of lasting value?"

The treatment of the Parc de la Deule also seemed rather controversial. Had it retained enough of its industrial heritage? A trip to L'Union, a textile area at the heart of L'Espace Naturel Lille Metropole's development, provided a valuable context for the Parc de la Deule and highlighted how successful it had been in reconnecting urban areas to the countryside. The scale of the proposed development in the Lille area emphasized the importance of having a variety of different approaches to the regeneration of post-industrial areas.

A lot of information and so many different sites were fitted into the two days. Thank you very much for including me in the seminar.

**Sheffield University
School of Landscape Architecture**

J H

Gareth Roberts WET DAY IN STRESA

I wake up in Stresa on a wet morning in May. An exciting Champions League Cup final fought out in Moscow between Manchester United and Chelsea the night before had gone to extra time and extra penalties before I switched off the lights as the first of a spectacular series of lightening strikes forked out over Lake Maggiore and claps of thunder echo applause over the Italian Alps.

I'm here for the launch of a *Blueprint* on the future of landscape policy in Europe. Its targeted at the European Union described by a colleague here as having huge impact on landscape but no competence in landscape matters. How true! More than 15 years has passed since the *Landscape Research Group* and *Paysage et Aménagement* had convened a conference in Blois where we concluded that we needed a Convention for European landscapes and that we should work in unity to secure the diversity of European landscapes. The Council of Europe had subsequently taken up the cause and the European Landscape Convention was launched in Florence in October 2004 on the occasion of the 10th country to have ratified it. 29 have now done so with a further 6 signed up in readiness. Signing and ratifying the Convention implies a commitment to plan manage and protect this diverse heritage yet the sad reality is that the diversity of our European landscapes is fast disappearing.

Over coffee taken on the veranda of my hotel room on that misty morning I read an article by Dirk Sijmons, appointed as Landscape Advisor to the Dutch Government, describing the impact of leisure and outdoor recreation on European landscape. These changes now occurring widely throughout Europe, are character-

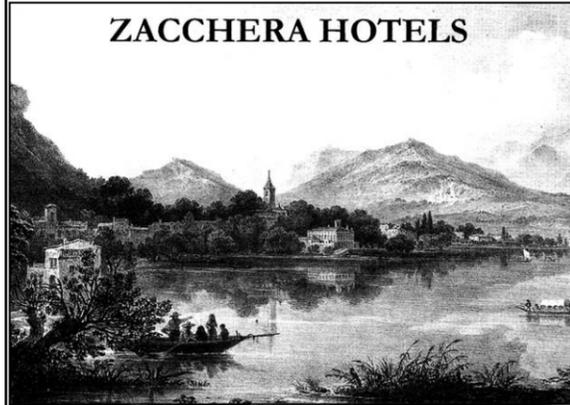


ised, as Sijmons puts it, by a shift away from 'production' to 'consumption' landscapes.

Stresa is certainly a place where this transition had occurred. But had it gone too far, I wondered. Had the character and qualities that first attracted artists, writers and travelers on the 'Grand Tour' to Italy in the 18th century now been irreparably lost. Sijmons' view is that it depends very much on what strategies are in

place to plan and manage consumption landscapes. Tourist impact he believes 'may be extensive and hardly noticeable or it may become firm and parasitic' with the latter occurring when the visitors use the landscape but give nothing in return.

In the two and a half centuries since tourism took off in Italy I wondered how Stresa might have changed. The Hotel where I stayed still branded everything from the toilet paper to towels with a 'classic' 18th century view of Lake Maggiore and Isola Bella. Countless thousands of artists, writers and 'gawpers'



would have come to Stresa to see this view but had they all enjoyed it as much as each other I wondered?

Ruskin, who visited the area in 1853, described Monte Mottarone (1491 metres) the highest mountain in the immediate vicinity of Stresa and commanding views of the Valle d' Aosta, Monte Rossa and Italian lakes, as 'the stupidest of hills'. Robert Southey who visited in 1817 described Isola Bella and the gardens created by Count Borromeo as an 'earthly paradise' for his wife as 'one of the costliest efforts of bad taste in all Italy'. Isola Bella with its unique hanging gardens and



the cable car that can whisk you to Mottarone in 20 minutes attracts hundreds of thousands of visitors each year. So what makes for good taste and quality in visitor experience and when do the sheer weight of numbers begin to impair on their enjoyment of these

landscapes.

Stresa seemed to be holding its own, despite the development that now surrounds the shores of Lago Maggiore. It is a very attractive place to visit and still relatively unspoilt by poorly designed buildings, tacky tourist shops and advertisements. Even in wet weather it offers plenty of opportunities for quiet relaxation and enjoyment of scenery as public ferry boats ply across the Lake and its islands. Maybe Ruskin and Southey's judgments of Stresa were clouded (literally) by bad weather. Quite possible given it is one of the wettest places in Italy. Perhaps they were in bad moods when they visited, or more deviously looked to talk the place down to discourage rapacious tourists. I guess we'll never know!

