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Welcome to FOLAR's October update Bulletin which covers the virtual events jointly with The Gardens Trust this coming this November.

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Friends of the Landscape Archive at Reading



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Why So Special? Insights into 21 iconic Post War Designed and listed Landscapes and Gardens: November talks:

A FOLAR and the Gardens Trust joint event focusing on the ideas ingenuity and quality of each of the 21 landscape and gardens recently added to the Historic England register. With a brilliant array of speakers including original designers, academics, landscape architects, historians, researchers and authors plus further insights from head gardeners, residents, landscape managers and users we are all in for a treat! So many C20 designed gardens and landscapes are so vulnerable to being unnoticed or under-valued, or they are maintained without any awareness of the original concept, such that sites get swept away, 'improved' or built over. We hope this series of talks will help to change this.

Descriptions of the November talks on Public Housing and the booking links are listed below, a package of tickets for all five talks can be purchased online.

PUBLIC HOUSING

2 November **Recent Heritage – Reinvigorating a Modernist Landscape at Alexandra Road Park with Neil Davidson**



Outdoor room for toddler play. Image Sarah Blee J&L Gibbons

Neil Davidson will provide an introduction to the delicate restoration and reinvigoration of a modernist park at the renowned Alexandra and Ainsworth Estate in Camden. He will provide an insight into the discussions he had with the original Landscape Architect, Janet Jack, and review of her drawings and specifications from the late 1970's.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/why-so-special-iconic-c20-landscapes-alexandra-road-park-tickets-166988361685>

9 November **Brunel Estate Landscape: Its story (or part of it) with Colin Moore**



Brunel Estate Image: Colin Moore

Brunel Estate is probably the best remaining landscape of council housing that was designed and implemented by Michael Brown. In the early 1970s, the Michael Brown Partnership was one of the largest landscape practices in the UK and as Tom Turner has said, it 'produced the best UK housing landscape designs of the 1960s and 1970s.' Colin Moore will tell a very condensed and partial story of the project from pre-development to the present.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/why-so-special-iconic-c20-landscapes-brunel-estate-tickets-166989747831>



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16 November Golden Lane: Nothing of the Garden City with Elain Harwood and Clementine Cecil



Image: Historic England

Geoffrey Powell formed the firm of Chamberlin, Powell and Bon, better known as the architects of Barbican and also designed Golden Lane in the 1960s and the landscaping is equally imaginative. The tiny site, subsequently extended, was intensely urban, surrounded by dereliction and covered in rubble. How Geoffrey Powell treated the spaces between the housing blocks, and a rooftop, is an interesting study of an architect with an enthusiasm for landscape design rather than a landscape

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/why-so-special-iconic-c20-landscapes-golden-lane-estate-tickets-166990112923>

23 November Riverside Living, Fresh Air and a Dan Dare Approach: Churchill Gardens with Dominic Cole and Jenifer White



Image: Camilla Beresford

Two young graduates from the AA won the competition to design Churchill Gardens after the Second World War. They looked to Germany for good examples of well-designed public housing and created a special place which, in turn, became an exemplar for others to follow. The landscape setting of the estate is now on the register of parks and gardens to complement the listing of most of the buildings.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/why-so-special-iconic-c20-landscapes-churchill-gardens-tickets-166990502087>

30 November Alton East and West: Contrasting Influences in Architecture and Landscape with Elain Harwood



Alton West, The Bull. Image: Elain Harwood

Alton East and Alton West were designed by the London County Council Architect's Department, the architects also took responsibility for the landscaping. The two estates by two rival teams, are very different in style: the architects of Alton East had made extensive visits to Sweden, which inspired the form of the tower blocks, their layout and setting. By contrast Alton West retained and transformed the remains of a landscape by Capability Brown and superimposed a more formal architecture.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/why-so-special-iconic-c20-landscapes-churchill-gardens-tickets-166990502087>