

Myddelton House was the home of E A Bowles (1865 - 1954)

**Edward Augustus Bowles**, or "Gussie" to his friends, was the youngest son of five children. Born on 14 May 1865, he became one of the great gardeners of the 20th century. Bowles had originally trained for the church but two family tragedies caused him to change course and he remained at Myddelton House where, as a self-taught horticulturalist, he developed this remarkable garden. For many years people came from all over the world to admire it. He was an expert on many plants, particularly crocuses, and he was subsequently dubbed "The Crocus King". Many plants were named by him or in his honour.

Bowles served on 17 committees for the **Royal Horticultural Society** and was a Vice President for 28 years.

In 1916 he received the highest honour when the RHS awarded him its Victoria Medal of Honour. His famous My Garden trilogy describing Myddelton House Gardens in spring, summer, autumn and winter is still widely read and respected by garden enthusiasts worldwide and his books on Crocus and Colchicum and Narcissus remain valued.

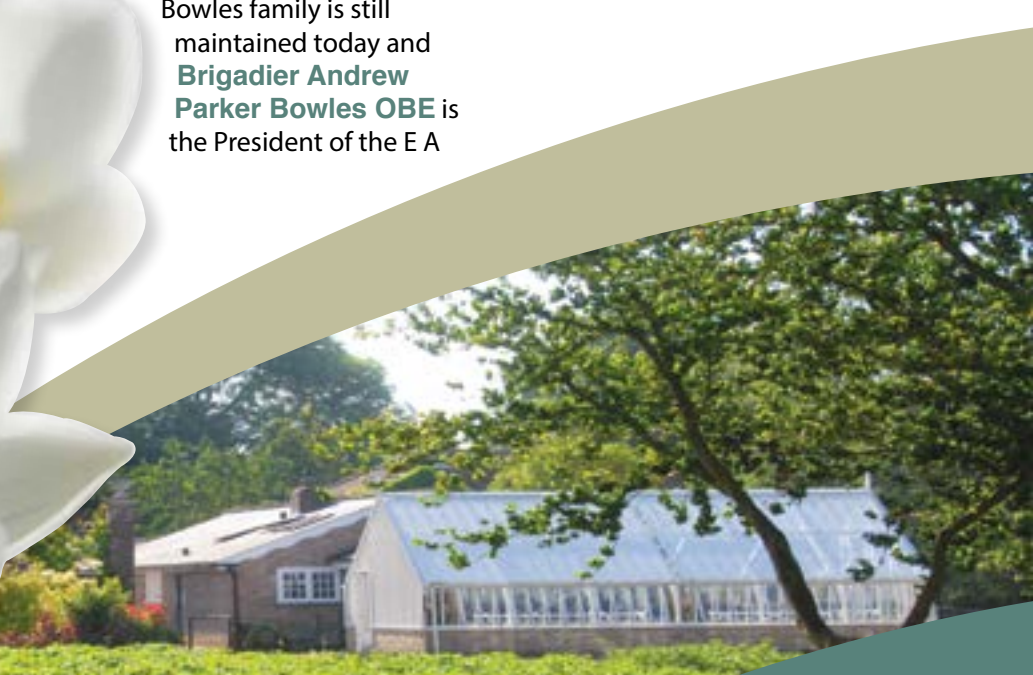
Myddelton House was built in the reign of George III, circa 1812 and completed in 1818. It was built by E A Bowles' great grandfather, **Henry Carrington Bowles** (1763 - 1830), one of five generations of map print and publishers based in St Pauls Churchyard, London. The house, finished in the then, fashionable Suffolk white brick, replaced an earlier Elizabethan property, **Bowling Green House**, and was named in honour of **Sir Hugh Myddelton** (1560 - 1631), the driving force behind construction of the New River, which brought fresh water to London. By doing so Bowles shed the title "Mr Bowles of Bowling Green House".

The connection with the Bowles family is still maintained today and **Brigadier Andrew Parker Bowles OBE** is the President of the E A

Bowles of Myddelton House Society. Towards the end of his life, E A Bowles used a connection he had made with Professor J W Fairbairn to secure the future of his garden. In 1954 the gardens were transferred to joint ownership between the **London School of Pharmacy** and the **Royal Free Hospital**, advised by various expert groups, with research on medicinal properties being undertaken on plants grown in the kitchen garden. In 1966 an Act of Parliament set up **Lee Valley Regional Park Authority** and the site was sold in 1968 for its new headquarters.

Restoration of the garden began in 2009 following an award of £487,500 from the **Heritage Lottery Fund**. The main work was completed in two years and was opened by the **Duchess of Cornwall** on 5 May 2011. Our aim is to continue to renew and develop the garden with the same style and sense of fun of its original creator.

**We hope you enjoy your visit and continue to follow our progress.**





# Map of Myddelton House Gardens



Myddelton House Gardens

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