GCSR

“LITCHING”

Curious notion from the land of tigers and leprechauns: a letter from Leprechaun O' Regan

Hi Bud,

You have tempted me into surreal territory – does the following letter deserve space in LRE? After all, summer is the silly season! Here we go...

“Fellow Litchers!!” — I am still spinning circles, if not spinning in the middle of one. For your information and edification a working version of the Landscape Circle Study Guide is hot off the photocopier. I would love to be telling you that people camped all night outside my office to get their fast-food sticky hands on a first edition copy, but that has not been the case. The good news is that they did not discomfit themselves because they knew they could do it all in the comfort of their own home, knowing that it is free to download from our web site www.landscape-forum-ireland.com

A flashier version with more pictures will be available in print in the late autumn and there will be workshops for landscape practitioners and their wannabees. But true Litchers will want to be seen in remote corners of the landscape with the first edition in hand, revolving slowly in the classic landscape circle mode, experts do this in their bare feet moving toes crablike in sideways motion whilst rolling the balls of the heels in a gently rocking motion in a circle of smaller circumference. This curious motion is known as litching’.

Will it change the world? Unlikely, but there may be a few more Litchers around soon. Litchers are not yet in the popular dictionaries - they are the landscape ver-

sion of twitchers and should not be confused with lechers! Litchers and twitchers have a common characteristic – they both develop a fierce intensive stare in the eye, which can be off-putting for the uninitiated. We have a war-cry – a development of ‘Circle the Wagons!’ – ‘Circle the L-scape’ or word to that effect – it may sound better in German?

Either way, remember to keep the world going round – complete a landscape circle study before you die!

TO’R

Terry — Do I regret this awful letter? Are you indeed a leprechaun? Editor

Philip Pacey THE CABANONS OF OLD MARSEILLE

Do a Google search for 'cabanons' and you will be offered an extensive choice of upmarket garden sheds and summer houses made in France. My old (1920) Cassells French-English dictionary, inherited from my father, defines a 'cabanon' as a 'small hut, shed, or cabin', but also as a 'small country house or lodge (in Provence)'. I came upon the word in Graham Robb's extensively researched (in libraries and by bicycle) *The Discovery of France* (Picador, 2007), where it is used to denote a feature of Marseille in the 18th and early 19th century:

The hills that form an amphitheatre behind the city were covered with tiny houses known as bastidons or cabanons. 'Wherever one looks', said Stendhal, 'one sees a little house of dazzling white that stands out against the pale green of the olive trees'. The low walls that enclosed each property formed a labyrinth as large as a city. There were more than six thousand cabanons by the end of the seventeenth century, many of them owned (but not declared for tax) by people who had only a single, sunless room in the city'. A Prussian traveller in 1738 counted more than twenty thousand, which was certainly inaccurate but a good indication of the visual effect. [p.260]

As a feature of the hinterland of Marseille, it seems that *cabanons* developed in part to enable the inhabitants of the city to take refuge whenever a ship suspected of carrying the plague entered the harbour, yet they became less a response to fear than a means of making life more enjoyable:

Each little house had a table and some chairs and a patch of ground with an olive, fig or almond tree and a few vines for grapes and decoration. Not much else was needed: a musical instrument, a set of boules and a gun for shooting birds. During the week, the white walls shone from the hillside like tiny beacons. On Saturday or Sunday, the people of Marseille would leave their stinking port – made more putrid still by the sewage that flowed from the house-covered hills – and walk to the cabanon with a donkey carrying food and children in its panniers and an old person on its back.

I read this description with a thrill of recognition, and set about seeking supplementary information from other sources. *Cabanons* clearly belong in the same category as allotments and *koloniehaven*, plotlands, beach huts, lakeside cabins in Scandinavia and North America, and my grandparents' shack beside a muddy creek at Surfleet, near the mouth of the Welland. I exclude of course the shanties and hovels of the very poor, and also the weekend residences and second homes of the rich, such as French *maisons de campagne*. I have mixed feelings about the hides dug by hunters in the Somme estuary, although I like the way they blend into the landscape; the old eelman's hut in the Norfolk Broads, so vividly described by Arthur Ransome in *The Big Six*, disqualifies itself not on aesthetic grounds, nor on account of its having once been a boat, but because it serves an occupation rather than relaxation. Caravans and other mobile dwellings demand an essay of their own; when their travelling days are over and they squat down and acquire gardens, I guess they may merit inclusion. What I'm gathering together for our perusal and delight are affordable opportunities for city dwellers to escape to their own patch of land, to occupy with a light and fleeting footprint (it may not accommodate an overnight stay); to recreate a corner of Eden; to build in it a simple shelter *de brique et de broc* - with *matériaux de fortune* - re-enacting the origin of all architecture, 'Adam's house in Paradise'. (At Roquebrune-Cap Martin, the 'Cabanon' designed and built by Le Corbusier in 1951-52 'as a model in minimal habitation', and as a birthday present for his wife, is at least sometimes open to the public).

