A Chronological and Analytical Account of Achamore Gardens, Gigha, Inner Hebrides

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**Chapter 1 Introduction**

**Introduction**

The dissertation presents a chronological and analytical account of the creation, conservation and use of Achamore Gardens, Gigha. The island of Gigha lies 6.5 km off the west coast of the Mull of Kintyre and is 9.5 km long and 2.5 km at widest.\(^1\) (Figure 1) Achamore Gardens (the Gardens) are approximately 50 acres and divided into more than 50 named gardens, e.g., the Walled, Pond, Theatre, Hospital, Elegant, Triangle, George Taylor and Malcolm Allan gardens.\(^2\) The Gardens are renowned for the extensive collection of rhododendrons amassed by Colonel James Horlick (the Colonel) between 1944 and 1972. (Figure 2)


\(^2\) The full list of garden names in Appendix 1.

Figure 1. West of Scotland (www.geoatlas.com Accessed 26 August 2017)
High winds and salt spray characterise the growing conditions on Gigha. Average rainfall 114 cm per annum, mean temperature is 56 F (summer), 10 F (winter), and frosts and snow are rare. The high latitude of Gigha creates problems for plants that need high light intensities in autumn and winter. Plants that favour shade and semi-shade grow more successfully in the full sun on Gigha. The soil conditions vary from light free draining sandy loam on the central hill, to heavier woodland soil where clay lays over rock and is frequently waterlogged in winter. The soil in the Gardens is highly acid, below 4.5 pH and therefore suitable for rhododendrons, azaleas and camellias. The exceptions are the Walled Garden where many years of cultivation and liming have created neutral and fertile soil conditions.

**Research Motivation**

The motivation of the dissertation is the analysis of the influence of land ownership on garden creation, conservation and use. In common with large tracts of land in Scotland,
Gigha has historically been privately owned. Records note that Gigha was acquired by the Scarlett family in the 19th century and used as a hunting estate until sold again into private ownership in 1917. In 1944 Gigha was purchased by the Colonel and remained in his possession until his death in 1972. Then followed a series of transfers of private ownership until 2002 when the establishment of the Scottish Parliament (1999) heralded the introduction of legislation to enable communities to exercise a right to buy land privately owned land on which they were situated.

In 2002 the resident community on Gigha established the Isle of Gigha Heritage Trust (IGHT) to buy the island for £4 million. Included in the purchase of Gigha was Achamore House and Gardens. Soon after purchasing Gigha, IGHT created separate legal titles for Achamore House and the Gardens. Achamore House was sold to a private buyer in order to raise capital to repay part of the debt incurred to buy the island and the Gardens were retained in community ownership. Since 2002 the Gardens have been managed by IGHT and volunteers. In 2016 a separate organization, the Achamore Gardens Trust (AGT), was created to conserve and develop the Gardens.

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5 Clough, *Isle of Gigha*.


7 *Historic Environment Scotland Gardens and Designed Landscape Inventory* (1989). AGT.
Research Aims

The aims of the dissertation are to:

1. Establish the chronological development of Achamore Gardens
2. Explain the influences of Kitty Lloyd-Jones and James Russell on the designed landscape of Achamore Gardens
3. Critically evaluate the interplay between land ownership and garden creation, conservation and use

Analytical Framing of the Research

Three principal analytical themes frame the research:

Chronology of Achamore Gardens The Garden archive contains private correspondence, seed orders and invoices, formal plans and plant lists from approximately 1900. The primary data in the garden archive and material from other sources was analysed to compile a chronology of the creation of the Gardens.

Twentieth century garden design Information about the Gardens attributes the design to Kitty Lloyd-Jones yet there is no formal connection between her and the designed landscape of the Gardens. The analysis of primary data presented in this dissertation provides robust evidence to attribute the designed landscape of the Gardens to James Russell.

Land ownership and garden creation, conservation and use Originally in private ownership the Gardens were used to accommodate the interests of the owners in hunting (the Scarlett family) and developing an island garden (the Colonel). The bequest of the plant collection to the National Trust for Scotland (NTS) (1962) was instrumental in conserving the

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plant collection and community ownership of Gigha (2002) is linked to conserving and developing other uses for the Gardens. The primary data was analysed to critically evaluate the impact of land ownership on garden creation, conservation and use.

**Research Methods**

In 2008 IGHT acquired from David Wagg, the Colonel’s grandson, a large quantity of letters, papers, diaries, photographs and slides relating to the Gardens. This collection comprises the Gardens archive and, although it has been catalogued by IGHT, not yet been analysed.

**Site visits**

First site visit June 2016.

a. Accessed the Gardens archive held by AGT – essentially 8 boxes of documents, slides and several photograph albums. The primary data was analysed to compile a chronology of the development and design of the Gardens

b. Make copies of documents and photographs relating to the Gardens

c. Interviewed residents and recorded their memories of the Gardens

Second site visit June 2017.

a. Further investigation of the Gardens archive

b. As part of the Island Tales series, the author delivered a presentation to the residents of Gigha about the history of the Gardens

Oral history interviews

Oral history interviews are a potentially rich source of data in garden history. Since many residents of Gigha have lived on the island for most of their lives, they had memories of the Colonel, and attending events, e.g., the school annual sports day, and playing in the Gardens. Two informants had also worked in the Gardens. Their memories of the Gardens were recorded and analysed for insights into the history of the Gardens.

Contributions

The research makes three contributions to garden history:

1. The dissertation presents the first chronological account of the development of the Gardens. Secondary and primary data was analysed to construct a timeline of the Gardens. Commencing with the purchase of the Gigha by the Scarlett family in the 19th century and concluding with the establishment of AGT (2016), the influence of different land ownership regimes on the Gardens are explained.

2. Examination of the influences of Kitty Lloyd-Jones and James Russell on the designed landscape of the Gardens. Prior to the analysis presented in this dissertation the design of the Gardens had been attributed to Lloyd-Jones. From my analysis of documents in the archive I present evidence that the designed landscape is attributable to Russell.

3. Consideration of the implications of private and community land ownership on garden creation, conservation and use.

10 See for example http://www.parksandgardens.org/places-and-people/site/31/history
Conclusion

This chapter has introduced the context, aims, research methods and contributions of the dissertation. The remainder of the dissertation is presented in five chapters. Chapter 2 presents the historiography of the research context. Chapters 3, 4 and 5 analyse primary data to document the creation, conservation and use of the Gardens during three distinct time periods. The conclusion to the dissertation, Chapter 6, discusses the contributions of the research to garden and landscape history and suggestions for future research.
Chapter 2 Historiography

Introduction

The designed landscape of the Gardens is described as a 50 acre, mid to late 20\textsuperscript{th} century woodland garden with a renowned collection of *Rhododendron*, *Azalea*, *Pieris*, *Enkianthus*, *Magnolia* and subtropical trees and shrubs.\textsuperscript{11} The historiography situates the history of the Gardens in the politically and socially contested context of land ownership in Scotland, as well as explicating the influence of two 20\textsuperscript{th} century garden and landscape designers on the designed landscape of the Gardens.

The Inner Hebrides

The group of the islands known as the Inner and Outer Hebrides lie to the west of Scotland and are accessible either by boat or air. The island of Gigha is classified as one of the small islands in the Inner Hebrides. The small islands are thinly populated and the generally poor soils and frequent storms limit the range of trees, shrubs and plants that thrive. For some people the idea of owning an island as an attractive proposition and for approximately two centuries Scotland’s islands and estates have been bought and sold by, often, absentee landlords.\textsuperscript{12} The prosperity of an island community depended on the wealth, whims and wishes of the owner(s) and many suffered from underinvestment and harsh management by the local agent (the Factor). These influences all feature in the history of the Gardens.

Victorian and Edwardian Shooting Estates in Scotland

\textsuperscript{11}Clough, *Isle of Gigha*, p. 8.

\textsuperscript{12}J. Hunter, *From the Low Tide of the Sea to the Highest Mountain Tops. Community Ownership of Land in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland* (Islands Book Trust, 2012).
Field sports, such as deer shooting, game stalking and salmon fishing have been popular pastimes in England, Scotland and Ireland for hundreds of years. The 18th century Game Laws imposed a property ownership qualification on field sports participation and thus, effectively denied all but country gentlemen the right to shoot game, and even to own a gun.\textsuperscript{13} Highland estates in Scotland were let, sold and managed specifically for field sports.\textsuperscript{14} The natural and physical properties of the land in this way became cultural landscapes in that land use was organized, planted and farmed in order to better suit the demands of field sports.

The popularity of field sports with the English in Scotland was boosted in 1852 when Queen Victoria purchased the Balmoral estate in the Highlands. To emulate the Royal family, many industrialists and businessmen, especially from southern England, used their wealth to acquire the status symbol of Scottish country house estate.\textsuperscript{15} The field sports were refined in the 19th century in terms of etiquette and to reassure privilege and patronage. From the mid-1800 onwards weekend shooting parties became a very fashionable leisure pursuit. Pheasant and wild game hunting were known as the ‘sport of kings’ because of their popularity with royalty and the aristocracy.\textsuperscript{16} These field sports were socially and culturally exclusive because of the necessity to be either a landowner, or an associate of a landowner, to participate in them. (Figure 3)


\textsuperscript{16} Sport of kings also includes falconry and (more recently) horseracing. \textit{Oxford Dictionary of Phrase and Fable} (Oxford University Press, 2006)
The New Aristocrats

The history of the English aristocracy lies in the close protection of entry into land owning by either inheritance and/or marriage. Although in the Victorian and Edwardian period wealth could be accumulated through commerce and trade, this was insufficient to gain social acceptance by the aristocracy. However, owning and managing a country estate is expensive and by the turn of the 20th century many of the established aristocratic landowners were beginning to find it hard to fund the increasing expenditure needed to maintain their estates.\textsuperscript{17} The profligate spending of some family members, high cost of maintaining country houses and estates, and successive increase in land taxes prompted impoverished aristocratic families to rethink how to best manage their property portfolios.

One strategy to secure funding to support the country estate was to turn to the new wealthy for marriage partners. A second strategy was to sell land and estates that could no longer be maintained. At the same time, the newly wealthy who had benefited from investments in

\textsuperscript{17} J. Uglow, \textit{A Little History of British Gardening} (Chatto and Windus, 2004), p. 191.
commerce and industry sought to acquire status and prestige by adopting the educational, career and social customs of the aristocracy.¹⁸ For example, estates in Sussex were sold to city men, e.g., Nymans was sold to the banker Ludwig Messel in 1890.¹⁹ In Scotland, Gigha was put on the market by the owners, the Scarlett family, in 1911 for the first time in one hundred years. The designed landscape of the Gardens up to the early 20th century is considered in chapter 3.

Gardens and Gardeners in the early Twentieth Century

Between the 1920s and 1930s many large houses and estates were bought and sold as the impact of World War I, the death of male heirs on the front line, and economic turbulence meant that the fortunes of many aristocratic families were further depleted.²⁰ The new land and estate owners needed advice on how to manage their estates and create what would be considered a garden of fashionable good taste. The new profession of garden designer thus came into being in the early 20th century.

Kitty Lloyd-Jones (1898-1978)

At the beginning of the 20th century employment prospects for women were limited and gardening, horticulture, nursing and teaching were about the only female careers deemed to be socially acceptable. Kitty Lloyd-Jones had obtained a first class in practical gardening at the Royal Botanic Society (Regents Park) and studied horticulture at the University of

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¹⁸ The customs of the aristocracy were typically public schooling, e.g., Eton or Harrow; a degree from either Oxford or Cambridge University; and then a career in the army and politics.

¹⁹ Ugloy, A Little History.

