

Temple Stowe Gardens (CR764/215)

June's Document of the Month is a beautiful sketch, by Sir Roger Newdigate, depicting the Temple of Venus at Stowe Gardens.

The Temple was built circa 1731 by William Kent as part of a grand landscaping venture for the then owner of the estate, Lord Cobham.¹ It became a grade I listed building² and can still be seen within the Gardens at Stowe in Buckinghamshire, which forms part of the National Trust portfolio.

The sketch is believed to have been drawn between 1747 and 1768³ and is part of a much larger collection held at the record office for the Newdigate/Newdegate family.

The Latin inscription penned in the centre of the sketch was styled from a frieze once found on the roof of the temple which read:

Nunc amet qui nondum amavit:

Quique amavit, nunc amet

Translation:

Let him love now, who never lov'd before:

Let him, who always lov'd, now love the more⁴

¹ National Trust. *William Kent: Gardener 1730-1748, Stowe*.

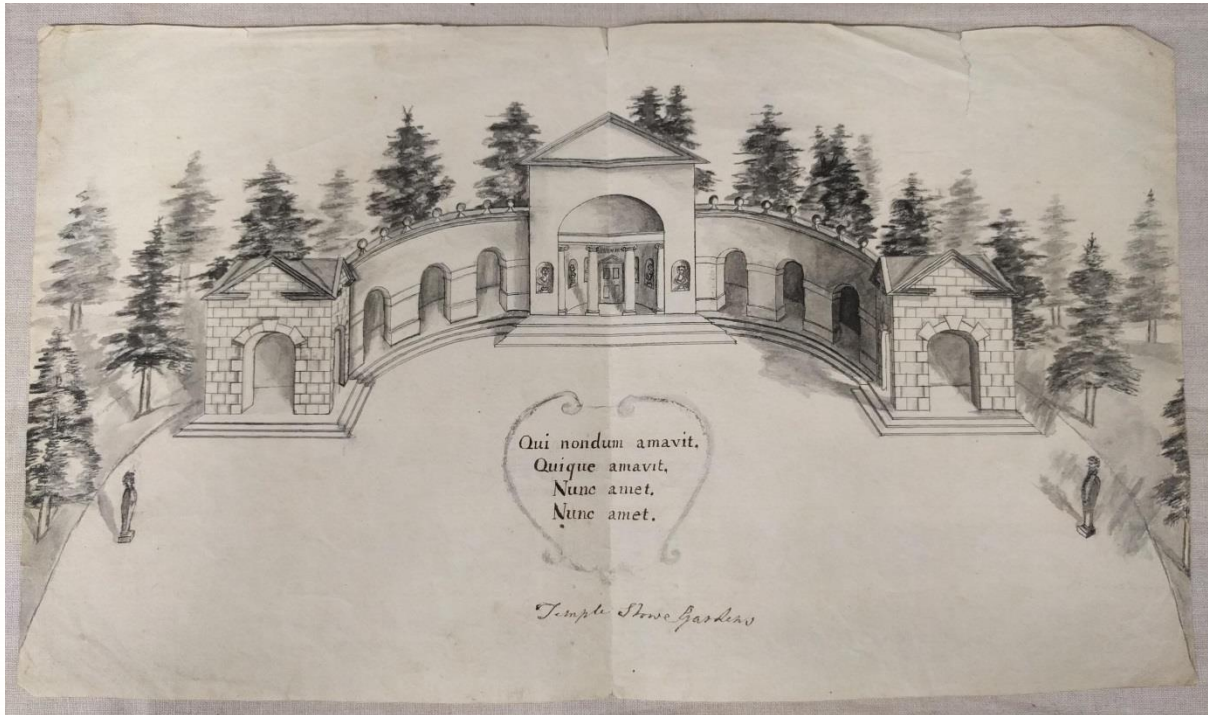
<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/stowe/profiles/william-kent---profile> : accessed 15 May 2019.

² Historic England. *The Temple of Venus*. List Entry No. 1212153.

<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1212153> : accessed 15 May 2019.

³ Warwickshire County Record Office. *Small architectural sketches and plans, mainly by Sir Roger Newdigate*. Document reference CR0764/215(Q1).

⁴ Tatter, John D. Birmingham-Southern College. *The Temple of Venus*.
<http://faculty.bsc.edu/jtatter/venus.html> : accessed 15 May 2019.



Warwickshire County Record Office. *Small architectural sketches and plans, mainly by Sir Roger Newdigate.* Document reference CR0764/215(Q1).

Sir Roger Newdigate produced numerous sketches (many in an architectural style) of the places he visited and also of his much loved Arbury Hall.

Sir Roger Newdigate (1719-1806)

Sir Roger Newdigate (5th baronet) was born on 20th May 1719 at Arbury in Nuneaton, the son of Sir Richard Newdigate and Elizabeth Twisden. He was educated at Westminster School and then University College, Oxford before serving as a Member of Parliament for Middlesex between 1742 and 1747. From 1751 until 1780 he served as MP for Oxford University.⁵

⁵ The History of Parliament. *Newdigate, Sir Roger, 5th Bt. (1719-1806), of Arbury, Warws. And Harefield, Mdx.* <https://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1754-1790/member/newdigate-sir-roger-1719-1806> : accessed 16 May 2019.

He was married twice – first to Sophie Conyers (in 1743) and then Hester Mundy (in 1776). He embarked on a grand tour of the Netherlands, France and Italy in 1738 and a separate tour of the continent after his first wife's death in 1774.⁵ He was also involved with the militia (Warwickshire Regiment) from 1759 becoming a Major.⁶

Sir Roger Newdigate kept diaries, journals and sketches recording his travels and we hold examples of these at the record office. Other related documents we hold include personal diaries, biographical memoirs and correspondence, some militia and parliamentary diaries/political notes, accounts and bills for items purchased on tour; militia rolls, assessments and accounts of Sir Roger Newdigate's Company.

For more information on the Newdigate/Newdegate documents held at Warwickshire County Record Office, please consult our catalogue at:

<http://archivesunlocked.warwickshire.gov.uk/calmview/>

⁶ Society for Army Historical Research. (1932) The Warwickshire Militia in 1759-60. *Journal of the Society for Army Historical Research*. Vol. 11. No. 42, April. pp. 83-89. <https://www.jstor.org> : accessed 16 May 2019.