Where plots are close together, as in the case of *allotments*, *cabanons* and *koloniehaven*, they comprise a landscape and a community of their own. Neighbours may find themselves belonging to a lively group. In Marseille, it was common for working people to form mutual aid societies; one such, the 'Société ouvrière des bien faisance de Saint-Laurent', in addition to providing mutual aid organised outings on Sundays and holidays, even put on plays. Families, perhaps through the agency of a mutual aid society, shared ownership of one or more *cabanons*. Ivan Sache writes of the 'République des Maurins', proclaimed on 14th July

1919 at La Fève, Marseille, by a group of friends who wanted to create some cheer in a time of economic austerity. The territory of the Republic comprised a number of *cabanons* located around the house of its only permanent inhabitant, Paul Ratier. Most of the activities of the Maurins – burlesque processions, balls, outdoor concerts, and a weekly banquet – took place in the city, where the Republic opened an embassy in the Phocé Bar, and almost without intending to, raised a good deal of money, so that the Maurins progressively turned into a philanthropic society. Sadly the Republic did not survive the outbreak of the Second World War.

As well as colonising the hillside, *cabanons* were also located along the coast; at these, Sunday afternoons would include swimming, fishing, and finally, feasting on the day's catch. From the 1820s *cabanons* became scarcer as the expanding city encroached on the hillside and spread up and down the coast, driving up the price of land. For a time the *cabanons* on the hillside, also known as *bastidons*, co-existed with *bastides* – very desirable suburban mansions; *bastidons* and *bastides* together surrounding the 'grey city' with a 'green city' to the benefit of rich and poor until the *bastidons* and then most of the *bastides* were replaced by denser housing schemes. The word *cabanon* continued to be attached to shacks in neighbouring fishing villages; writing in *The Guardian* on 30th June 2001, Alix Sharkey noted the attractions of Marseille for tourists travelling by the new TGV train service

Even further, yet still part of the city, is Les Goudes and the start of the calanques, a series of dozens of tiny coves sheltered by steep banks of white rock, dotted with charming little DIY shacks called cabanons where marseillais families escape for the weekend. Unfortunately, these are jealously guarded private dwellings, handed down through the generations, and definitely not for hire. But the area is still worth a visit, especially if you need to escape the sometimes claustrophobic city centre.

Of course, there are plenty of buildings calling themselves *cabanons* available for holiday-makers to rent. According to Graham Robb, other southern French towns had equivalents to *cabanons*: *mazets* at Nîmes, *baraquettes* at Sète and Béziers, *bastidons* and *bastidettes* at Hyères and Toulon. Surfing the internet I found a description and an old picture postcard of *baraquettes* at Sète, where from the 18th century a hillside was little by little 'garnie' with cabins, built of dry stone; here families would pass the day on Sundays. The picture postcard shows chalets and huts covering a rather bare hillside not very prettily. Elsewhere on the web, contemporary photographs show how DIY cabins beside the many lakes along the coastline from Arles to Perpignan can in some instances be very picturesque, but in other cases are eyesores (not least when they incorporate rusting caravans). There is rea-

son to celebrate *cabanons* and their like. But there are not enough hillsides, lakes, or coves for all of us to stake a claim; it is right that they should be protected from uncontrolled development; and one man's Paradise may be another man's rural slum. For myself, I am resigned to years on the waiting list for one of our local allotments – hardly a sight to delight the eye, but tucked away neatly enough between a park and a local nature reserve.

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www.ot-sete.fr

www.languedoc-roussillon.culture.gouv.fr

PP

Susanne Seymour

LRG DISSERTATION & PROJECT PRIZES

Part of the Group's remit is to encourage research on landscape related issues amongst undergraduates and to this end we have established two prizes for the best undergraduate dissertations or projects which I would like to bring to the attention of your exam board.

The prizes will be awarded to:

The best undergraduate dissertation or project based on original academic research and showing conceptual sophistication in the study of landscape

The best undergraduate dissertation or project addressing a practical problem or landscape design issue.

We have increased the value of each prize in line with our wish to encourage students. The prizes now consist of a first prize of £250 and a highly commended prize of £100 in each category. Both include a year's free membership of the Group (which includes a year's subscription to *Landscape Research* and its sister publication *Landscape Research Extra**). Prize money, once awarded, will be sent out on receipt of a 500 word author's summary of the winning and commended entries. These will then be published above the author's name in *Landscape Research Extra*. Winners will be also be invited to submit a further article based on their dissertation or project to *Landscape Research* or *Landscape Research Extra*, subject to the standard refereeing procedures of these publications.

Your departmental board of examiners is invited to submit one dissertation or project for each prize.

Please make it clear which prize each piece of work is being entered for. All entries must be accompanied by the examiner's report for the piece of work.

We are looking for original contributions to the study of landscape or landscape design based on original research or innovative thinking. Dissertations/projects should be submitted to me at the School of Geography University of Nottingham, University Park, Nottingham NG7 2RD, and will be returned to departments after judging. The deadline for submissions is July 31st 2008.