Reading where she was awarded the 1924 college prize.\textsuperscript{21} She studied for a further year at the University of Reading and obtained a National Diploma of Horticulture in 1925. Despite her qualifications, Lloyd-Jones’s first employment was a holiday job to teach gardening to the daughter of the Lord and Lady Balfour. This led to her meeting Lady Gladstone (Lady Balfour’s sister), and being given accommodation in a cottage on the Gladstone estate and running a nursery at Little Munden.\textsuperscript{22} Between 1925 and 1930 Lloyd-Jones was active in the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) and Chelsea Flower Show and contributed a chapter to a new book on Modern Garden Craft.\textsuperscript{23}

Lloyd-Jones’s first gardening commission was to design a large curved border for Lady Gladstone at Dane End House (Hertfordshire). From this many other commissions followed from Lady Gladstone’s friends and she was able to establish a business providing garden advice to owners of large houses and gardens.\textsuperscript{24} Her modus operandi was to establish a base at the home of her client, where she would be treated as a house guest, and spend a few days producing a design and plan for the client’s garden. This would be followed by explaining the design and plan to the gardeners and then returning every few weeks to oversee and manage progress. During residence with a client she would use the client’s house writing paper to correspond with friends and other clients.\textsuperscript{25}

\textsuperscript{21} Ibid.
\textsuperscript{22} Ibid.
\textsuperscript{23} K. Lloyd-Jones, Reprint. The Modern Flower Garden. 2. The Herbaceous Border – with Chapters on Planning and Arrangement (Read Books Ltd, 2013).
\textsuperscript{24} Berger, ‘Kitty Lloyd-Jones’.
\textsuperscript{25} Ibid.
The style of Lloyd-Jones’s designed gardens can be interpreted from the book chapter and the few plans and documents that exist.26 The key features of her garden designs appear to be: natural planting; deep borders, grass pathways and a tall backdrop; bulbs and annuals for colour; discrete garden rooms; and distinct colour combinations to promote effects, e.g., blue, white, pink and grey for peace. In addition to her garden advisory service Lloyd-Jones also was committed to improving plant varieties specifically herbaceous plants such as delphiniums, hellebores, irises and old roses. She also became an expert on rhododendrons, shrubs and roses.27 Lloyd-Jones’s knowledge of rhododendrons would later be useful in her work with the Colonel.

James Philip Cuming Russell (1920-1996)

James Russell was a 20th century horticulturalist and, in common with Lloyd-Jones, designed gardens for an elite circle of private, high profile clients. Although he had not been professionally trained in horticulture he designed gardens for more than 50 years and created more than 200 gardens.28

Russell was educated at Eton College and in 1935 won the Harmsworth Memorial Prize for botanical drawing. At the outbreak of World War II he forfeited his place to read botany at Cambridge University and joined the Hertfordshire Yeomanry. Invalided out in 1942 he worked for the family firm, Sunningdale Nurseries (SN), Berkshire, which his father and cousin had bought in 1939 from Sir Hubert Longman. SN was famous for its large collection


27 Berger, ‘Kitty Lloyd-Jones’.

of rhododendrons but was by 1939 deemed to be derelict. Russell worked closely with the nursery and business manager, Graham Stuart Thomas, and SN prospered. His plant favourites were large shrubs, especially rhododendrons, and woodland plants and trees.29

Alongside his work at SN, Russell undertook design and consultancy work for private and corporate clients in the United Kingdom (UK) and around the world. His first commission was for Lord Hastings in 1950 (Seaton Delaval Hall, Northumberland) and this was followed by many notable clients, e.g., Baron Howard of Henderskelfe (Castle Howard, Yorkshire), Lord (Gavin) Astor of Hever (Edenbridge, Kent), the Earl of Carnavon, the Duchess of Westminster (Eaton Hall, Cheshire), Sir Nicholas Nuttall (Nassau) and Lady Wimbourne (Normandy). His corporate clients included Arup Associates (Basingstoke), Wiggins Teape, Trebor (Colchester) and Seiyo Corporation (Japan) as well as Horlicks.30

Essentially a private man, most of his clients were either friends from Eton or members of a small and elite social circle. After selling SN in 1968 to Waterers, Russell retired to the Castle Howard estate and, taking most of the remaining SN stock, created a series of ornamental gardens. He travelled extensively to collect plants and visit clients; published two book (Old Garden Roses31 and Rhododendrons at Sunningdale32), was awarded the RHS


30 Letter from Russell to the Colonel (6 February 1957). “I have also been over to the factory at Slough, as you very kindly recommended us to plant roses there. The soil looks excellent, and it should be quite an easy task to carry out. As far as access to the beds is concerned, I suggested instead of grass paths, an 18” paved path, as I think it would be so much easier to keep, and also, if a lot of people from the factory are walking and smelling the roses, there would be very little grass left in a very short time”. Further letters from Russell to the Colonel 20 June and 13 August 1957 refer to Russell visiting the factory to check on the roses. AGT.


The Changing Landscape of Land Ownership in Scotland

The careers of garden designers, such as Lloyd-Jones and Russell described above, progressed hand in hand with the private ownership of grand houses and country estates, typically but not exclusively, in the UK. More critically, land ownership in Scotland (predominantly by the English) is associated with a long history of dispossession, enclosure and privatization of rights to land associated with both the Highland Clearances of the 18th and 19th centuries. The process of dispossession is built on the private property regime which institutionalizes exclusive, absolute and alienable private property rights. Grounded in the historic social and cultural power differences between the English and the indigenous Scots, land that had been traditionally collectively owned by the indigenous population, was taken into private ownership by the aristocracy and wealthy.

Community-centred land reform has been a long running theme in debates concerning the skewed ownership of land in Scotland in which most privately owned land is held by a

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33 Legg, *James Russell*.


small percentage of landlords—a legacy of the longevity of feudal tenure. The subject of increasing public debate in the late 20th century, land reform in Scotland was sought in order to put land regulation and control into the hands of the indigenous Scots. In addition collective memories recorded injustices at the hands of absentee landlords, estate factors, and the trading of land in the global property market. Late 20th century land reform in Scotland, rather than breaking up the large private estates into smaller parcels of land, aimed to keep the estates whole while transferring ownership of them to local communities.

The revolution in land reform commenced with the purchase of the North Lochinver Estate by the Assynt crofters in 1993. The Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 set in place mechanisms to promote community land ownership. In turn the newly established Community Land Trusts faced the same challenges as the former impoverished aristocrats: how to make the land which was now in community ownership profitable.

Areas of community-owned land are spaces where people act together at the most local level while seeking to engage, through collective action, with individual and community

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38 A. Wightman, *The Poor had no Lawyers. Who owns Scotland (and how they got it)* (Birlinn, 2010).


41 Wightman, *The Poor had no Lawyers. Mackenzie, Places of Possibility.*

42 Hoffman, ‘Why community ownership?’

43 Mackenzie, *Places of Possibility.*

44 Land Reform (Scotland) Act (2003).
development.\textsuperscript{45} Community land ownership has emerged as an important mechanism to challenge the dominance of traditional power structures, such as those embedded in the private ownership of country estates.\textsuperscript{46} Community land ownership and management has in turn been linked to increasing community empowerment, control and deeper social engagement since, in taking ownership of the land, communities had the opportunity to reconnect to the land on which there was long-standing and historically-deep common claim.\textsuperscript{47}

Land that is community owned is intimately bound to the meaning of ‘community’ - a philosophical and social concept connected to making sense of the major 18\textsuperscript{th} century societal shift from premodern to modern society.\textsuperscript{48} As economies and societies transitioned from reliance on agriculture to industrial production, the concept of community was invoked to describe a way of life that was at the point of vanishing. The modern meaning of community refers to a group of people who share a neighbourhood proximity, a consciously chosen affinity (religion), or shared life circumstance.\textsuperscript{49}


\textsuperscript{47} Hunter, \textit{The Making of a Crofting Community}.


\textsuperscript{49} Pudup, ‘It takes a garden’.
While the relationship between place and community is ambiguous and contested, community continues to be an idealized concept which is an “imagined but powerful discursive reality with material consequences too important to be ignored”. In relation to community land ownership, community organizing is invoked as an ecological route to empowerment and the reversal of community decline.

In Scotland in 1995 there were 258 privately-owned estates (larger than 10,000 acres) and this fell to 246 estates by 2012. Of the 12 estates, six estates were taken into community ownership. This significant change in land ownership is attributed to the acquisition of land by community organizations, and in some cases conservation bodies, e.g., Royal Society for Protection of Birds. The site of most of the expansion of community and conservation body owned land has been in the west Highlands and Islands, e.g., Gigha, Eigg and parts of Harris and South Uist.

The concentration of private land ownership in Scotland in the hands of the English aristocracy survived for more than 300 hundred years. Yet land tenure systems are socially constructed and can only survive for as long as society continues to maintain them. The Highland Clearances made real the damaging effects that dispossession had on peoples’ lives.

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53 Whiteman, Who owns Scotland.
yet it was not until the 21st century that new laws were enacted to offer communities the right to buy land that had been formerly in private ownership. Community ownership however, does not resolve the challenge of how to make the land profitable. How community ownership of the Gardens has influenced garden conservation and use is explored in Chapter 5.

Conclusion

This chapter has presented the context of the dissertation in which land ownership influences land use. The next three chapters present a chronological and analytical account of the development of the Gardens from a private hunting estate to community owned Gardens.
Chapter 3 Achamore Gardens (Pre-1944)

Introduction

This chapter compiles information about the ownership of Gigha from the early 10th century to 1944 when it was acquired by the Colonel. Information about the ownership of Gigha is difficult to substantiate prior to 1865 and the hence the analysis for this period relies on old maps and plans held by the National Library for Scotland. Information relating to the Gardens between 1865 and 1944 employs information from the National Library of Scotland and documents in the Garden Archive.

Early History of Gigha

Historically the island of Gigha belonged to the Clan MacNeill, relinquished to the Clan Macdonalds in 1554 and returned to the MacNeill in the 17th century. The first map to show Gigha (as Gegay) is the Scotiae tabula (1580); subsequent maps note Gigay, Gega and Giaga. On all these maps Gigha is marked as a small irregular shaped island to the west of the Argyll peninsula and marked with only the name of the island. The first description of

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Gigha (1703) notes “The isle affords no wood of any kind, but a few bushes of juniper on the little hills”. 59 The first map to show the name Achamore (as Achmore) is dated 1824. 60

James William Scarlett
The MacNeills sold Gigha for £49 000 to James William Scarlett in 1865, 61 the second cousin of William Frederik Scarlett, 3rd Baron Arbinger. On purchase Gigha was virtually treeless and the planting of the mixed near to the woodland is attributed to them. The woodland now laying to the north and south of the house and was largely planted between 1859 and 1869. 62 The initial aim was to provide shelter for game cover as the estate was primarily used for hunting, shooting and fishing. The Ordnance Survey Map (1882) shows Achamore House (but no indication of the current Walled garden nor the South Drive). (Figure 4).

59 M. Martin, The Isle of Gigha (1703).


61 Although reported online the date of sale is uncertain. An interview with Alastair MacLean (June 2017) gave the date as mid 1820s.

62 Colonel Horlick, Presentation to the RHS when describing the policies at Achamore states: “These woods were planted some 85 to 75 years ago” (1964). AGT.

The Ordnance Survey map (1896) depicts Achamore House and gardens. The main approach to the house is by a long, curved drive (North Drive) and to the south of the house is a second drive (South Drive) and Home Farm. (Figure 5).

The Ordnance Survey Name Book (1878)\textsuperscript{63} describes Achamore House as:

A good sized modern dwelling house the summer residence of Mr Scarlett, proprietor of the island of Gigha. It is situated about half a mile south of the church, has a good sized garden attached and a small portion of ornamental ground.

Three photographs of the first Achamore House (pre-1884) show the house, the island and parts of the Gardens. Figure 6 shows the house, the Mound (flag pole) and confirm the lack of trees to the rear of the estate. Figure 7 shows a small hedge of trees west of the house and the relative openness of the estate to the island. Figure 8, also from the west, shows a stone staircase up to the rear of the house and some tree planting in the Gardens and on the ridge.

Figure 6. Achamore House West View (Pre-1884)

Figure 7. Achamore House South West View (Pre-1884)
William James Scarlett

After a fire destroyed the first Achamore House, a new house was built in 1884 to a design by the Glasgow architect John Honeyman (1831-1914) and assisted by Charles Rennie Macintosh (1868-1928). A second fire in 1896 necessitated further restoration and the house was again rebuilt in 1900. The walled garden was also established by the Scarlett family and incorporates greenhouses, and vegetable and flower beds.

