THE GARDENS TRUST

Garden History Outreach and Engagement Projects

Celebrating audience development activities from County Gardens Trusts across England

Northamptonshire Gardens Trust

SUSSEX GARDENS TRUST

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE GARDENS TRUST

Buckinghamshire Gardens Trust

Sheffield Botanical Gardens Trust

SUFFOLK GARDENS TRUST

London Parks & Gardens
Protecting our Green Capital

YORKSHIRE GARDENS TRUST

Historic England

UNFORGETTABLE GARDENS with THE GARDENS TRUST

Garden History Outreach and Engagement Projects

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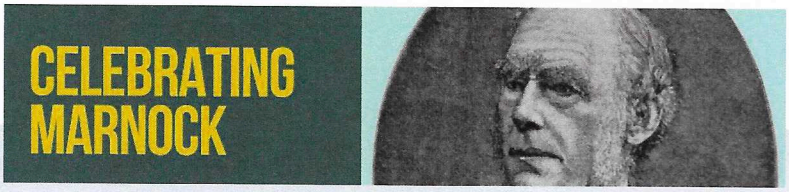
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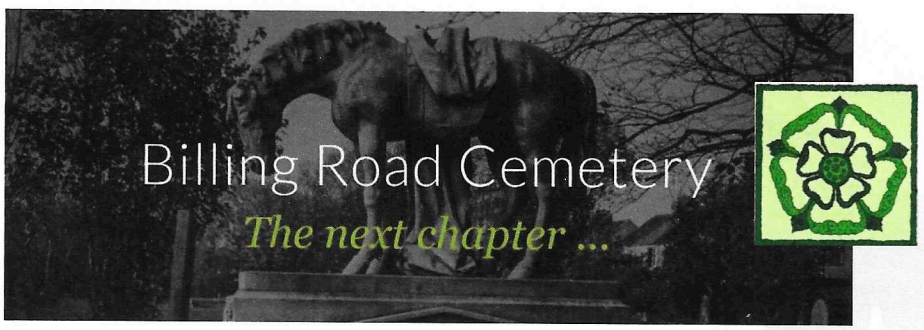
Celebrating Marnock

Jill Sinclair, Friends of the Botanical Gardens Sheffield

In 2023 Sheffield Botanical Gardens partnered with the Gardens Trust to celebrate Scottish landscape gardener, horticulturalist and writer Robert Marnock (1800 - 1889). The project was inspired by a long-term loan to the Botanical Gardens of original editions of Marnock's *Floricultural Magazine*. Using this as an opportunity to celebrate his legacy with a wider audience and recruit more volunteers, the project delivered a free exhibition in Sheffield, provided a stimulus for volunteers around the country to conduct, collate or share research on Marnock, and created a new website to encourage, share and store research.

Project website: www.sbg.org.uk/celebrating-marnock

Contact: jill.sinclair@thegardenstrust.org



Northamptonshire Gardens Trust's Community Impact Project

Elaine Johnson, Northamptonshire Gardens Trust

One of the first recipients of the Gardens Trust Community Grant, Northamptonshire GT set up a Friends Group to help preserve the much neglected and deteriorating, historic landscape of Billing Road Cemetery, Northampton. They've since managed to engage the local community and important stakeholders such as West Northants Council in preserving this historic landscape as a green oasis for the enjoyment, health and wellbeing of all. Having also developed a Strategy for Change for the Cemetery and expanded Northamptonshire GT's audience, it now has an ambitious and sustainable future.

Project website: https://sites.google.com/view/northamptonshiregardenstrust2/billing-road-cemetery

Contact: eajohnson3@hotmail.co.uk



Delivering an Audience Development Programme

Claire De Carle, Buckinghamshire Gardens Trust

Buckinghamshire Gardens Trust

After Buckinghamshire GT celebrated 25 years in 2022, they decided to look ahead to the future and developed their 'Mission Statement' project, where Audience Engagement was one of the five areas they wanted to focus on. As part of this they have attended a range of events to reach new audiences including Rare Plant Fair, Heritage Open Day and National Garden Scheme events and even delivered the Garden History Lucky Dip to a Young Archaeologists Club. Buckinghamshire GT now attend at least six events across the summer and have fostered connections with more members of the public, other organisations and networks than ever before.