SS

Peter Howard

THE SILENCE OF THE LANES

Standing in the forest north of Berlin at the last PECSRL conference (see www.pecsrl.org for details of the next one in Lisbon in September) listening to a talk about Goering's conversion of the shooting lodge there, came the noise of a woodpecker – and not one that is heard in England. As I cup my ears to try and hear it better, one of my colleagues, Mark Blacksell (Plymouth University, formerly Exeter) told me the precise species. Mark has since died – another sad loss for British landscape geography.

The British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) are busy compiling new bird atlases. My part of Devon was quite short of volunteer observers, and so I got hooked. Their surveyors are expected to be able to recognise the main British birds by sight and by sound. I did not think I would have too much trouble with the 'sight', although as an optimist by nature I am still likely to try and pretend that a yellowhammer is a much rarer cirl bunting. I am coming to realise most birds are common! But my ability with sound was approaching zero; despite having spent a lot of time in musical activities I couldn't tell a chaffinch from a wren. But there are birdsong CDs, and I now have them on an MP 3 player that goes with me into the woods. I also plug it into my ears while waiting in airport lounges, which can make even Heathrow into an enchanted glade – once you have closed your eyes.

So last November I sallied forth into mid Devon (grid squares SS60 and SS61) and tried every lane, footpath and piece of access land. This is real bocage country. The lanes are narrow hedges are deep, and old often with more than 20 woody species. There are lots of small coppices and woods, and a rapidly increasing number of small lakes, dug by farmers to make extra income through fishing. Some of the land is habitat precious Culm grassland. There is the river Taw,

(more famous because of Tarka the Otter by Williamson) for its otters than its birds. (The local café offers a Chicken Tarka, which is 'like a Chicken Tikka but a little 'otter'). There are loads of birds, though very few uncommon ones, and no seabirds.

This is exactly the deep countryside that is much desired by those living in the 'champaign' country further east. For me though, the shocking discovery of those first few months was 'the silence of the lanes'. During most of the winter the birds are in the gardens. Walking along between the bare high hedges one would glimpse occasional birds of course – though they are much more wary of a single walker than they are of cars and lorries. But the acoustic world was largely of my own feet and the wind. An increase in bird song was often the first sign of approaching habitation – an isolated cottage with a range of bird feeders in the garden would be a babel of noise, three or four species of tits and three of finches, plus nut-hatches, sparrows, probably four species of thrush on the ground, starlings, collared doves and wood-pigeons. On one occasion a peregrine was carefully circling and choosing the victim. Many of the hedges are flailed down before Christmas or shortly after, thereby reducing the crop of fruits and berries (though at least this means that nests are not disturbed); there are few fallows, with new leys or crops being largely of the winter variety. To their credit the dungheaps in the fields attracted wagtails and meadow pipits.

In the breeding season the birds partly return to the hedges and the woodlands, though of course the foliage ensures that finding them is more difficult. This area typically supports oak and ash woodland, and these are late into leaf, so that birds are visible until mid May which ensures that many of the summer incomers can be seen for a few weeks. Then the early mornings in the copses and along the lanes are cacophonous. Gradually the ear starts to pick out what is what, and the aural landscape begins to have structure. I have experienced proud individual moments one when I thought I could recognise a sedge warbler, in a place where they are not previously recorded, and sure enough, after a desperate search, I see them as they pop up and go off to feed their young. Outcome: confirmed breeding/ enter into the website and that particular grid square turns red – very satisfying. I reported that I had only recorded one spotted flycatcher, assuming this must be my lack of experience, only to find that much better birders had failed to find any at all, and a sad moment to find a nestbox full of dead young pied flycatchers – probably starved because they haven't learned that spring comes earlier now.

I also discovered a busy spot, where there are a dozen species of birds within sound, and it is not easy to understand why a particular tree or stand of trees can

be so attractive. One beech tree in our local wood in late autumn had 13 species on it, and while I was watching one of the jet trainers from RAF Chivenor came across skimming the tree tops, but the birds took almost no notice.

This soundscape has even more dynamic change than the visual landscape. Not only is summer with the swifts screeching overhead and the woods ringing with chiffchaff and willow warbler in apparent competition, quite different to winter, dominated by robin, dunnock and blackbird, but it changes from hour to hour. A wet afternoon will be almost silent, especially if there is any wind. Even late morning is quiet — though there are lesser peaks at lunchtime and dusk. On one recent walk I counted 32 species at 7 am, but only 17 when I did the same walk four hours later.