Two photographs from the early 20th century (estimated 1908) provide a glimpse into the Gardens. Figure 9 is a group of 20 estate employees holding brushes, horse brasses, axes and rakes. The image is said to be of employees on the estate’s farm (Home Farm).64 Figure 10

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64 Interview with Malcolm MacNeil, gardener at the Gardens. (June 2017).
shows three estate workers mowing the lawns at the Gardens. The lawn is to the front of the main house.

Figure 9. Achamore Estate Employees, Home Farm (Est. 1908).

Figure 10. Mowing the lawn at Achamore Gardens (Est. 1908). Figures 9 and 10 displayed in the Gigha Hotel, Gigha and used by kind permission.
Achamore House and Gardens 1911

Gigha was put up for sale by the Scarlett family in 1911 and described in detail in the sale brochure. The brochure includes a plan and several photographs of the Gardens. The photographs record the gateway to the north drive which has four ashlar gate piers with moulded caps and bosses connected by curved walls with two other piers of the same form. The gates and railings are cast iron with arrow heads and remain in situ to date (Figures 11 and 12). Just inside the gates on both sides can be found large rocks that border the entrance to the Gardens.

Figure 11. Entrance, North Drive (1911). Knight Frank and Rutley

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65 Knight Frank and Rutley, Sales particulars for Gigha (1911). Images taken by author with kind permission of the National Library of Scotland.
The main approach to Achamore House is a long, gently curving drive bordered by grass, hedging and trees. The photographs from 1911 show well-stocked flower beds to the fore, trees to the rear, e.g., cordylines, shrubs, and herbaceous perennials, e.g., *Lupinus* and *Cortaderia*. The description of the Gardens in the brochure is:

The GARDEN, which is substantially walled in, is tastefully laid out, and its quaint old Herbaceous Borders are an attractive feature. It is well stocked with Fruit Trees and Bushes and contains a small Greenhouse in good order. There are comfortable cottages near the Garden for the Gardener and other servants. The POLICIES have been much improved and enlarged in recent years, and, with the MANSION HOUSE and GARDEN, cover about 63 acres, all well fenced, and laid out with much taste. About a third of the above area (situated
in close proximity to the Mansion House) consists of old PLANTATIONS intersected by numerous GRASS WALKS. The remaining, and greater portion of this area, is under thriving young mixed Plantations.\textsuperscript{66}

The 1911 sale brochure contains the earliest map of the gardens (located to date). (Figure 13). The plan shows the curved North Drive from the main gate to the house which sweeps in front of the house and down the South Drive to the Southern Gate. In addition to the main South Drive are two further pathways to the house. These were necessary as “staff were not allowed to walk up the South drive”.\textsuperscript{67}

The formal lawn is to the front of the house and the adjoining Walled Gardens are to the rear of the house. The policies are marked as mixed woodland and there is a small round pond, a clearing to the south of the house (later the Theatre) and a tennis green. A road to the rear of the house connects the Gardens to Home Farm.

\textsuperscript{66} Knight, Frank and Rutley, p. 11.

\textsuperscript{67} Interview with Malcolm McNeill (June 2017).
Figure 13. Plan of Policies of Gigha (1911).

The photographs (Figures 14 to 19, all from Knight Frank and Rutley) of the Gardens show a well-kept formal approach drive bordered by lawn and hedging, *Rhododendron ponticum*, *Cortaderia selloana* and *Cordyline australis*, deep herbaceous borders, stone walls and hedging. Although the garden plan and photographs show formal, well stocked and carefully maintained gardens, no accounts pre-1944 of the development of the gardens, payments to gardeners or purchase of plants have been located. Just one comment made in 1959 states that to “the south west corner of the walled garden tucked up against the wall and against the hill a vast Camellia japonica at least 100 years old”.

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68 Colonel Horlick, ‘Growing camellias of the south west coast of Scotland’ (1964). Text for a presentation. Audience not noted. AGT.
Figure 14. South Drive to Achamore House (a).

Figure 15. South Drive to Achamore House (b).
Figure 16. Rear border.

Figure 17. Grass path and herbaceous borders (a).
Figure 18. Grass path and herbaceous borders (b).

Figure 19. Wall and hedging and gardener.
Although put for sale in 1911, Gigha was not sold until after World War 1. In 1917 (the date is uncertain and might be 1919) Gigha was purchased by Major John Allen. In 1937 Gigha was sold to Richard and Elaine Hamer (née de Chair), daughter of Admiral Sir Dudley de Chair, former Governor of Australia. During the WWII Gigha passed to Elaine Hamer's brother, Somerset de Chair, who sold the island to the Colonel in 1944.

Conclusion

This chapter has presented an illustrated chronological account of the Gardens from the earliest known maps of the island (1580) to 1911. The Gardens were part of a private country estate used in the summer by the Scarlett family; the photographs portray a well-kept estate with well stocked and tended flower beds, and carefully maintained drives and paths. The next chapter explains the creation of the Gardens after Gigha was purchased by the Colonel.

69 Interview with Alastair MacNeil (June 2017).
Chapter 4 Achamore Gardens (1944-1972)

Introduction

This chapter synthesizes the influences on the designed landscape of the Gardens when owned by Colonel Sir James Horlick (the Colonel). The chapter considers first Kitty Lloyd-Jones, to whom the designed landscape has been attributed, and presents new evidence about James Russell’s (Russell) contribution to the designed landscape and planting of the Gardens. The Colonel was the second son of Lord Horlick and had previously lived at Titness House and Little Paddocks (Berkshire). He married twice, had three children, and inherited the Horlick baronetcy from his nephew in 1958.70

The Colonel and Gigha

Gigha was purchased by the Colonel to provide a place to indulge in his interest in plants and gardening, particularly rhododendrons.71 His wish to find a suitable location to create a garden is attested to in a letter to Russell (1960) in which he sympathises with Russell’s comparatively poor growing conditions in Surrey and shares his pleasure with his success in creating the Gardens:

Sorry to hear you had such a later winter and early spring. I cannot think why you live in such a God-forsaken country. It nearly cured me of gardening. One disappointment

70 Miss McGill (second wife) was employed as a secretary at Horlicks Limited. Letter from Russell to the Colonel. SN. (24 February 1953). Letter addressed to Miss McGill (Secretary) at Horlicks from Russell “I have not yet had confirmation about the Pinus Contorta, but may I come to do the planting at Gigha arriving on the evening of 22nd to plant on the Monday and Tuesday, 23rd and 24th March”. By June 1954 Miss McGill is living on Gigha. Letter from Russell to the Colonel annotated “JM sent P.c. 29/6/54 saying Colonel left yesterday for Baltic”. SN. (24 June 1954). AGT.

71 Hellyer, ‘Great British garden makers’.
after another. Here the garden is the finest I have ever seen it. The nursery garden is ablaze and so are the Lindleyi, Taggianum and the bluebells.72

The Colonel lived on Gigha for the major part of the year and planted much of the content of the Gardens.73 His official title was Sir James Horlick, laird of Gigha and the islets of Claro and Gigalum. The development of the Gardens was managed by the Colonel with the assistance of Malcolm Allan (head gardener from 1918 to 1970).74 As a benevolent landlord he also used his experience of the family business to support the island's dairy industry. In the 1950s the Colonel also purchased and created a garden at The Timbers, Ascot, for his use when he travelled south to England.

On purchasing Gigha, the Colonel reported that “in 1944 there was only a rather derelict two-acre walled garden divided into two by a low wall – and some of the plants they contain”, and “a wood that had never been thinned and hardly had a decent tree in it”.75 When describing the making of the garden he explains:

In the making of the garden I was first of all very much helped by a professional lady gardener, Miss Lloyd-Jones who had worked with me at Sunninghill during the war, and then by Mr Jim Russell of Sunningdale Nurseries, who helped me both with advice, layout of plants, and I found his knowledge invaluable.

72 Letter from the Colonel to Russell. (9 May 1960). AGT.

73 The Colonel resided at his Berkshire home for 2-3 weeks each year (initially Little Paddocks and then The Timbers) and also travelled extensively each year, e.g., to Europe, Africa, North America. AGT.

74 Czerkawska, The Way it Was, p. 199.

In a second presentation, subsequently published, the Colonel recounts how he brought plants from Little Paddocks to the Gardens. “When I came up here from the South I had high hopes and brought some 150 small plants from the large collection I had down there. I still have round about 20 to 30 out in the garden”.\textsuperscript{76} In the presentation the Colonel also states:

In the early days here I had a very highly skilled professional gardener who was an excellent partner and she did clear masses of stuff out of this very big plant, rather as an apple tree pruned (three farm cart loads of branches I remember) and it certainly did flower for several years later, much to the astonishment of my gardener who had never previously seen it bloom.

\textbf{Kitty Lloyd-Jones and the Gardens}

The professional lady gardener referred to above is Kitty Leticia Lloyd-Jones. From the late 1920s up to World War II Lloyd-Jones provided advisory services to clients in Hertfordshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire. Entries in the Little Paddocks estate books record four payments to Lloyd-Jones (1938-1940).\textsuperscript{77} In 1942 the Colonel refers to Lloyd-Jones in a letter to Lily Hill Nursery\textsuperscript{78} and in 1943 he names her as “my partner” in a letter to the Colonel the Hon.

\textsuperscript{76} Colonel Horlick, ‘Growing Camellias off the South West Coast of Scotland’ (\textit{Rhododendron and Camellia Yearbook}, 1964). AGT.

\textsuperscript{77} Little Paddocks Estate Book. Payments to Miss K. Lloyd-Jones: £13.4 (August 1938); £28.2.11 (31 October 1938); £41.2.10 (6 May 1939); and £6.1.6 (30 January 1940). AGT.

\textsuperscript{78} Letter from the Colonel to Mr J R Taylor, Lily Hill Nursery, Bracknell. (30 November 1942) ”As Miss Lloyd-Jones car is out of order I propose to call for the plants which I ordered from you”. AGT.
Further, in December 1942 Colonel Horlick nominates and pays Lloyd-Jones’s subscription to the Rhododendron Association.

In 1947 the Colonel commissioned architects Walker and Harwood to remodel Achamore House and the plans show a suite of rooms designated for Lloyd-Jones. Thus the modus operandi described in the historiography is borne out in the architectural drawings for remodelling of Achamore House. (Figure 20). Lloyd-Jones presence on Gigha and her active involvement in the garden is further supported by a delivery note (10.12.48) from Wm Bates Nursery, Wokingham, on which her name has been hand written. (Figure 21)

79 Letter from the Colonel to Campbell, Auchindoune, Cawdor, Nairn (16 November, 1943) “I also asked my partner, Miss Lloyd-Jones, to include some layers of Cotoneaster Congesta Procumbans … I do not know, however if she has done so or not, and she has now gone off for a day or two”. AGT.

80 Letter from the Rhododendron Association to the Colonel, Titness Farm (16 December 1942): “I learn with pleasure that you desire to propose Kitty Lloyd-Jones for membership of the Rhododendron Association”. Letter from Rhododendron Association to the Colonel to confirm membership fee for Lloyd-Jones (29 December 1942). AGT.
Figure 20. Suite for Lloyd-Jones at Achamore House (1947). Plan for Achamore House. Walker and Harwood, 21 Suffolk Street, SW1. AGT.

Figure 21. Delivery note to Gigha from Winnersh Nurseries (1948). AGT.
Creating the Gardens
The first few tasks to create the Gardens described by the Colonel were to clear the *rhododendron Ponticum*, the woods and bramble, purchase and raise new shrubs and plants for the Gardens. (Figures 22, 23 and 24)

The northern drive was flanked on both sides by three rows of 12 foot high ponticum rhs., and southern drive by enormous escallonias. Ponticum invaded everywhere, and where it was not ponticum, it was occasionally very tall privet.\(^{81}\)

Directly I bought the property I proceeded to raise cuttings from my garden at Sunninghill, and layers of rhodos and azaleas, and to hunt round for holly and tree seedlings from the little wood I possessed; and when they were ready these little plants were sent up in linen baskets, passenger train, insured, and took five days to arrive.\(^{82}\)

Figure 22. Making Gigha garden (1952). AGT.

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\(^{81}\) Horlick, ‘The making of Gigha garden’.