Buckinghamshire Gardens Trust website: https://bucksgardenstrust.org.uk/

Contact: claire@decarle.plus.com



Small Steps in Managing an Oral History Project

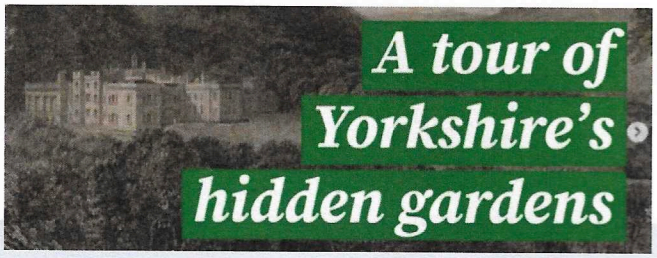
Sally Ingram, Sussex Gardens Trust

SUSSEX GARDENS TRUST

In 2024 Sussex GT began a new research project based on Marine Gardens – a public garden on the seafront in West Sussex which opened in 1931. They had documented research gathered from the archives but wanted to fill the gaps with memories and experiences from people who had visited or worked there during its long history. Their aim was to create an alternative to the more formal garden history research process and to engage Sussex GT volunteers who might feel excluded from the traditional route of research and report writing. They teamed up with the Friends of Marine Gardens on a small pilot and collected a wealth of memories during an informal drop in day at the gardens in May 2024.

Project website: https://www.sussexgardenstrust.org.uk/collecting-memories-of-marine-gardens/

Contact: parkstories2@gmail.com



YORKSHIRE GARDENS TRUST

Yorkshire's Hidden Gardens – an Instagram collaboration

Gail Falkingham, Yorkshire Gardens Trust

Following the Gardens Trust's Yorkshire Weekend in 2022, which included visits to 5 historic designed landscapes around Richmondshire, Gail used the photos and videos she had already taken for an engaging series of posts on Instagram and blogs on the Yorkshire GT website. Not only did the series reach a far wider audience nationally and internationally than expected but it helped Yorkshire GT foster good relationships with the site owners and demonstrated to other members that social media is an essential outreach tool.

Project website: https://www.yorkshiregardenstrust.org.uk/node/449

Twitter - @yorkshiregt / Instagram - @yorkshiregardenstrust

Contact: secretary@yorkshiregardenstrust.org.uk



Engaging Young Garden Historians

Frankie Taylor, the Gardens Trust with London Parks & Gardens

In September 2023, the Gardens Trust delivered a Volunteer Day with UCL in partnership with London Parks & Gardens. Aimed at highlighting the importance and vulnerability of historic parks and gardens in London, three of the students became Gardens Trust volunteers and two were interested in garden history research. Using training and resources created during the Suffolk and Nottinghamshire Garden Story projects, we now have a small team of young researchers who have identified over 20 gardens and green spaces missing from or with incomplete entries on London's online inventory.

Contact: frankie.taylor@thegardenstrust.org

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Image © Historic England Archive

Suffolk's Unforgettable Garden Story

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Karina Flynn, former Project Officer & Linda Robinson Project Volunteer

Suffolk's Unforgettable Garden Story was a successful Gardens Trust and Suffolk Gardens Trust project, which recruited volunteers and trained them to research and record historic landscapes.

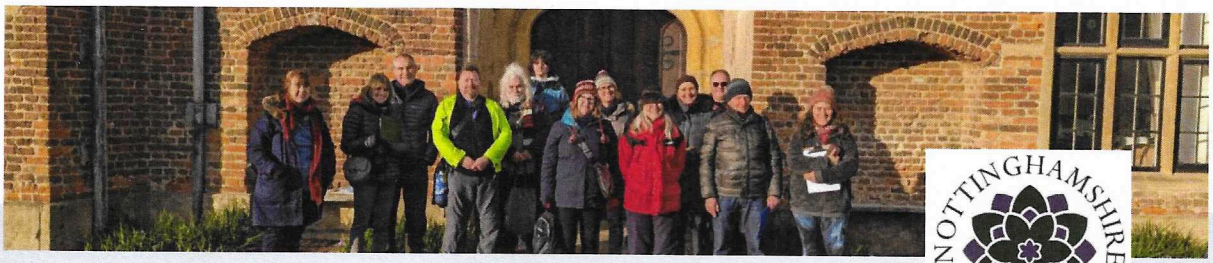
Funded by Historic England, the project helped tell the stories of more than 20 Suffolk parks and gardens through detailed research reports compiled by volunteers, including some who had never previously undertaken historic research. The project brought attention to the value of the county's historic designed landscapes and so far has resulted in the registration of 7 new sites on Historic England's National Heritage List for England including: Abbot's Hall in Stowmarket, Thorpeness Meare, Crow's Hall, Staverton Park and the Walled Garden at the Royal Hospital School in Holbrook. Due to the volunteers' hard work and success in helping to conserve historic parks and garden for future generations, in April 2024 they won a Suffolk Preservation Society Heritage Champion Award.