I am a geographer, and for me there is the added bonus of putting dots on maps, collecting real data to be recorded in a published atlas. This is not merely a hobby, you understand, spending one's time ambling around the lanes of mid-Devon on sunny mornings with one's ears open, this is research. It is also an opportunity to meet people, and discover that almost everyone has a degree of interest. Though modern agriculture can be very damaging, almost all the farmers I meet bemoan the loss of various species. But associated with farming there are occasional real landscape/soundscape gains: for example the common which has been scarcely used since the epidemic months of Foot-and-Mouth, so is rapidly reverting to willow scrub and is now home to sedge warbler sand reed buntings, or the numerous newly created ponds which create habitat for little grebe and moorhen, and hundreds of Canada geese, who must be one of the most successful of all immigrants. Tranquillity zones are now on the political agenda — but the bird-listener thinks of a tranquil zone as being essentially dead.

PH
June 2008

Gareth Roberts WHAT STIRS IN EUROPE?

Our LRG Sheffield seminar

The report on the proceedings of the European Landscape Convention Seminar convened in Sheffield in November 2007 was published in April. We attracted over 50 experts from 20 European countries to the Seminar and the response to the seminar and the publication which Bud Young and Peter Howard helped edit, was very positive. Members of the Landscape Research Group, along with the delegates to the

Seminar have received a copy of the proceedings. If there are others who need copies then please let Bud know. You can email him at young@airphotointerpretation.com.

The Landscape Research Group's profile in Europe has been enhanced by the Sheffield Seminar. The Group can claim to be one of the most active NGOs in Europe in its promotion of the Convention. The Group is committed to support the implementation and is well placed to contribute to Article 8 which has to do with pooling and exchanging experience and in disseminating the results of research.

The views and opinions in this publication are those of the authors and the senior editor individually and do not necessarily agree with those of the Group. It is prepared by Rosemary and Bud Young for the Landscape Research Group and distributed periodically to members worldwide as companion to its refereed main journal *Landscape Research*.

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A copy of the convention?

If you would like a hard copy of the Convention and the latest issue of the Council of Europe Newsletter 'Naturopa' then send me a stamped addressed A4 envelope and I will arrange to send them to you. My address is Dolwen, Trawsfynydd, Gwynedd, Wales LL41 4SP
gcs.roberts@gmail.com

Are you already involved?

I would also like to know if you have been involved in any events linked to the European Landscape Convention. Please email me brief details of ELC related activities (planned or otherwise) and I will include them in future update reports. There is also to be a section dedicated to the Convention on the LRG website, shortly to be re-designed. This will allow for events and activities associated with the Convention to be posted and promoted and allow us to develop links with other like-minded NGOs.

ELC Networks

Sharing views and experiences about landscape is a key requirement for those countries that have signed and ratified the Convention and three networks sponsored by the CoE have been established to help in this.

CIVILSCAPE is a network of NGOs committed to facilitate knowledge exchange within the framework of the ELC. The Convention requires countries 'to establish procedures for the participation of the general public, local and regional authorities, and other parties' in the establishment and implementation of landscape policies aimed at landscape protection, management and planning of their territories. CIVILSCAPE was launched in Florence, on 23rd February 2008. Peter Howard attended on behalf of LRG. Further information about this network can be found at www.civilscape.org

Two other networks — one supporting the work of local and regional authorities (*RECEP/ENELC*) and the other academic institutions (*UNISCAPE*) have important contributions to make to the implementation of the convention.

I attended a Council meeting of the *ENELC* in Barcelona on 18th February at which some excellent examples were presented from Andalusia (Spain) and Biella, Italy of the type of co-operation that is now being achieved between local and regional Governments in Europe to deliver objectives of the Convention. 43 Authorities from across Europe now form part of this important network, though surprisingly none as yet from the UK. Riccardo Priore, the Director of ENELC, which is constituted under the aegis of the Council of Europe, is keen to recruit new members from the 4 home countries of the UK so if you would wish to encourage your local authority to join let him know. You can contact him by email at info@recep-enelc.net. The website address is www.recep-enelc.net.

The third network *UNISCAPE* was constituted in January this year and has attracted 47 universities interested in promoting the ELCs work. This network offers opportunities to share experience and undertake research and promotes education and training aimed at raising competences in the implementation of the Convention. Further information is available on the website www.uniscape.org.

In Piestany, Slovakia

The 7th Workshop of the Council of Europe into the implementation of the ELC met in **Piestany, Slovakia** in late April. The theme 'Landscape in planning policies and governance: the role of spatial planning' was considered over two days of presentations and discussions. There is growing evidence that the exchange of ideas and experiences in delivering the Articles of the Convention are paying dividends. A further report on the excellent Workshop and its outcomes will follow in the next issue of LR Extra.



Photos on left: Gareth Roberts, Bas Pedroli, Michael Dower, and photo below Pavlina Misikova and Maguellone Dejeant-Ponts.

ARE THESE THE MOST VISIBLE PEOPLE IN EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE?!*

* answers please on a post card.