\(^{82}\) Ibid.
James Russell and the Gardens

Prior to buying Gigha in 1944, the Colonel had purchased plants from SN for Little Paddocks. The earliest dated correspondence between the Colonel and SN is an enquiry for a catalogue in 1937.\(^{83}\) This is followed by an order for 8 rhododendrons and a request to keep

\(^{83}\) Letter from H. White to Horlick, Ardwenikie, Kinloch Laggan, Nr Kingussie, SN. (10 August 1937): “I am obliged by your esteemed enquiry and have pleasure in enclosing a copy of our catalogue”. AGT.
them until after his return from Scotland in “the middle of October”. Further orders for Rhododendron, Acer, Pieris, were placed in October 1939. In 1940, rhododendrons and azaleas were ordered from SN to be delivered to Little Paddocks in May, September and October. The October letters from SN are conversational and refer to “your telephone call” and “mention a few other items, which may be of interest”. The letters from SN are signed by Louis Gray. The informal style of the letters suggests the start of a relationship between SN and the Colonel. The next document from SN to the Colonel is a quarterly account for £3.5 that lists *Pieris* (one) and *Rhododendron* (ten). In April 1944 the quarterly account for rhododendrons from SN to the Colonel is £9.6.6.

The Colonel purchased Gigha in 1944 and no correspondence with SN between 1944 and 1949 is kept in the archive. However, a letter from Russell (5 August 1949) addressed to the Colonel on Gigha describes in detail plants taken from Titness, plants to be purchased by the Colonel (£144.8.6), and plants to be given by the Colonel to “Miss Sealey”. This letter corresponds to a hand written note by the Colonel for plants. (Figure 26). At the end of the letter Russell comments “things have improved slightly here since the rain, but the weather

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84 Letter from the Colonel to Messrs. H. White. (13 August 1937). AGT.

85 List of plants headed “Bought from Sunningdale Nursery (sale). H. Wight (HW)”. (18 and 19 October, 1939) AGT.

86 Letter confirmation of order for 7 rhododendrons. SN. (5 May 1940). AGT.

87 Note of order placed by the Colonel with SN for 137 plants for £20 (23 September 1940). AGT.

88 Letter from SN to the Colonel, Little Paddocks. (22 October, 1940). AGT.

89 Quarterly Account to the Colonel. SN. (16 April 1943). AGT.

90 Quarterly Account to the Colonel. SN. (15 April 1944). AGT.

91 Titness House lies adjacent to Little Paddocks, Ascot.
now seems to be as hot as ever”. The letter suggests discussion between the Colonel and Russell about Titness House and the Gardens. On August 17 (1949) Russell writes (in his own hand) to the Colonel and describes the plants he will send – he also comments on the weather.

In 1951 two letters from the Colonel (24 September, 2 November) and Russell (8 November) discuss plants and the Colonel’s health. Referring to “Exbury strain Knaphill Azaleas for sale at 12/6d each” the Colonel writes:

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92 Letter to the Colonel from Russell. SN. (5 August 1949). AGT.

93 Letter to the Colonel from Russell. NC. (17 August 1949). AGT.
I should like to have 2 dozen about 15” to 18”. I take it there will be a small reduction on that number. I should be very grateful if you would pick out specially good plants as I wish to make a big bed of them up here. I want only the red, orange and yellow shades, no pink. If possible I would like equal numbers of each. Can you arrange for these plants to be despatched by Passenger Train so as to arrive about 1st December.94

The correspondence between the Colonel and SN up to 1952 suggests that between a loyal and price-conscious customer and an obliging supplier of shrubs and plants. The subsequent correspondence however, portrays an ever-closer relationship between the two parties. Although a letter commissioning a formal plan for Gardens is not kept, the first letter of 1952 (31 May) from Russell to the Colonel promises that “the plans to follow”. (Figure 27)

I am very sorry that this letter has been such a long time and that you still have not got the plan for the wall garden. This, however, will be sent off next week. I am afraid that Chelsea is such a disorganising time with the number of people who come to see the garden that it is extremely hard to get on with any solid work. I am enclosing with this letter a list of Azaleas which you liked here the other day and also a note of Rhododendrons which you asked me to keep for you.95

94 Letter from the Colonel to SN. (2 November 1951). AGT.

95 Letter to the Colonel from Russell. SN. (31 May 1952). AGT.
Accompanying the letter are three lists of plants, prices and a description of the garden (the lists extend to 4 pages). The description proposes specific plants, where to plant them, and plant groups. Below are two short excerpts that refer explicitly to features in the Gardens and Gigha.  

For the rocks just inside the drive I would suggest on the sunny side a grouping of Rosa Richardi a particularly charming small rose from Abyssinia with single shell pink flowers with a bunch of golden stamens at the centre.

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96 The full text in Appendix 2.
The question of background plants in the woodland is a somewhat large one and I think
would really be best considered on the ground. Perhaps with a view to spring planting
… If the royal fern Osmunda Regalia does not grow on Gigha then I think should be
introduced in fairly considerable quantity. There is nothing quite so fine as its tall
upstanding fronds in their vivid bronzy green.

In July 1952 Russell writes to thank the Colonel for his cheque and notes “I had worked out a
rough scheme for the wall garden so enclose it as a matter of interest”. 97 Russell also repeats
his offer to “discuss the underplanting in the wood with you on the ground as I think it is
nearly impossible to do on paper”. 98 The exchange confirms that the plans must have been
hand drawn as Russell comments in a post script “I am afraid I am a very poor drawer of
plans, as you can see”. Although no copy of the formal plan is in the archive, it is clear from
the five typed pages of a planting plan for “The Wall Garden at Gigha” attached to the letter
that Russell had used specific features in the walled garden as reference points for the formal
plan, e.g., “the seat marked A”, “the centre of this bed, D,” and the “centre E a large
ornamental pot”. 99

On July 17th Russell writes (in his own hand) from his personal address at Nursery Court
(NC) that he sends a list of azaleas to the Colonel and that “I should love to come up and
discuss things in August, preferably fairly near the end of that month”, and that “I can

97 Letter from Russell to the Colonel. SN. (18 July 1952). AGT.

98 Ibid.

99 The Wall Garden at Gigha. Attached to letter. (July 1952). Description unsigned and undated. AGT. In
Appendix 3.
certainly quote you for a quantity of ‘filling up’ azaleas at a reasonable price”. In this letter he also mentions that “I have to go and deal with some gardens in Herefordshire, Shropshire and Staffordshire”. These are references to Russell’s visits to and commissions from many other clients, or as he later refers to them in personal correspondence to the Colonel - “my victims”.

The much-talked about visit by Russell to Gigha however, does not come to fruition because Russell writes in August that “I am most terribly sorry to have let you down over coming to Gigha”, because of a medical problem and that “Just at the moment I am in Ayrshire hills shooting”. The letter then describes several visits to clients and ends “I am going to do some planting in the Montroses’ at Auchamn, finishing October 22nd so if I could come on to you from there it would suit very well”. A further hand written letter from Russell, on this occasion sent from an address in Angus, seeks to set up a visit to Gigha in early October and notes that “I shall be c/o Duke of Montrose, Brodick castle, Arran from Sept 27th – Oct. 1st and at the Buchanan Arms, Dunvegen, Glasgow from Oct 1st – 3rd”.

Writing from Inverness on October 11th I conclude that Russell has finally visited Gigha. He explains in his letter (Figures 28 and 29):

100 Letter to the Colonel from Russell. NC. (19 July 1952). AGT.

101 Letter from Russell to the Colonel. NC. (21 August, 1960). AGT.

102 Letter to the Colonel from Russell. Crathes Castle, Crathes, Kincardineshire. (13 August 1952). AGT.

103 Letter to the Colonel from Russell. Wellbank Cottage, Cortacky, Angus. (25 September 1952). AGT.
It was extremely kind of you to have me to stay at Gigha and I enjoyed myself enormously. As soon as I get home (about 15th) I will write at length about the garden. I really think you have got the most wonderful possibilities.104

Figure 28. Page 1 of letter confirming Russell’s visit to Gigha (1952). AGT.

104 Letter to the Colonel from Russell. Inverness. (11 October 1952). AGT.
In October (1952) Russell sends a letter to the Colonel in which he proposes a planting scheme for the Gardens. The letter commences:

I think it is easiest to consider the garden as looking from the house across the lawn. I am not going at the moment to suggest any plants for which a considerable area needs to be dug except in the case of the rocks which we looked at. The hydrangeas and other plants can quite easily be planted in holes in the woodland and should thrive under these conditions.

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It is evident from the letter that the Colonel and Russell have walked together in the Gardens, paused at several strategic spots and discussed suitable plants. In addition, Russell makes suggestions for plants in other locations.

Facing the garden from the top terrace, there is an area to the left in front of the boiler house for which we marked the places for a number of roses. These I enclose a list of and the plants have been despatched … I feel the whole of this area needs to be linked to continuous planting along the front of the wood. I would suggest a group on either side of the main path of leptospermum.

Crossing the central walk we enter the glade containing Rh. May day. We agreed here that the plants should be removed from the centre which is boggy with rock near the surface and this this area should be planted with Primulas. At the foot of the glade where Rh. May Day is doing so well, I would like to introduce 7 plants of Rh. Hawk v. Jarvis Bay.

The Colonel responds by letter to thank Russell for the suggestions and plants “I cannot answer the whole of it offhand, but in the main I think your suggestions excellent”. However, the Colonel also asserts his own views about the Gardens:

As regards the glade containing May day, I don’t think there is the least chance of putting in Rh. Hawk v. Jarvis Bay, the whole place is ‘bung’ full of May Day and am proposing to put a block here of Stranvesia for protection.

106 Letter from the Colonel to Russell. (16 November 1952). AGT.
The exchange of letters endorses the active interest of the Colonel in his garden and expertise in discussing suitable plants and planting with Russell. Amusingly, this letter from Horlick also suggests a growing friendship with Russell when he shares his frustrations about the rabbits on Gigha, “A something, something rabbit has chewed up a number of my Euonymus Japonicus and I am a little bit nervous about the heaths and especially the brooms”.

In 1953 Russell appears to be actively involved in planting the Gardens. In January he explains in a letter to the Colonel, accompanied by a plant list (to Mr Malcom Allan, less £50 plants supplied to us, approx. total £120):

If I can do a certain amount of the planting which we sketched out, the rocks by the gate, the rock in the wood and the area just by the edge of the drive, it would be much less expensive as I shall have two men up there at that period, whereas if a bring them up with me after the Camellia Show, I should have to charge the expenses of their journey, which would be a considerable amount. I think that if this is done, we can decide any alterations quite simply when I come up in April.107

Correspondence from Russell (on his personal NC notepaper) prior to the visit sends information to the Colonel about the transportation of the plants to Gigha and also the arrival of the two workmen. Russell’s contact address prior to visiting Gigha is Castle Howard, the estate of another of his elite clients and to where he first retires.108 After the spring visit to Gigha Russell suggests to the Colonel that:

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107 Letter from Russell to the Colonel. SN. (27 January 1953). AGT.

108 Letter from Russell to the Colonel (17 March 1953). AGT.
If it is any help I will come and move the rhodos and azaleas in the drive in the autumn and I also feel that it would be a good thing to try and get out a detailed plan for the bank behind the wall garden.\textsuperscript{109}

In May and June the Colonel and Russell correspond about the plants introduced in the spring by Russell. Several plants have not fared well “I am sorry that so many small heaths have died”, and “The Rhododendron Taronense should be true as it is from the plant which received the award”\textsuperscript{110}. In a further letter Russell comments “I will check up on the Rhododendron Taronense, as you say, Exbury do make mistakes”.\textsuperscript{111}

In September Russell writes to the Colonel about his visit “I do apologise for not writing long before this to say how much I enjoyed my visit”\textsuperscript{112}. This letter includes a list of roses and mentions another visit scheduled for the end of October:

Would it suit you if I were to come back on the evening of Monday October 12\textsuperscript{th} to do the moving on the Tuesday and Wednesday, leaving on the morning of the 15\textsuperscript{th}. I could leave a good man with you until Tuesday 20\textsuperscript{th} or for a little longer is you want him.

\textsuperscript{109} Letter from Russell to the Colonel. (9 April 1953). AGT.

\textsuperscript{110} Letter from Russell to the Colonel. SN. (26 May 1953). AGT.