Edward Martin, Chairman of the Suffolk Gardens Trust said "*The SUGS project has been a wonderful opportunity to focus new attention on Suffolk's rich garden heritage and to involve volunteers in actively researching and reporting on sites to make them truly 'unforgettable'. It has been exciting waiting to see which sites would qualify for recognition at a national level and we are very pleased to see a growing number of Suffolk sites that are achieving that status. But we are already taking steps to ensure that, recognition or not, the Suffolk gardens and designed landscapes with interesting stories will not be forgotten – keep an eye on the SGT website!*"

In addition to conducting ongoing research, the group will be continuing to meet up in person and visit landscapes in Suffolk as often as possible, to keep the research group active for the long term.

Project website: https://suffolkgardenstrust.org/memorable-parks-and-gardens-in-suffolk/

Contact: suffolkgt.research@gmail.com



Nottinghamshire's Garden Story

Tamsin McMillan, Nottinghamshire Gardens Trust

Inspired by the success of the Suffolk's Unforgettable Gardens Story Project, the Gardens Trust's Volunteers Save Space project partnered with Nottinghamshire Gardens Trust to run Nottinghamshire's Garden Story, from early 2023 to March 2024. A key aim of the activity was to share parks and gardens heritage with as wide an audience as possible. Via three family-friendly events, Nottinghamshire's Garden Story engaged with more than 70 adults and around 60 children living close to Sutton Lawn, their main site for local engagement. The project offered online training for beginners, covering garden history, research and recording methods, how to share completed research, and much more, with around 80-100 people from all over the country (and beyond!) attending each of the 7 webinars. Seven new researchers went on to research non-designated historic designed landscapes in Nottinghamshire, adding valuable information to the historic record on landscapes that might otherwise have been overlooked, and three of these volunteers have gone to on form a new research group for Nottinghamshire GT.

Project resources: http://thegardenstrust.org/resources/vs-hub/campaigns-and-celebrations/nottinghamshires-garden-story/%20

Contact: Tamsin.mcmillan@thegardenstrust.org

Further Resources and Support

- ***Resource Hub*** - https://thegardenstrust.org/resources/vs-hub

Our Resource Hub offers freely available support materials aimed at helping volunteers and other organisations to protect, conserve and promote historic designed landscapes. It contains training materials, advice and guidance on public outreach and engagement, conservation and charity management.

- ***Suffolk's Unforgettable Garden Story Project Resources:***

https://thegardenstrust.org/resources/vs-hub/campaigns-and-celebrations/suffolks-unforgettable-gardens-story/

- ***Publicise your event on the Gardens Trust website:***

https://thegardenstrust.org/news/campaigns/submit-event/

- ***Get in touch with us for support or guidance:***

Engagement Officer –frankie.taylor@thegardenstrust.org
Volunteer Support Officer – tamsin.mcmillan@thegardenstrust.org

About the Gardens Trust

What we do

We're the UK's only national charity dedicated solely to protecting and conserving historic designed landscapes. These range from urban squares to cemeteries, large rural estates and everything in between.

Historic parks and gardens play a critical role in social cohesion, wellbeing, and cultural storytelling, however, they face critical threats from financial difficulty, neglect, mismanagement and development. The Gardens Trust works to raise awareness and mitigate these threats, largely through commenting on planning applications.

Our statutory role

The Gardens Trust is a statutory consultee in the English planning system. This means that local authorities have to consult us on any planning applications that affect gardens and landscapes listed on Historic England's Register of Historic Parks and Gardens of special historic interest.

The Gardens Trust is supported in this important conservation role by local County Garden Trusts. We work closely with the Welsh Historic Parks and Gardens Trust and Scotland's Garden and Landscape Heritage, who fulfil a similar role in their countries. There are no other organisations doing this work.

Historic parks and gardens have been at the heart of communities for generations. With our support, they will still be around for future generations.

We're the only UK national charity dedicated to protecting and promoting historic parks and gardens. Each year we rely on passionate volunteers and supporters to help protect them.

Please consider supporting us by making a donation, becoming a Patron or leaving a legacy

thegardenstrust.org/support-us

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Registered charity number 1053446