Historical backsight to Blois

Finally, several references were made in Piestany to the joint conference that LRG and *Paysage et Amenagement* organised in Blois in 1992 and prompted requests for copies of the proceedings to be made more widely available. The Board of LRG has agreed to consider the possibility of reissuing the papers published by *Paysage & Amenagement* to mark the occasion. P&A no longer exist so it will be up to LRG to take this on alone. We have been unable to locate a digital copy of the journal and would be pleased to learn if any of our readers can help us track down a clean copy of the publication. If so please email me on gcs.roberts@gmail.com. We are contemplating reissuing it next year. Many thanks

GCSR
4th June 2008

Edward Klein

LE CALVAIRE DES MARINS

I was recently given, by the Editor, a copy of the July 2007 issue of Landscape Research Extra. To my surprise, on a first quick thumb through, my eye fell on this piece (above) by Philip Pacey. We had only just been to St Valery-sur-Somme, for a one night stop on the way to the Charente. We had been recommended to the town by the actor and writer Andy McCulloch. He had worked on the television drama of Monsieur Renard, which was filmed on location in St Valery-sur-Somme. He had stayed at a delightful Hotel on the Quai overlooking the Baie de Somme. Apart from the town's filmic qualities it is also the port from which William the Conqueror set out on his invasion of Britain. I set out here a panorama of the bay. The photos



shows land opposite the town houses along the Quai, On the panorama between house and pollarded street



trees across the marshes (but too small to see in the distance) is the town of Le Crotoy, as mentioned by Mr. Pacey. The view across the bay is one of the most stunning one can imagine

EK

The second picture a band of water (barrier) above which trees (resource) and shelter (shelter) and beyond that wide salt marshes (prospect for exploration) is taken from the Quai where Edward Klein and friends meet for lunch.. Is this the difference between landscape and Landscape in Theory? Editor

ANTHOLOGY

I used to suggest that you, the reader, identify the author and origins of each piece. Now I make it easy for you. These two pieces come from gifted writers who get to the soul of their landscapes. Rob Macfarlane has an extraordinary power to weave carefully observed landscape with his intense physical and emotional feelings about it. He interacts with it, feels it. Laurie Lee best known for his book 'As I walked out one summer morning' seems to vibrate with passion in most of his descriptions whether of people in Andalusian cafes or as here in landscapes.

A brilliant November morning with a sky of diamond blue above the bay and the red flowers of a long summer still glowing darkly on the Rock. The intense blackness of the lampless night had rolled away to reveal, incandescent on the northern horizon, the country we had come to seek. It crouched before us in a great ring of lion-coloured mountains, raw, sleeping and savage. There were the scarred and crumpled valleys, the sharp peaks wreathed in their dusty fires, and below them the white towns piled high on their little hills and the empty roads running crimson along the faces of the cliffs. Already, across the water, one heard, or fancied one heard, the sobbing of asses, the cries and salty voices cutting through the thin gold air. And from a steep hillside rose a column of smoke, cool as marble, pungent as pine, which hung like a signal over the landscape, obscure, imperative and motionless.

Laurie Lee. Page 1, A Rose for Winter: Travels in Andalusia. First Published by Hogarth Press 1955. Then by Penguin Books 1971.

I woke to a still dawn. The sea, breathing quietly to my south, was pearly, with a light low mist upon it. The sky was pale with breaks of blue. The splash made by a black-backed gull diving fifty yards away sounded like a stone lobbed into the water nearby. I sat up, and saw that dozens of tiny dun-coloured birds were littering the rocks around me, making a high playground cheeping. Pipits. They gusted off when I moved. I clambered down the shallowest side of the gulch, to the sharp angled rocks at the sea's edge, and washed my face in the idle water.

Robert MacFarlane. Page 34, The Wild Places. Granta Books London 2007.

Tim Collins

LANDSCAPE IN THEORY

University of Nottingham
26 June 2008

The symposium was a report on landscape theory to the UK research community. It is one of a series of reports that will emerge from a robust Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) investment of £5.5M in 'Landscape and Environment' research. The programme has defined landscape in very specific terms. It examines landscape images, symbols and narrative for the politics, power and meaning that can be read into them, or through them. Another way to think about this is simply that landscape is a medium in which human ideas are expressed. The symposium largely ignored the philosophical debates about environment and ecology through aesthetics and ethics.

In **Prof Stephen Daniels'** preface to the symposium he noted that the idea of landscape intersects with environment, place, site, habitat, territory and region. It also intersects the urban suburban, rural and industrial areas, with impacts upon what it means to look at, work with, and experience land in the everyday. Landscape frames our experience of enchantment, wonder and the sublime; while also being a framework for identity, authority, politics and conflict. In regard to ownership, landscape and its utility value have been the rationale for gross inhumanities against the families that worked the land; and since agriculture first emerged, there has been an ongoing conflict between humankind and the organic world. It is with this context in mind that the *Landscape In Theory* symposium was organised, assembled and presented.