\textsuperscript{111} Letter from Russell to the Colonel. SN. (13 June 1953). AGT.

\textsuperscript{112} Letter to the Colonel from Russell. Wellbank, Contachy, Angus. (16 September 1953). AGT.
After his visit, Russell writes to thank the Colonel for hosting him and offers to introduce him to other garden owners (Alfred Beit) and sends news about plants and his journey back home to England.\textsuperscript{113}

In 1954 the Colonel travels to Rhodesia and whilst he is away Russell and assistant(s) (number not specified) return to Gigha with more plants for the Gardens.\textsuperscript{114} The letter refers to a pond: “The pond appears to be a great success in any case everybody is quite delighted with it, and enormous grins spread across their faces whenever it was mentioned”. Further letters from Russell propose a detailed planting plan for the pond feature (plants to the value of £74.7.3)\textsuperscript{115} and a return visit to Gigha whilst the Colonel remains in Rhodesia.\textsuperscript{116}

\textbf{Formal Plan for Achamore Gardens 1955}

The correspondence between the Colonel and Russell presented above suggest a growing friendship between the two men. Although the correspondence is predominantly about the purchase and placement of plants at the Gardens, the letters increasingly comment on Russell’s travel commitments, weather and growing conditions, and the Colonel’s deteriorating health. In 1955 plants for the Spring Bank and Bog Garden to the value of £192.18.6 are recommended by Russell to the Colonel.\textsuperscript{117} A visit by Russell to Gigha is proposed:

\begin{flushleft}
\\textsuperscript{113} Letter to the Colonel from Russell. Longnor Hall, Nr Shrewsbury, Shropshire. (22 October 1953). AGT.

\textsuperscript{114} Letter to the Colonel from Russell. SN. (2 February 1954). AGT.

\textsuperscript{115} Letter to the Colonel from Russell. SN. (17 February 1954). AGT.

\textsuperscript{116} Letter to the Colonel from Russell. SN. Including delivery note for plants. (4 March 1954). AGT.

\textsuperscript{117} Letter and plant list from Russell to the Colonel. SN. (31 January 1955). AGT.
\end{flushleft}
As far as planting is concerned I would suggest that I come up myself hoping to arrive about March 16th and will bring two men with me. I would suggest that we mark out the areas for the azaleas and I could probably leave the men with you for a week and possibly longer. I will then return when I finish the planting in Ireland which should be immediately after Easter.\footnote{Letter and plant list from Russell to The Colonel. SN. (21 February 1955). AGT.}

A letter after the March visit proposes a visit in May and refers to a formal plan for the Gardens: “If you would like Walter Brugger to make the plan for you I could bring him and leave him with you. He is very quick and capable and knows his plants very well”.\footnote{Letter from Russell to the Colonel. NC. (5 May 1955). AGT.} Further correspondence notes that “Walter Brugger costs around £20 per week as he is a highly skilled draughtsman and surveyor but he is such a quick worker that I don’t think the plan will be very costly”.\footnote{Letter from Russell to the Colonel. NC. (2 June 1955). AGT.} Russell writes after his visit to Gigha and refers to a rough drawing of plans for the Gardens. The request in the letter for names of areas of the garden suggests that is the first map to employ names for areas. If a previous garden plan had been prepared the named areas would already be available to Brugger.

I am enclosing a “rough” of Walters Brugger’s plan for you because he is anxious to know what you call the various parts of the garden. He will then colour it and send you the completed design on linen paper. He also suggests that for your plan for visitors he has a photograph taken and printed at the size you want.\footnote{Letter from Russell to the Colonel. SN. (17 August 1955). AGT.}
Russell and the Colonel agree that Brugger will prepare the plan “I am delighted you are pleased with the plan. I will write to Walter Brugger to-night and send the plan back to him and tell him to get in touch with you direct about coming up to finish it”. Brugger then writes to the Colonel to confirm the plans will be ready by the end of September and arrange a visit to Gigha. (Figure 30). The sequence of letters relates to three plans of the Gardens: a large coloured, unsigned linen backed plan of the Gardens (1955) (Figures 31 and 32) and unsigned visitors plan for the Gardens (1955) (Figure 33) and the Walled Garden (1955) (Figure 34).

It will take me probably 4-5 days to complete the plan, and the plants left behind and the difficult areas are the hill and in the woods will be much better accessible with the big plan. I will write the names you indicated on the original and bring everything with me.


On 29 December Russell writes to the Colonel “I am glad you are pleased with Walter Brugger’s plan. I think he does them remarkably well”. Russell ends the letter “I have a copy of the Gigha plan up here and will write and send list of shrubs that might look pretty in the wall garden borders, particularly sweet-scented plants such as Philadelphus”\textsuperscript{124}

By 1956 Russell sends detailed plans for planting at Gigha (and The Timbers).\textsuperscript{125} Although Russell explains in a second letter “I have sent you a fairly hefty quotation but there is about

\textsuperscript{124} Letter to the Colonel from Russell. Sheilhill House, by Forfar, Angus. (29 December 1955). AGT.

\textsuperscript{125} Letter to the Colonel from Russell. SN. (13 February 1956). Four pages of planting advice, one plan for border at Timbers, plant list and prices for Timbers (£356.3.3) and Gigha (£56.14.6). AGT
£300 to set against plants removed from Gigha”. Russell and Horlick continue to correspond about the gardens at Achamore and Timbers and on his next visit Russell asks Horlick if he may “bring my sister with me? We shall both be staying with Hewey Black just before and it would make a very pleasant little jaunt for her”. The visit is arranged for March and a lorry is sent ahead to take plants to and from Gigha. More plants follow in May (to the value of £322.19). Between 1957 and 1961 Horlick and Russell continue corresponding about the gardens at Achamore, Timbers and at the Horlicks factory, Ascot.

126 Letter to the Colonel from Russell. Royal Hibernian Hotel, Dublin. (18 February 1956). AGT.
127 Letter from Russell to the Colonel. SN. (6 March 1956). AGT.
128 Letter from Russell to the Colonel. SN. (13 March 1956). AGT.
129 Letter and plant list from Russell to the Colonel. (3 May 1956). AGT.
130 Letters to the Colonel from Russell: 12 letters and visits Gigha March and October (1957); 6 letters and visits Gigha in March and November (1958); 5 letters, 3 invoices and visits in March (1959); 8 letters (1960); one letter (1961). The letters combine plant and planting descriptions, information about people and gardens and anecdotes. AGT.
Figure 31. Achamore House Gardens (1955). AGT.
Figure 32. Detail of Walled Garden, South Bank and North Bank (1955). AGT.
Figure 33. Visitors Plan for Achamore House Gardens (1955). AGT.
Further evidence to endorse Russell’s professional involvement in creating the designed landscape at the Gardens can be found in the invoices from SN to the Colonel. Although Russell is said to have developed friendships with his clients rather than business relationships, his manager Thomas took a firmer stance on invoicing clients for services and chasing non-payment. However, it is “quite rare to find any reference to fees paid by clients for Russell’s services”.¹³¹ In the correspondence between SN and Horlick there is evidence that the Colonel paid for services provided by Russell and SN. In 1953 Russell writes “Thank you so much for your letter of May 19th and for the cheque on account”.¹³² In May 1955 the invoice for plants also specifies costs for delivery, labour and professional fees.¹³³ (Figure 35)

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¹³¹ Legg, James Russell, p.vii.

¹³² Letter to the Colonel from Russell. SN. (26 May 1953). AGT.

¹³³ Invoice from SN. (17 May 1955). AGT.
A letter from Russell shows his discomfort that the financial aspects of the SN business impact on his relationship with Horlick. Russell explains:

First of all I must apologise for the absurd bill which was sent to you (one of the reasons of the troubles, I have had to sack my manager). I can’t I’m afraid keep the
costs of the lorry down to £25 these days but it certainly won’t be £67.10 and also the
amount for fees and expenses is absurd. In any case I enjoy coming to Gigha far too
much to charge you any fees and the expenses are nothing like the figure shown. They
will send you a proper account shortly.\footnote{Letter to the Colonel from Russell. NC. (2 June 1955). AGT.}

In 1956 the Colonel receives a letter from Russell informing him that the accounts and
counter accounts for the garden will be sent. Although the account is not available, the letter
is interesting in that it refers to the fee for Brugger’s services:

\begin{quote}
I am afraid that Walter Brugger’s bill has come out at much more than I expected.
When I first wrote and said that I reckoned he cost something like £22 per week. I had
allowed him spending a fortnight on the plan. He did however go back a second time
and put in a great many more plants and draw a smaller plan for the gate, and it totals
up in fact from his own vouchers to five weeks work.\footnote{Letter to the Colonel from Russell. SN. (18 June 1956). AGT.}
\end{quote}

In August 1956 Russell proposes to visit Gigha in October to deliver and take away plants.\footnote{Letter to the Colonel from Russell. SN. (26 August 1956). “Would mid-October suit you for the upheaving? Would you like me to bring 2 men up? We could perhaps upheave and place and Malcom and his men could plant?” AGT.}
The visit takes place in October and Russell writes to thank the Colonel in November and
continue their discussions about plants and planting in the Gardens.\footnote{Between 27 August and 16 November 1956 Russell sends 6 letters to The Colonel. AGT.} In 1957 Russell, now
looking after the Colonel’s gardens on Gigha and the Timbers, writes to “try and sort out the
various quotations which I have sent you from time to time”. Between 1958 and 1960 six invoices are sent from Russell to the Colonel for professional services. (Figures 36 and 37)

Figure 36. Invoice (1957). AGT.

Figure 37. Invoice (1958). AGT.

138 Letter to the Colonel from Russell. SN. (28 February 1957). AGT.

139 Invoices from SN to the Colonel. £89.9.7 (31 March 1957); £19.6.7 (23 May 1958); £11.2.2 (12 March 1959), £20.10.6 (9 April 1959), £4.19.0 (31 May 1959), and £13.9.0 (2 December 1959). AGT.
The Designed Landscape at the Gardens

The primary data presented in this chapter offers robust evidence that although the design and planting of the Gardens have traditionally been attributed to Lloyd-Jones, the designed landscape is more accurately attributed to James Russell, with input from the Colonel. The letters and invoices attest to the involvement of Russell in arranging for the plans to be prepared, as well as his visits to Gigha to oversee the planting. A letter from the Colonel to Russell (excerpts of which are presented below) further endorses the friendship between them and the attribution of the Gardens to Russell:

First of all, many congratulations on your new Rhododendron Catalogue which I think is an excellent compilation and a very complete one … I feel that I must write and tell you what a tremendous success the garden here had this year. In spite of being very much knocked about by almost two months of severe easterly winds, and one south westerly gale at Easter time which destroyed much of the young growth of Prunus’ etc it really has put up a most magnificent show. Everyone on the cruise was enchanted with it and it was no use telling them that it was very much better the week before. … Several people told me that it was the best laid out and kept garden in the whole of Scotland, and I do wish you had seen it this year … I thought you would like to know all this. The garden owes so much to you. I should like you to see it again so do come up if you possibly can for a day or so … Bring Jane with you when you come up. Best love from us both. Yours ever.140

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140 Letter from the Colonel to Russell. (21 May 1960). AGT.
Conclusion

In 1960 the Colonel, aged 74 and concerned about the future of the Gardens, began a correspondence about the future of the Gardens with the NTS for Scotland. In 1961 the Colonel was awarded the RHS Loder Rhododendron Cup, and a final letter from Russell to the Colonel in the same year promises another visit to Gigha laden with plants for the Gardens.\footnote{Letter from Russell to the Colonel. (21 March 1961). AGT.} The Colonel died at his home in Gigha in 1972 and is buried in the island’s cemetery. The next chapter examines how community ownership of the Gardens influences garden conservation and use.
Chapter 5 Achamore Community Gardens

Introduction

The years between 1944 and 1972 during which Gigha was owned by the Colonel have been described by islanders as the “golden years”.142 After his death in 1972 Gigha was sold to D.W.N Landale, then Malcom Poitier (1989) and Derek Holt. In 2002 the community bought Gigha and this chapter examines how community garden ownership influences garden conservation and use.

