An accessible and sociable garden history event for members of the Somali community, organized at Blaise Castle in Bristol by volunteers from Avon Gardens Trust, Friends of Blaise, and the Blaise Community Garden.

What happened: We invited members of a Somali community group, targeting adults but welcoming accompanied children also, in the end having so many children that it became a family-focused day. We hired a coach to bring the guests to the park from the community centre and started the day with refreshments in the walled community garden before walking through the Repton landscape and then returning for lunch with an exhibition, launch of the Garden History Lucky Dip game, and an opportunity to enjoy the community garden.

Reuse potential: This pilot ended up being very child-focused, but it was devised for an adult group and would have worked just as well in those circumstances. Its emphasis on interaction and accessibility with a gentle smattering of garden history would work for a range of people new to garden history, for example other interest groups, retirees or local dog walkers.
Top Tips:
- If collaborating with several volunteer groups, as for this pilot, a full volunteer briefing in advance of the event is critical to ensure smooth teamwork on the day.
- Establish well in advance of the event who is coming, how many people, and what their ages and mobility are.
- The Garden History Lucky Dip provides an extremely flexible model for interacting with a wide demographic around garden history – just be confident, and friendly!

Support materials include:
- Method Statement for whole event, including Risk Assessment
- Invitation template
- Exhibition template
- Leaflet template
- Full instructions and background resource for Garden History Lucky Dip

For free support materials to help you run a similar activity, please visit: thegardenstrust.org/conservation/hlp-hub/networking-materials/sharing-repton-2/

@thegardentrust, #sharingrepton, #sharinglandscapes