Speakers and respondents included the noted anthropologist Prof Tim Ingold from Aberdeen University; archaeologist Dr Angela Piccini from the University

of Bristol; Prof WJT Mitchell a renowned arts and history scholar; four cultural geographers -- Dr David Mattless of the University of Nottingham, Dr John Wylie of the University of Exeter, and Prof Doreen Massey of the Open University, Prof Patrick Wright of Nottingham Trent University, Renaissance literature scholar Prof Kate Chedzoy of the University of Newcastle; performance artist Prof Mike Pearson of the University of Aberystwyth; and film maker Patrick Keiller of the Royal College of Art. LRG provided two speakers, Prof Anne Whiston Spirn noted landscape architect at MIT, and Prof Kenneth Olwig, landscape planner at the Swedish University of Agricultural Science (who is also a member of the LRG board).

Prof David Mattless began the symposium with an overview of issues: the intractability of the idea that regional issues are 'anti theoretical' and that their exists a tension between ideas of scale versus flow. In other words the question of scale is static, while issues of flow are dynamic. He also emphasized that landscape is as an idea that embraces a working culture, but more often than not becomes a curtain that obfuscates the historic and contemporary struggles that provide meaning.

Prof WJT Mitchell's presentation followed his preface to the second edition of 'Landscape and Power' (University of Chicago Press, 2002) examining space, place and landscape to clarify the meaning of landscape through images, symbols and views. To further clarify his points he instanced the conflicted landscape and wall that divides Israel and Palestine and the artwork that has begun to appear on it, artwork which engages the wall as a surface, canvas and window. Here is a site of conflicting interests where one might think that art would emerge from critical knowledge and political intent; yet much of the work simply obscures the wall's visual impact -- see Kai Wiedenhofer's book *The Wall* and various reviews of British Street artist Banksy's work on the wall to see and understand these issues for yourself.

Prof Anne Spirn began by explaining the shift in thinking from landscape and nature as a fundament -- which we have moved beyond -- to a relational function where landscapes shape people and people shape landscape (and nature). Spirn juxtaposed ideas of dynamic and changing natural forces squarely against the ideas, images and symbols of gardens and pastoral vistas which dominate our understanding and interpretation of landscape. Informed by her work with the noted Scottish landscape architect and urban ecology theorist Ian McHarg, Spirn presented work in west Philadelphia that addressed landscape literacy as a means of promoting democratic design, self interest and place-based advocacy. Her positions are explained at her website (Google Ann Whiston Spirn)

with links to her books and projects.

Other notable presentations included **Prof Tim Ingold's** provocative presentation which focused upon the relationship between land and sky. In a critical engagement with James Gibson's book 'The Ecological Approach to Visual Perception' (Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, Publisher 1986), he took us through sensory perception and the shifts that occur when we isolate landscape, or complicate it with water, or indeed surround it with weather. His conclusion was to suggest that we reframe the discussion leaving landscape behind, or look for ideas that move towards embracing the dynamics of erosion, deposition, nutrient pathways and photosynthetic realities of a 'weatherworld'.

Notable in all of these presentations was a sense that landscape is a setting for both conviviality (the joy of sharing space with others) and conflict. However how theory might help us in meaningful aesthetic or ethical response to that conviviality and conflict was much less clear.

Artist/film maker **Patrick Keillor** was the last presenter of the day. He was in critical dialogue with noted cultural theorists **Prof Doreen Massey** and **Prof Patrick Wright**. Here was an example of practice-based research that would engage questions of 21st century landscape. From a rambling, idiosyncratic presentation we learned that the film would emerge in a style somehow reminiscent of Keillor's earlier film 'Robinson in Space'. Keillor presented himself as the artist-eccentric working without a script in the midst of his creative practice; making choices of where and what to film by intuition and whimsy -- choices which were checked and balanced through a dialogue with Wright and Massey. While this is a brilliant team and a notable project, it was a confusing presentation. Keillor's project takes in a huge scope of issues from economic power, to environmental devastation and climate, oil and other such looming catastrophes but it gave us little insight into the theory that informs such work.

Returning to the symposium preface, we were to consider what theory meant within and across disciplines. The preface focuses upon the theoretical contributions that the landscape perspective offers while considering the limits of the concept itself. A respondent **Prof Matthew Johnson** of the University of Southampton clearly stated that 'theory has to be about evaluation.' After a long day of listening to the papers, this was a moment of clarity for me, a realization of what was missing. Theory is nothing more than a robust concept built upon what can be known today - and tested tomorrow through scholarly evaluation and/or experimentation in practice. In a world that has only begun to fully grasp the environmental and biological im-

pacts of two hundred years of industrial society - we need cogent theories that can drive new experiments and practical/theoretical development in our fields of contemporary enquiry.

Note: Papers from the AHRC 'Landscape and Environment' programme will appear in a future special edition of 'Landscape Research' the academic journal of the Landscape Research Group.

TC

Tim Collins is an artist and interdisciplinary researcher interested in the relationships between art, people, environment and planning.

CULTURAL LANDSCAPES

Email of 16th June for LRE

Hi Bud;

I am a member of the Landscape Research Group from Canada and enjoy reading the journal and the newsletter. I don't know if this is possible but I was hoping to get an announcement in the next newsletter regarding a website a group of us here in Canada have been working on <www.culturallandscapes.ca> If you take a look the website does explain what we are trying to do so I won't repeat here. Is it possible to put such an announcement into the newsletter or a link to the website on your website links section? Also, we are looking for a wide variety of contributors and we have little from Europe so it might make for a more interesting site if we could find some people interested in this topic in Europe to contribute.