Gigha Community Buy Out

The community buyout of Gigha came after the purchase of the North Lochinver Estate by the Assynt Crofters Trust (1993), the community purchase of Eigg (1997), Knoydart Peninsula (1999),143 North Harris (2003) and South Uist (2006).144 The IGHT assumed ownership of Gigha in March 2002. To pay back part of the loan the House was sold and IGHT retained ownership of the Gardens. The rationale for retaining community ownership of the Gardens was that the many visitors to the Gardens generated an important source of income for their conservation, and also that the community had become used to enjoying access to the Gardens and a new private owner might withdraw this freedom of use.145

Community Owned Gardens

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142 Interviews with Alastair McNeil and Amy Wilson (June 2017).

143 McMarron et al., ‘Reconstructing sustainability’.


145 Interview with Amy Wilson (June 2017).
Community owned gardens are used by people to grow food, flowers and foster strong community relationships and where people play a significant role in community development activities in relation to the production of place and the creation of social networks. Community gardens also benefit the psychological and social wellbeing of the community. In these ways community owned gardens are much more than sites where gardening takes place - they are places for individual, social and cultural transformation.

Community gardens in the UK can be traced back to enclosure of British common land in the 18th century. This led to the development of allotments as a form of resistance to the enclosure of land that was formerly owned in common. The Allotments Act 1887 compensated the displaced commoners by providing land, at peppercorn rent, on which to grow food. From this perspective, community owned gardens are framed as part of a long line of defenders of community commons, self-help and empowerment. Community owned gardens have also been framed as proactive, virtuous, grassroots responses to an external threat or crisis. The community buy out of Gigha, and the community ownership of the

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149 Pudup, ‘It takes a garden’.

150 Nettle, *Community Gardening as Social Action*.


Gardens, epitomises the social and cultural changes ushered in by 21st century Scottish land reform.

Community owned gardens are also idiosyncratic and vary considerably ranging from small pockets of land looked after by a handful of dedicated gardeners to community gardens visited by thousands of visitors each year and venues for multiple activities. Of interest here is how community ownership of the Gardens has influenced garden conservation and use. The land ownership arrangement is however complicated by the donation of the rhododendron collection to the NTS.

The National Trust for Scotland

An early reference to the NTS is made in 1953 when the Colonel mentions “The plants lifted extremely well and are a very handsome lot, the National Trust should be extremely pleased with them”. Although the specific destination of the plants is not noted, the subsequent negotiations between the Colonel and the NTS note giving plants to Brodick. In 1960 Sir George Campbell visits Gigha to appraise the Gardens and send a confidential report to the NTS.

What has been done at Gigha is a wonderful accomplishment by an extremely competent gardener and plantsman, whose knowledge of plants and their particular requirements is on the highest plane … It is fair to say that the

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154 Letter from Russell to the Colonel. (17 February 1953). AGT.

155 Sir George Campbell of Succoth, Bart., D.L., J.P., Crarae Lodge, by Inveraray, Argyll.
Gigha Garden – (if) it is to be maintained in its present state – will always be expensive – grass cutting – drainage maintenance – subsidiary shelter must be continuing … I would say that the Gigha Garden – and I think experts in the gardening world (and I am no expert) would agree if asked, that it is worthy of preservation.156

Correspondence between the NTS and Lady Horlick between 1960 and 1962 considers how the plant collection could be maintained and developed. The NTS is interested in the Gardens (not the House) and estimates that 5 gardeners (plus accommodation) would be needed and that this would require a capital fund of £60 000. The NTS is enthusiastic and comments that “With the Colonel, with you and with John of course one can see this as nothing but a grand adventure for the Trust”.157 In 1961 the suggestion was made by James Stormonth Darling (NTS secretary) “to look upon the collection of plants as something separable from the gardens and certainly the house”, and that £50 000 be donated by the Colonel to “maintain the collection whether that collection remain at Gigha or be removed”.158

The plant collection at the Gardens together with an annual endowment of £25 000 (The Horlick Garden Fund) for future maintenance was gifted to the NTS. The aim of the gift was to make the Gardens available for “full public enjoyment”.159 Many rhododendrons from the Gardens were also sent to Brodick, Culzean and Iverewe.160

156 Confidential report of Sir George Campbell’s reactions – Gigha – as requested. (18 October 1960). AGT.
157 Letter to Lady Horlick from NTS. (14 November 1960). AGT
158 Strictly Confidential note by Stormonth Darling. (20 June 1961). AGT.
159 Letter from Stormonth Darling to the Colonel. (10 August 1961). AGT.
160 The NTS was established in 1931 when it was proposed that Scotland should have its own body to hold land for the public good. Primarily a land-owning institution, the NTS also has care rights for buildings of historic
Achamore Community Gardens

The IGHT commissioned a conservation and development plan for the designed landscape of the Gardens and the final report (2005) confirmed the Gardens to be a designed landscape of national importance.\textsuperscript{161} In 2016 Achamore Gardens Trust (AGT) was established to manage the gardens, lead their restoration, and facilitate participation, engagement and regeneration.\textsuperscript{162} The influence of community ownership on the Gardens is manifest in three principle activities. First, the community is involved in deciding on how the Gardens will be conserved and used. The AGT board comprises residents from Gigha and open meetings are held to decide on how to best conserve the Gardens. While some visitors are enchanted by the wild yet tranquil Gardens, other visitors would prefer to see greater attention to grass cutting, weeding and woodland management.\textsuperscript{163} Lack of funds has limited the employment of professionally qualified gardeners and members of the community are actively involved in trying to protect and conserve the plants, paths, pond and other features in the Gardens. Figures 38 to 43 show the Gardens (Author, June 2017).

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\textsuperscript{161} http://www.gigha.org.uk/gardens/AchamoreProject.php Accessed 1 August 2017.

\textsuperscript{162} http://www.gigha.org.uk/viewItem.php?id=8845&sectionTitle=Attractions Accessed 1 August 2017.

\textsuperscript{163}Interview with Amy Wilson (June 2017).
Figure 38. Approach to the Gardens.

Figure 39. New Pond Garden.
Figure 40. Azalea Woods.

Figure 41. Theatre Garden.
Figure 42. North Walled Garden.
Second, the management of a volunteer gardener programme. The volunteer programme comprises drop in morning and afternoon sessions, family group sessions and camping-volunteer experiences. Volunteer groups are invited to camp in the Gardens, usually for one week at a time, and to attend to specific areas that need the most urgent attention. The AGT plans include providing accommodation for gardeners.

Third, the Gardens are used to benefit the community, e.g., outdoor learning for children from Gigha primary school, for hosting garden theatre and music events, and providing flowers and honey to the community owned hotel. The Gardens also generate income from visitors and feature on the Discover Scottish Gardens programme managed by Visit Scotland.

\[^{164}\text{http://discoverscottishgardens.org/garden/achamore-gardens-2/} \text{ Accessed 1 August 2017.}\]
Conclusion

This chapter has analysed community ownership of the Gardens and the establishment of the AGT and in doing so has completed the chronology and analytical account of the Gardens. Community ownership heralds a new era in the Gardens in which the community, and not private owners, are responsible for how the Gardens are conserved and used. Community ownership has also strengthened the connections between the Gardens and the residents of Gigha to ensure that the Gardens continue to be available for “full public enjoyment”.  

\[165\] Stormonth Darling. (10 August 1961). AGT.
Chapter 6 Conclusion

Contributions

The dissertation presents the first chronological and analytical account of the creation of Achamore Gardens. Secondary and primary data was analysed to develop a timeline of ownership and creation of the garden from the 19th to the 21st centuries. Commencing with the purchase of the island by the Scarlett family, the different owners and their influences on the Gardens are mapped out in a chronology of the Gardens.

The second contribution is the examination of the roles of Kitty Lloyd Jones and James Russell on the designed landscape at the Gardens. Prior to the analysis presented in this dissertation the design of the Gardens had been attributed to Lloyd-Jones. From my analysis of the primary data owned by AGT I present evidence that the designed landscape of the Gardens is attributable to Russell.

The third contribution is to explicate the relationship between land ownership and garden creation, conservation and use. When the Gardens were owned by the Scarlett family, with the exception of the formal drives and pathways, they were primarily for providing ground cover for game hunting. Hunting was a pastime of the aristocracy and community use of the Gardens would have been restricted to labouring. The Colonel created a “paradise garden”\(^\text{166}\) in which plants from around the world, especially rhododendrons, were acquired and conserved. During this period island residents were employed as gardeners and the primary school children were invited into the gardens on sports day. The Colonel invited guests to

\(^{166}\) Helyer, ‘Great British garden makers’.
visit the Gardens and in the 1960s tourists were received by arrangement. More recently the Gardens have come into community ownership and are now used for the benefit of the community and the prosperity of Gigha.

**Suggestions for Further Research**

The dissertation has analysed a small part of the Gardens archive and several future suggestions research would be possible from the large volume of resources that remain unexplored.

The Gardens archive dates from the early years of the 20th century and many documents and photographs relate to the management of the Titness Estate and Little Paddocks. The Estate Log Book records in detail all expenditure at Little Paddocks, of particular interest to garden historians are the purchases of plants and payments to garden staff. Many of the entries can be cross referenced to the invoices from nurseries. Future research to develop the history of the Titness Estate and Little Paddocks would advance knowledge about two little known English gardens.

The Gardens archive contains more than 3 000 photographic slides that date from approximately 1945 to late 1960s. The images are of the Gardens, the Colonel’s visits to other gardens, and his international travel. Several of the slides have been included in this dissertation however, a large number remain unused. Each of the slides been labelled, usually with the site and date however, they have not been filed in date order. Future research possibilities include creating a yearly account of the progression of the garden from the 1955 Russell plan to maturity; and analysing the exotic plants on the Gardens.
The Colonel pursued his passion for collecting and breeding rhododendrons and created 48 rhododendron cultivars of which 26 grow in the Gardens. The Colonel was awarded the RHS Victoria Medal of Honour in 1963 for rhododendron cultivation. The archive comprises correspondence between the Colonel and the RHS and some information relating to parentage of rhododendron crosses. The texts in the archive provide information which could be analysed to provide a detailed account of the development of the Horlick hybrids.

Finally, community gardens are increasingly recognised as important sites for promoting community building, conservation, and ecological awareness. The recently formed AGT is tasked with protecting the Gardens at the same time as initiating new projects to bring the community on Gigha together and regenerate the Gardens. Further research that examined the challenges of creating and managing community gardens, as well as their social, cultural, ecological and ethical significance would shed light on this increasingly important category of gardens.
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## Appendix 1: List of Named Gardens

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<th>Garden Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Athlone Bay</td>
<td>Hospital Garden</td>
<td>Spring Drive</td>
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<td>Ash Garden</td>
<td>House Garden</td>
<td>Sitca Garden</td>
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<td>Azalea Woods</td>
<td>Hugh’s Border</td>
<td>South Bank</td>
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<td>Beech Tree Garden</td>
<td>Islay’s Border</td>
<td>South East Garden</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beech Lawns</td>
<td>Leo Garden</td>
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<tr>
<td>Blue Tit Ridge</td>
<td>Lime Tree Garden</td>
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<td>Bog Garden</td>
<td>Loderii Garden</td>
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<td>Brocade Garden</td>
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<td>Theatre Garden</td>
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<td>Brocade Glade</td>
<td>Macabeanum Garden</td>
<td>The Hill</td>
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<td>Chestnut Bay</td>
<td>Malcom Allan Garden</td>
<td>Thomson Garden</td>
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<td>Colin’s Glade</td>
<td>Montana Mound</td>
<td>Triangle</td>
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<td>Circle</td>
<td>New Ash Garden</td>
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<td>East Mound</td>
<td>New Pond Garden</td>
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<td>Walled Walk</td>
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<td>First Garden/Old Garden</td>
<td>North walled Garden</td>
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<td>Fragrant Garden</td>
<td>Nursery Garden</td>
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<td>Fusilier Garden</td>
<td>Outer Circle</td>
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<td>Garage Garden</td>
<td>Pond Garden</td>
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<td>Graingers Garden</td>
<td>Pond Woodland</td>
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<tr>
<td>Green Drive</td>
<td>Power House Walk</td>
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<td>Green Walk</td>
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<td>Griersonianum Garden</td>
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Appendix 2: Plans for Gigha Garden (31 May 1952)

THE SUNNINGDALE NURSERIES,
(Established 1847)
WINDLESHAM,
SURREY.

