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Bulletin

FOLAR

Friends of the Landscape Archive at Reading

Welcome to FOLAR's May 2022 Bulletin.

**FOLAR**

Friends of the Landscape Archive at Reading



## **WHO CARES? Four talks contributing to MERL's programme 'Time To Take Care'**

Based on sites and projects in and around Reading, FOLAR presents a series of lunchtime talks at the MERL in which different landscape types are explored in terms of how and why land-use and landscape decisions are made, and by whom. Actions taken invariably have long term consequences on places and people. How can land be valued, planned and managed to better reflect and accommodate the needs and involvement of local people? What sort of positive future landscapes will respond effectively to the complexities of climate change and biodiversity? Who is really caring for the landscape? There are no simple answers but we hope these talks, presented by a professor of architecture, a researcher in geography and environmental science, a landscape historian and two landscape architects, will open up good debate.

Booking link for all 4 talks:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/folar-seminar-series-tickets-327168809717>

## **Whiteknights: from private landscape park to university campus Dr Phillada Ballard**

**Tuesday, June 7, 2022. 13:00 - 14:00**



Thomas Christopher Hofland, A view of Whiteknights across the Lake, oil on canvas, c1816, University of Reading Art Collection UAC/10257

The expansion of British Universities in the post war period fuelled the demand for new sites, especially for campus universities. For the University of Reading 'the acquisition of Whiteknights was the most important single event in the history of the University.' Much time and energy has been put into the maintenance of the park. The question remains as to how successfully the historic landscape, dating back to the 18th century, has been preserved in the face of the various demands made upon it. Indeed the survival of the park, a mile from the centre of Reading, is a story in itself given that at various times it was widely regarded as one of the most valuable sites in southern England and 'ripe for development'.

Dr Phillada Ballard is a historical consultant specialising in buildings, landscapes and gardens. Former curator at Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, she has had a long involvement with the restoration of Joseph Chamberlain's Highbury estate in Birmingham. She has written several books on landscapes, gardens and buildings of Birmingham. She lives in Reading and her interest in suburban landscapes led her to research the Whiteknights estate.



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## Contrasting Fortunes - Two high-value designed landscapes in Reading

Tony Edwards and Colin Moore  
Tuesday, June 14, 2022. 13:00 - 14:00



Image Reading Broad Street MP+B

Landscape architect **Tony Edwards** will outline the transformation of 180 acres of a poor quality flood plain into a business park with international appeal and a variety of awards. His involvement with this project has been for over thirty years with a continuing role in its management and this has been a key factor in its success. How difficult was that to engineer? And how typical is this of his other landscape projects?

Broad Street, Reading was pedestrianised in 1992 and the redesign was constructed in three phases. **Colin Moore**, of Moore Piet + Brookes Landscape Architects and lead designers for the project, will introduce the scheme and consider issues concerning maintenance, funding and changes in city wide planning decisions that have impacted on this carefully conceived project.

**Tony Edwards** qualified as an architect and worked for Sir Basil Spence on Hyde Park Cavalry Barracks before changing to other practices and undertaking housing design. He qualified as a landscape architect and joined Brian Clouston and Partners where he became a director involved in a variety of schemes including large scale reclamation of steelworks, amenity tips, gas works, new housing and regeneration of housing estates. He is a Fellow of the Landscape Institute.

Having formed new practices after leaving Clouston, Tony has been responsible for further large scale master-planning projects, residential landscape schemes, business parks, schools and commercial schemes. His practice worked with Michal Van Valkenberg from the USA on the white water rafting scheme at the Olympics in 2012. He has appeared as an expert witness at a number of public inquiries and his practices have won numerous Civic Trust, Landscape and other awards. He was a Design Review Panel Member for the Design Council/CABE for over a decade and still sits on the DRPs of Merton and Richmond.

**Colin Moore** is a Landscape Architect and Urban Designer who has recently retired having worked in the landscape industry for 50 years. He was an associate of John Kelsey Associates for 6 years and then senior partner of Moore Piet + Brookes (MP+B) for 20 years before becoming an independent landscape consultant. Colin is well known to many landscape architects for his 35 years teaching for the final professional exam and his expertise in construction and maintenance contracts and the CDM Regulations. He is chair of the JCLI Contracts Forum and secretary of FOLAR.