Please let me know if either an announcement or a link would be possible.

Much thanks,

Iain Davidson-Hunt

Bud Young VILLAGES ON THE WILTSHIRE HAMPSHIRE BORDER

We two editors were on our way to a field excursion on Salisbury Plain MOD training areas. To pass an overcast evening we meander by car through lanes and to villages.

What does one expect from a Wiltshire village with such a good name as Middle Winterslow? If one reads standard works one will certainly find descriptions of churches and effigies, of thatched houses and village greens. Not my kind of guide book. I am into real structure (*Real-Struktur!*?). I engage in the 'rapid-personal-observation-while-driving-method

(RPOWDM). What struck me and us, was the marked difference between two villages five miles apart. West Winterslow is a straggle; it comes with non conformist origins by which I probably infer that it was poor and hardworking and ill organised and had no patron. It is in easy reach of Salisbury. Subsequent development since say 1860 leave it a spotty mixture of house styles all no doubt good to live in but none beautiful. John Betjeman would shudder and assuming the Great Man's mantle I shuddered, not of course that that affects anyone. There is no clear nucleus and yet one part is an amazingly large 1960s development spreading right across 'The Common'. Was this once MOD? We chose the wrong pub; the saloon bar seemed to be a one group, middle class meeting. They looked at us but without curiosity. Close by the pub was a transport/distribution yard. The other pub didn't look up to much but may have been the better bet. One drink and away. The common, the chapel and the fact that there are three Winterslows all hint at haphazard settlement on poor land. But the village flourish now as an easy commute to Salisbury?

We spin a compass/roulette wheel and pass down a long road through structured countryside and an increasing amount of woodland and wood edges. Landscape perhaps? Past a junction and a sign saying 'Norman's Court (school)' — there are gates. On, a little way and we are in a pleasing-to-the-eye coherent village, West Tytherley. Houses built at around the same period though some early ones, many quality late Victorian. The attractive primary school in keeping tells of Victorian philanthropy and good taste, based on wealth and land ownership. The pub is an inn. And then we are through it. Hugely tall straight grown beech trees stand at the side of the road some way beyond. Cubic metres (or is that hoppus feet?) of good timber in four trees. And a field of pink opium poppies. Am I hallucinating?

The well written factual website tells me that West Tytherley was part of a 20 000 acre estate and associated with names WE ALL KNOW but one of those was the inventor of the Singer Sewing machine. In fairness I have also googled Middle Winterslow but found no notables.

BY

Bud Young is a snob. Bud Young is a snob.

BOOKS: SHORT NOTICES

The following books have come to my notice, sent me by the publishers on the advice of my editor daughter

The English Semi Detached House

Finn Jensen. Publisher Ovolo Publishing. ISBN: 978-0-9548674-3-0

This is a topic waiting for a book. You may be familiar with the scholarly book by Stefan Muthesius on the English Terraced House, 278 pages heavily illustrated and now selling at inflated prices. Jensen's book is at first sight a bit commonplace the cover and internal layout designed to appeal perhaps to a more ordinary audience. That said it looks readable, has more than 150 titles in the bibliography, with maps plans and new photographs. The twelve chapters progress historically. I warm to Jensen as a researcher (he is clearly over the age of 50!). He admits that 'our fascination with the ubiquitous semi still needs to be studied comprehensively.' But this is the most complete and valuable work that I have come across. It is all too easy 'not to see' the semi as we are so surrounded by them but the idea of sharing roof party wall and garden fence is in itself curious. To understand the layout and accretionary growth of the semi is to understand the suburb and the aspirations of those emerging from sooty industrial growth of the 19th Century. Highly recommended. **BY**

Images of Change: An Archaeology of England's Contemporary Landscape.

Sefryn Penrose with contributors, with a foreword by Andrew Gormley. Published by English Heritage 2007 with the support of Atkins.

This is an artistically designed but awkwardly shaped (small but wide) book, far from coffee table in its interesting approach to English landscapes using historical reviews of change and growth and a variety of excellent photography both from the ground and the air. It deals with four groups of landscape and built environment, headed People, Politics, Profit and Pleasure and under each group as many as twenty, one to three page illustrated essays, which include for example Homelessness with Cultural Centres, Television Landscapes with Privatopia, Detention with Metals and Industrial Minerals. A rough count suggests 17 contributors and the coordinating author. It appears to be inspired out of the National Monuments Record photo collection. 'Surely we can do something with this wonderful collection — can we get a committee, and a lead author to organise a book of illustrated essays?'

It is packed with useful commentaries on the growth and accompanying building and landscape changes in English society. Actually quite a valuable source. I will try and find time to read all, but the essay form allows one to pick and choose. **BY**