31st May, 1952.

Dear Colonel Horlick,

I am very sorry that this letter has been such a long time and that you still have not got the plan for the wall garden. This, however, will be sent off next week. I am afraid that Chelsea is such a disorganising time with the number of people who come to see the garden that it is extremely hard to get on with any solid work.

I am enclosing with this letter a list of the Azaleas which you liked here the other day and also a note of the Rhododendrons which you asked me to keep for you. I have put quantities against the Azaleas because most of these are fairly new varieties and I am very particular about only having them on their own roots, so that at the moment quantities are slightly limited. If you would let me know what numbers you would like, I will have these labelled for you straight away so that there will be no confusion in the autumn.

I have to leave for Yorkshire early tomorrow morning and will get the office to send you this letter straight away.

Yours sincerely,

Jim Rusell

COL Horlick,
Isle of Gigha,
Argyll.

P.S. Plans to follow.
Clumps of roses to be planted on lawns in order to hide electricity plants. The area to be planted here is 50 x 20 yds and I would like to suggest the following varieties at the back where they could perhaps scramble into the trees. **Rosa banksiae Lutea**, an exceptionally robust plant with huge bunches of strongly scented single white flowers, **Rosa filipes** similar but not quite so vigorous a large growing shrub. Both to be planted in front of these **Rosa rugosa**. Jermyni with the typical furry foliage and blood red flowers are in an exceptionally fine fruiting variety and the same plant, with dark blood red flowers, **Rosa banksiae Lutea** Hybrid from Hayball with extremely large single cream white flowers, slightly open in bud, the tone of comparatively new briar hybrids from Germany with extremely large single flowers, **Rosa banksiae** uniform cream yellow, **Rosa banksiae** cherry pink, **Rosa banksiae** pink in the bud, small pink at the edge of the petals cream yellow at the centre. In front of these again the blue leaved alba sublata with its exquisitely formed small pink flowers and also seed pearls with perhaps the bluest grey foliage in this group and semi-double white flowers.

Other roses which might perhaps be used in clumps of perhaps 7 to 15 on the other side of the lawn are **Rosa banksiae** a spreading rose with purple stems and single deep canary yellow flowers and **Rosa alba** which might be considered as a large flowering form of the Scotch Brier with cream flowers. Clumps of any of the varieties of Scotch Briar would also be very attractive in this setting.

For the rocks just inside the drive I would suggest the sunny side a grouping of **Rosa banksiae** a particularly charming small rose from Abysseida with single shell pink flowers with a bunch of golden stamens at the centre. This is very pretty if combined with the spreading dwarf brown Senecio leucopus with its clear yellow flowers. For later effect the new Portuges rose **Rosa banksiae** with large cup shaped white flowers, and the large pink flower **Rosa banksiae**, sliver pink, perhaps one or two **Rosa banksiae** and **Rosa banksiae** Virgatini for autumn colour and further back **Rosa banksiae** and **Rosa banksiae** Alba and Australia for early Spring.

On the shady side **GAUTHERIA FORRESTII** and **Rosa banksiae** should grow well, one with white flowers, the other with the exquisite blue berries. The creeping **GAUTHERIA** and **Rosa banksiae** planted in the previous of the rock should provide quite a good show and perhaps on the top of the rock clumps of **Rosa banksiae**, **Rosa banksiae**, **Rosa banksiae** Blue and **Rosa banksiae** Blue Diamond.

The question of background plants in the woodland is a somewhat large one and I think would really need be considered on the ground. Perhaps with a few bold groups as a moody effect to be avoided at all costs. There are certain obvious plants which should be used in quantity. I am not sure if you have an objection to ferns but these are perhaps the most natural of all woodland plants. If the royal fern **Asplenium Niphilium** does not grow on Site then I think this should be introduced in fairly considerable quantity. There is nothing quite as fine as its tall upstanding fronds in their vivid green. Other beautiful and exceptionally useful ferns are the evergreen ferns **Lagunaria**, whose fronds reach some 3/4 ft and will run happily about in the corners of the wood. For those banks places the spreading ferns of **Lagunaria**, the ostrich ferns are excellent.
As far as shrubs are concerned both Zanthoxylum piperitum and Pulmonaria are very attractive and the heavy scented large white balls are produced in July at a time when there is comparatively little else in flower. I personally am fond of a few bamboos in the woodland but you may dislike these. If not they add considerably to a rather tropical effect and I would particularly recommend Illicium floridanum and the tall Fatsia japonica, capable of reaching some 20', with orange stems and bold tufts of foliage. None of these are terrible runners and all are a very great improvement on the ordinary Heathers. There is a very attractive early variety Cyclamen which does not run at all. Its small black nigretta stem reach 30', leaves are olive green with a purple base. Another attractive but at the moment rare plant is Anemone sylvestris which is a Gillian plant with huge stems and tufts of feather. Like leaves springing from them all the way up.

In most places I think a few big clumps of Callicarpa callicarpa would be attractive and these again flower in late June/July when most of the Rhododendrons are over.

Perhaps of all the woodland shrubs the Hydrangeas are the most rewarding. There are a tremendous number of these which are far too little known and very seldom seen. Hydrangea grandiflora is a vigorous and hardy shrub with large heads of white sterile flowers, as these begin to wane they are a vivid jade green in colour and form eventually a ball shaped head of creamy white flowers. Hydrangea striata is again a large and vigorous shrub with rather small heads of fertile flowers with a few large white florets. Of the most handsome and which would be entirely hardy with you is Hydrangea. This has large leaves shaped like an oak leaf which turn to a brilliant scarlet in the autumn. The sterile flowers are green and the sterile florets of a rather pleasant pinky white. In the Monopodial group which contains all the ordinary garden varieties, there is one or two which I think are exceptionally attractive. Hydrangea macrophylla is what is known as a semi-lace-capped which means it does not have the large head of the garden Hydrangeas with the large sterile florets clustered all over it, it is a pretty shade of pink. Manchuriana has the heavy blue heads of the ordinary Hydrangeas but these are carried on glistering black stems which give it an unusual air. For the prettiest in this section are what is known as the lace-capped varieties. These approach more to the wild type of Hydrangea, a flat head the centre of which is full of the tiny fertile flowers sometimes white sometimes blue and around these are a ring of the large sterile flowers in various colours. Lagerstroemia and White Hydrangea are two which have white sterile florets and a deep blue centre. Klinsmania has a blue centre and lilac mauve florets, while Hydrangea macrima has a blue centre and extremely large florets of pure white which turn slowly to red with age. This is a variety which will grow extremely well in dense shade. Blue love has a blue centre and vivid blue florets. The Borrascaceae are fine more delicate again in appearance than this group. One of the prettiest is Blue Rigid with a rather small blue flower and lilac fertile flowers. Tumbes is a fairly common plant making a small bush 3/4' high. The deep rose flowers become blood red with age. There are some very pretty Hydrangea from this
and one of the very best is **Hydrangea** with its rose pink florets becoming blood red with age and **Riber's pink** a new variety from Riber's whose flowers open and remain a very intense rose pink. The old variety **Grandiflora** is of course a very useful plant because of its hardness. We now come to perhaps the most exciting group which in the section known as *Aspera* which contains one very attractive dwarf in *Involucrata* a low shrub some 4'/5' high, very free flowering with bright lilac blue fertile flowers and large cream florets surrounding them. The remainder in this group are the large tree Hydrangeas which are some of the most effective autumn shrubs to be seen anywhere. Perhaps the best known of these is **Villosa**, a tall shrub some 10'/12' with long hairy green leaves and large flat heads of flower. The fertile flowers move and the ray florets a bright porcelain blue. Larger and more vigorous than this is **Strigosa x macrophylla** whose leaves are over a foot in length, sharply pointed and entire green and has large heads of flower of a soft lilac blue. **Sargentiana** is again a familiar plant with its huge velvety leaves and flat heads of white flowers surrounded by white sterile flowers. **Rothchildii** and **Robusta**, are not generally hardy although I do not believe you would have any trouble with them, the leaves are enormous and like velvet green below, the flowers somewhat resemble Sargentiana.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plant Name</th>
<th>Price per Plant</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Rose 'Korai'</td>
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<td>Rose 'Hedrick' v. 'Camarion'</td>
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<td>Rose 'Leinberg'</td>
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<td>Rose 'Child's Surprise'</td>
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<td>Rose 'Alba semiplena'</td>
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<td>Rose 'Xantina Splendens'</td>
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<td>Rose 'Alba'</td>
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<td>Murraya</td>
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<td>Rafflesia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bamboo pseudo-sasa</td>
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<td>Calyx latifolia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hydrangea arborsourea grandiflora</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hydrangea cinerea</td>
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<tr>
<td>* Hydrangea quercifolia</td>
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<tr>
<td>* Hydrangea cinerea</td>
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<tr>
<td>* Munsellaria</td>
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<td>* Larnath White</td>
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<tr>
<td>* White Wave</td>
<td>$3/- each</td>
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<tr>
<td>* Blackbird</td>
<td>$3/- each</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* Velouti</td>
<td>$7/- each</td>
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</table>
Rhododendron

1. Cossor Waterer
2. Hawk
3. fastuosum flore plano layer
4. Milkwid
5. Cinnamonum album
6. Ail Leo @ 15/- each
Appendix 3: The Wall Garden at Gigha (Est. 1952)

The Wall Garden at Gigha

This would appear to be reasonably sheltered from the wind and to be very sunny. I think you have a very great advantage at Gigha in that you have all the advantages of the warmth of the west Highland climate without the immediate risk which so often goes with it. You thus have a very good chance of growing and flowering many of the Mediterranean and Southern plants which would otherwise be likely to succeed. This wall garden is, I consider, a most desirable area for a 16 ft. wide and I feel there should be some bold design in the centre. I am suggesting a design which goes on to rather suit the surroundings and that is a bow-shaped form of a Greek Style garden. I must admit this does not sound very attractive but the design is bold and although on paper resembles an easy exercise in geometrical plots, I think would prove very effective on the ground.

The entry into the garden would be some as it is now and some could be done by the shrubs which it is proposed to plant. The sole effect would be from the west across which I think should be a very bold one and slightly narrow. Balancing this west I am suggesting a bold planting to combine a wide variety of detail from Sarcocaulum delavayi and the Globularia and I would suggest using here various irises, fuchsias, fritillaries and other similar plants while leaving the borders which is growing there at the moment. I am only suggesting Sarcocaulum delavayi and two fritillaries species, as it seems to me that these flowers with great freedom in Scotland, being themselves plants from high altitudes in France, whereas the ordinary Sarcocaulum delavayi does appear to flower so well in my own garden. The idea would be here I have suggested various leontopodiums some of which are soon varieties recently sent over from New Zealand.

On the two sides of this planting I think it might be possible to have two large mature apple figensana planting down the main border and I am suggesting planting around this figensana specimens, as this is a plant of the utmost beauty in the Highlands for its compactness and its thrive well the leaves is quite as beautiful as the flowers.

The view from the main border would be in that some 30 piers in length on the main path is raised very much towards the top to give an additional effect of length. I am a little uncertain in my mind as to what the centre should be. So great an area of raised gravel would direct too much the eye away from the plants and look rather uncomfortable. It would perhaps look better in grass or in water with a
stone path some 8' wide on either side. The water in this case would need to stop short of the top of the border and this would perhaps be far too expensive on lines in any case.

The actual planting of the border I think would be both very decorative and amusing if carried out in the lines suggested. Here I have put 'orange plants'. I mean all sorts of spraying shapes of pears, various palms and semi-aquatic plants which should grow well on Skins, mingle with the very beautiful cannas bulbus plants which would also flourish and, for early effect in these groups, I am suggesting tree and herbaceous perennials. The alternate groups would consist of the Skins roses, some of the fox roses and the more restrained Polyanthas, keeping away from that unsightly pile and vulgar orange to which they so much inferior. These roses need little pruning and looking after and thrive freely for the greater part of the summer. I would suggest using between these clumps of Antirrhins and possibly groups of Helianthus of various sorts. I think that these rather factory shrubs need a mass of good wild leaves around them in order to show to their best effect.