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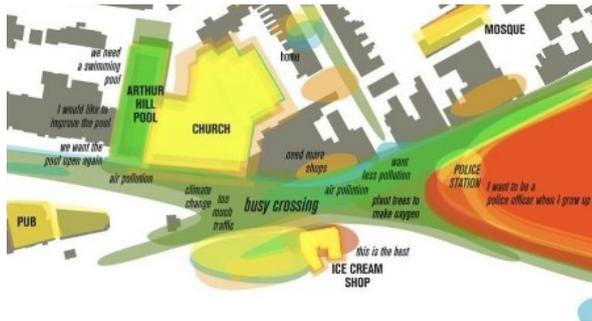
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# The social value of land      Professor Flora Samuel

## Tuesday, June 21, 2022. 13:00 - 14:00



Community mapping, Eli Hatleskog and Flora Samuel

The land has a profound impact on who we are, on our health and our wellbeing, but it is valued as though it was a soulless commodity. In this talk **Professor Flora Samuel** will offer a method for taking the social value of land and its impact on people into account in decisions about land use. She will argue for a digital map based system that allows people to input on a constant basis into decisions about their places. This proposal is based on a series of recent funded research projects based at the University of Reading, Mapping Eco Social Assets, Community Consultation for Quality of Life and the Better Places Toolkit.

**Flora Samuel** is an architect, author and academic and is Professor of Architecture in the Built Environment at the University of Reading. Concerned by the seeming inability of the Architecture profession in Britain to convey to the public its value, her work focuses on architects, their skills and how they communicate them to the outside world. Her particular focus is on homes, housing and neighbourhoods in the UK and beyond. She feels strongly that a new model of architectural education is needed in order that the profession becomes more relevant. Her new model encompasses research, collaboration and business skills allied to creativity, design and social responsibility. She was appointed as the first RIBA Vice President for Research in 2018 and leads the Community Consultation for Quality of Life, an AHRC funded project aiming to produce a Code of Conduct for Consultation across the four nations.

# Imagining desirable landscape futures

## Tuesday, June 28, 2022. 13:00 - 14:00

**Dr Eirini Saratsi**



cropped section of Imagining Desirable Futures Poster created by Dr Saratsi

We live in a period of rapid environmental change with potentially great impact on the landscapes where people develop their livelihoods, interact, and shape their cultures. Today's actions to protect the environment are based on perceptions of what could be good or bad in future, beneficial or detrimental, necessary, or excessive. Our visions of future landscapes are inevitably based on past and current experiences, and today's solutions may not have an enduring effect. This talk by **Dr Eirini Saratsi** considers how our imaginative futures reflect values of care for specific places and considerations of



potential challenges and opportunities for the landscapes we would like to live in in the future. The insights come from a project based on public dialogue, carried out in 2014, where people were asked to craft and visualise their desirable vision of the future in 2060 and consider the types of actions necessary to achieve this. These visions compare and, to some degree, validate current policies and social actions for tackling environmental challenges and can provide suggestions for landscape planning and management in the future.

**Dr Saratsi** is a human geographer with longstanding interests in landscape and environmental studies and works in the Department of Geography and Environmental Sciences, University of Reading. Eirini has collaborated with colleagues in the UK and internationally to deliver a range of research projects concerned with integrating cultural and social values in landscape management and the role of arts and participatory approaches in environmental decision making and the protection of nature.

## FOLAR Membership Renewal

Paying members have already received a nudge to renew their membership for 2022/23.

If you are not already a member, please consider joining us. Membership subscriptions are modest, but a key source of income for FOLAR. Your subscription will sustain and extend FOLAR's activities, help us to support the landscape archive at Reading, and to raise the profile of both landscapes and archives – and their relevance to the well-being of this plant - to every corner of the globe.

Unlike the cost of living, our membership subscriptions have not gone up and are still:

£20 for individuals

£50 for practices.

And absolutely free for students. Just tell us who you are.

Full details of how to renew your membership are on the FOLAR website at <https://www.folar.uk/support-us> . If you prefer more traditional methods, please contact [folar.members@gmail.com](mailto:folar.members@gmail.com)