

**UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL
UGLEY**

THE CHACE

TL 518 272

Designed by the artist Humphrey Waterfield in 1951 for his friend, Nancy Tennant.

HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT

The Chace was part of the Orford estate in Ugley purchased by William Augustus Tennant in 1908. At that time it was a dairy, and was lived in by the Waterman family who farmed the land. In 1934 Mr. Tennant made substantial alterations to the Chace before his daughter A.D. (Nancy) Tennant (1897-2003) moved from Orford House to live there. Nancy attended a finishing school in Paris where she studied French and music. She auditioned for the Bach Choir in 1924 as a young soprano in front of Vaughan Williams at the Westminster Cathedral Hall. In 1934 Nancy, as Chair of the International Committee of Women's Institutes, spoke at the International Peace Conference in Geneva.

A ha-ha was dug out by hand at the Chace in 1934 by Edmund (Ted) Bunting who had worked on the farm at Orford. Ted Bunting built the small wall retaining the lawn as well as the other two brick walls and the paved paths. In 1951 Ted Bunting's nephew Albert (Hare) Bunting took over as gardener.

The garden was designed in 1951 by Humphrey Waterfield, who also designed elements of the gardens at Grey's Court near Henley, and the garden at Abbot's Ripton. A friend of Nancy Tennant and of her family, Humphrey Waterfield continued to influence decisions relating to the garden at the Chace until his death in 1971. The summer house, or garden room, at the east end of the garden, was built on his initiative. In Nancy's *Reminiscences* of 1974 she attributes the hydrangea border in front of the house to Humphrey Waterfield.

After Humphrey Waterfield's death various gardeners continued to maintain the garden. On Albert (Hare) Bunting's death in 1978 the maintenance of the garden was shared by Arthur Stevens who had come to live at Pound Cottage, the staff cottage opposite the drive of The Chace, and by Barbara and John Stubbington, Nancy's friends from Stansted.

Shortly before Nancy's death in 2003, Uttlesford District Council bestowed on her their Achievement Award for service to the local community and the environment during 2002. Following her death at the age of 106 Michael Longman undertook the gardening at the Chace while Arthur Stevens maintained the lawns.

SITE DESCRIPTION

LOCATION, AREA, BOUNDARIES, LANDFORM AND SETTING

The Chace is situated near Ugley Green along a minor road off the B1383.

REFERENCES

Grimwood, Sheila, compiled and illustrated *The Ugley Book, a village tapestry*, 1985
Quaker Lives, No.15, September 2004

Images

Birley, M, 2004, Photographs of The Chace from 1977-2000
Essex Gardens Trust, 2003, Photographs of The Chace by Gill Payne

Archival Items

Tennant, Nancy, 1999, *The Chace Visitors' Book 1934-1996*
Sworders, 2003, *Fine Arts and Furniture Sale Catalogue*

Researcher: Jill Plater. Site visit: Gill Payne and David Barker, 11 November 2003 and 9 January 2004