In the actual area itself the circle in the centre would be filled with every sort of spraying exotic which would be likely to grow and I would on frost using among these Helianthus and possibly one on the other sorts of half which are so trouble to themselves and produce a flamboyant display for a short period. In the centre of this bed, at 1, I would like to see a large Nacoma statue which would serve as a focus from the seat at 4. The four beds of the circle themselves would have at the centre of a large circular pot now 4 or 6" high to contain either some exotic such as pomegranate or, if they would survive the climate, and I do not see why they should not, orange trees. As background to this bed I would suggest dianthus and cistus rosea and growing around and behind them in a semi-circle some of the old-fashioned roses. The rest of the planting around this central group to consist of tree perennials, various exotic forms of Iris and a certain amount of hard foliage.

At the top of the circle at 2 would be a semicircular seat and on either side I would suggest a rather small area of ever, silver and blue shrubs and various heaths. Behind the seat another long bed for the foliage bed and on either side here Viburnums davidii and lilacs to provide a great deal of scent at various periods of the year.

The cross path that leads out at both ends would have a planting of herbaceous perennials and polyanthus roses on either various foliage plants and at
There could be a square seat in either aisle. The effect of this border would be good at any time of year and in the sound of rather architectural plants could be in it not have to be a continuous shadow of colour from May until the union from the various perennials and roses. Lilies are a slightly more difficult question as it always seems to me that each garden has a lily which thrives in it and it is a question of finding out which variety this may be. I would, however, suggest on a start the Birtles Nurseries' single hybrid in these cases be hardy enough to be so well worthwhile.

As far as the planting around the wall is concerned, I would suggest that the ground might be a sufficient reason for large shrubs or trees to form the backbone and beneath these there should be beds of smaller shrubs, a great many foliage plants of one sort or another and large quantities of bulbs which can look after themselves. I would naturally not intend the border to be quite as early as it appears on this plan but I do not think it should be a formal stage as there is a large formal design at the centre.

Starting at the left hand side of the entrance, I have suggested three of the fragrant yellow Gypsophila Perennis which grows to considerable height, then three of the netherrius speciosus form next, then four Amorpha fruticosa, the orange-hyacinth, which should grow well here and is attractive as a foliage plant in any case, above these, three of the treble-flowered Sanguisorba officinalis, with its mass of pretty purple blue flowers which should be cut at the same time as the Miscanthus; beyond this again five Gypsophila Pendula will be seen with a mass of dusky violet blue flowers which should come out at the same time as the three Primula ohiensis after this with the spring yellow flowers. Below this I would like to see seven of the silver and more Gladiolus candidum, then a group of three Aconitumcarpaticum in Messrs. Reeves' form and this seems to be an interesting variety which has not yet flowered in this country. It was brought by some Russian friends from the Porson and of the Chinese Bulb Society before the 19th century and may have been one of the Southern Chinese species. Above this a group of three plants of the large-flowered Syringa speciosa with pale lavender flowers, backed by three of the large-flowering white magnolias form the back and then a single bush of the scarlet-clavonii tulipa tricolor at the corner I have suggested a planting of six Empress Tree, the unusually graceful tree with elegant green foliage and masses of deep yellow flowers, this to be backed by three Aconitums in the corner and I have also suggested
a plant of Dianthus azureus so that the blue can pick up the yellow of the impatiens. At the top of the door is Hagelia abelmosch with a Myrtus lehmanniana on each side. This is a recently introduced shrub which has its foliage down to the ground and has larger flowers than the type produced with exceptional freedom. In the other corner I have repeated the planting of Nepeta and Scabiosa but with a Dianthus azureus on either side of the seat. I think the effect would be extremely good if this area of brilliant golden trees in the spring. The blue of the scabiose will show them up extremely well and the sea and the sky should make them even more brilliant.

Below the right hand side another planting of tree of many blanco’s Hagelia grandiflora and then two Portulaca grandiflora. This is a very handsome ground cover with leaves rather like moss. The growth is a bright copper. Two trees Leptospermum excellens in the brilliant orange scars and below this an intermingled group of trees of the tall Monarda sanguinea with pale scarlet flowers and the handsome Rosa Tuscana with very lily-like leaves and very long drooping clusters of creamy green flowers. Below this two of the yellow Gallium sphacelatum with a group of three Dianthus aubrietianus, the vigorous variety of brilliant blue flowers, and behind them the tall Helichrysum with its very symmetrical flowers which are very much contrasted. Below this again a group of three Carpobrotus californicus and three species with flowers and a further three Origanum Purpureum at the other end.

Below the seat I have suggested one Hagelia abelmosch on each side by Grevia welwitschii a tree with very large and handsome pinnate leaves and long branches of small creamy flowers. This would be backed by the existing Nandina and to either side I have suggested planting two Grevia welwitschii in the widely spreading manner form two trees behind them one Grevia welwitschii in the spirea wild form. Below this again on the left, two Leptospermum nana on a low variety from New Zealand, and on the right, one Leptospermum flavum, a rather rare variety with pink flowers said to be the size of a half-crown, and two Leptospermum minus.

For the two rows I have suggested a group of the deep pink Leptospermum excellens on each side, six in all. In front of these Grevia and nothofagus, several plants in all. At a time to be a long curving seat preferably in wood some 12' in length and at a height in all four large women take entertaining
previously crossed trees or some other similar plant and on each side a large
wooden figure or well's figure was.

The wall itself should have a quality of elegance and I would like


to suggest here Citharexylum sandwicense in its native form, its white form and its


rose form, Citharexylum sandwicense, the green root plantie with Teucrium pseudofluminosum


the rose form white flowering croton in both its red and yellow forms


Chamaletia salmenni, Heliotropium rugosum, with airy flowering and very attractive


for their large masses of white or yellow flowers, Chamaletia salmenni with


the masses of small pruinescent flowers in the autumn, Zeuxis florada


blender with creamy flowers and purple berries at the center, the various forms of


passion flower and I would suggest a small crested quantity of the less usual


and rather more tender ones.


I do not see why you should not be able to grow the lovely white


Althea and the camelia rose, such as La Pallette, of which there are a number of


existing varieties. You could not normally expect these to flower in Scotland


but as your sun falls so light I think they might succeed very well. For


instance there are three existing varieties, it would make a pretty effect


if three La Pallette and two or three bushes of the self-fruit purple rose (one of


Prunia) were planted in front of them.


I am not going to suggest an underplanting for these trees as I


feel this must be done on the ground and it is a mistake to try and marry a


planting of this size but there are many tender things which you could try


with advantage. The clear pink Donaldson/Ballantyne should grow well. There are


of course many hyacinths which would be effective here, large masses of crinums


and agapanthus might be used and should flower. There are many other


of useful plants such as Helleborus, Crocus, and which could be used in large


drifts of one or two varieties of figs, the earlier and later flowering


Tulips, Pervenish and any number of phloxes belonging to the iris family could


be used with great effect, though I have not suggested any of the more hardy shrubs


with could be used here. If you feel that this season might be attractive, I


would suggest that perhaps I might come and examine with you in the autumn and


we could perhaps have one or all of my notes sent to you by post, if I can


then there is no question of planting anything before the spring. I think, where


as in this case a number of slightly later plants have been suggested, spring


planting would be very much clever, although in the usual border the masses


should perhaps be put in at the outset.
Colonel J. N. Horlick

February 13, 1956

Gigha

Apart from the Elandais and the Cinnabar Alliums there are one or two plants which I would like to suggest sending up to Gigha for the well garden and the borders in it. I think you need a group of trees at the centre near the greenhouse to break up this expanse and have suggested the very handsome, rapid growing, Arbutus unedo 3121 with its lime red stem, large-flowered white flowers, and strawberry fruit, and two of the newer Rhododendrons, the Tambourine variety Rainier Rose, a light and graceful but larger shrub flowering in March with semi-double deep rose flowers, and Trussa Gomes, a hybrid raised by Capt. Collingwood Ingram, between the almost absent tender Parthenia cherry and the very hardy tamarix. This again will form a small tree or very large shrub and produce in March with the greatest freedom its semi-double deep rose flowers. In the borders there are one or two newish plants which I would like to see tried out. Clapan Elba, another hybrid of Collingwood Ingram’s, with very large bowl shaped flowers of pure white with golden centre; the particularly neat and daintiest Rose by Sibsol and Sibcherry; Bienville Bristol Baby, a newish variety and the best I have seen, seemingly dwarf, incredibly free flowering and with bright crimson flowers; and two very good Hibiscus, one with soft pink and deep coloured flowers, and Woodbridge with large deep rose flowers with a deeper eye. Rhododendrons is a much neglected small shrub, resemble Trussa for very early flowering and there are three forms of this which are just coming into flower here now. They are very sweetly scented flowers and I think should do extremely well on Gigha. I have put down the white, the pale pink, and crimson variety. I feel also that there should be some true peonies in this well garden as there is no doubt that they do wonderfully well on Mull and also at Ailsa. I have suggested that you have a collection of the twelve varieties in the catalogue from Bolson which is sold out. Also I feel that the well garden should have a quantity of roses and have suggested a number of climbers - the well-known ‘Bougainvillea’s’ Yuma Yellow, the huge pale pink ‘Yuma’ de Portugal with its large yellow fruits, the very strongly growing Fragrans and the scarlet Cépeta variety with huge heads of small white flowers very sweetly scented these would also succeed on the rocks but Laurence Johnston’s with its bright yellow semi-double flowers, the single small pink near the Billy Bell, the pretty Victoria rose so many Queen with its tightly semi double pink flowers, one of the old tea roses Sante Theresia with its semi yellow flowers tinged with copper, and the Flashy apple Seawell carpet with deep yellow flowers edged and flushed with Clapan pink. There are also some very pretty white roses of which I would like to see a group. In the borders these flower almost without seeking free early June right through to the Frosts and I think on Gigha would continue till early November - February is a dwarf growing variety reaching no more than eighteen inches with very intense crimson flowers, Polyantha is a tallish grower equally free with crimson pink flowers, Odile Brunner is the charming Victorian buttonhole rose, Gruen am Bach is a beautifully shaped double coloured flower pink and yellow in the bud, Gruen am Egils is a tallish grower with a very double red with a particularly sweet scent.

There are one or two good shrubs I would like to see put into the wood. Iamomia distichos grows well at Ushuaia and is so beautiful in the spring with its vivid fresh green that I think it would be worth trying. I would like to see around the gladiolus it reveals its soft soil. Juniper 4624 could be a beautiful tree on the bank and is quite remarkable with deep smoky pink fruit, a wonderful contrast to its grey-green foliage. Prunus salicina is a newly introduced new cherry which would flourish in a wet place in the wood. It is a strong grower and produces with great freedom long mounds of white flowers in May. Lastly there is a very good hybrid Sibsol which originated here and which I have called Sibsol or sibrosa and beg the rest of Gigha together with the brilliant young growth of forrestii.
These are all plants which might be sent up with any Cupressus or
Elmagnus you decide you would like in mid March. I would like to
suggest, if it would be a help, that I come up myself then and we
could perhaps consider rearranging the borders in the wall garden
and also think about some much more exotic plants which could perhaps
go in later in the spring. I was thinking particularly of various
plants which I have seen flourishing at Logan and in Ellemorey and
other mild places. First of all there are the Paeonias of which I
think you are rather lacking in the better hardy varieties - Mrs.
Ropple with her huge flowers, Mrs. Ralph Wood's very pretty pink and
like one, Ormen and Dunrobin Padder with very elegantly shaped
flowers. There are also the Daturas which used to grow well at Logan,
the Hydrangea, or ginger plants, which flourish in Ellemorey and have
very good foliage and pretty scented flowers in late summer. I have
three or four sorts of these. There is a giant African Juncus in which
I think might be hardy, and some of the tender Yuccas, Eryngiums,
Agaves should grow well. I see no reason why Yuccas should not be
hardy and possibly even Stella's as this grows in Cornwall. There
are many very handsome semi-early Irises, Kniphofias, and pretty
shrubs and climbers like Michele, Mandevilles, Oxystylum with
its sea green flowers which should flourish and the latter in partic-
ular would look magnificent near to your Fuchsia and there are also
a number of very handsome Crinums which should do well. I think
the thing to do would be to choose spots for these and to send them
up in late April.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]