## Celebrating Humphry Repton





THE

GARDENS





CBF – bit bonkers, such a busy time, such a successful time in terms of joining up the dots to work effectively together, and in terms of raising awareness of CB and historic designed landscapes beyond the kind of people who are sitting in this room. So many activities from so many people ... just from the CGTs alone we had leaflets, walking routes, books, exhibitions, activities with children, YouTube has been populated with films of carriage rides and an aerial footage of Brown landscapes, conferences, study days, and of course all that amazing CGT research that went to populate the map and site pages on the Capability Brown website making research freely available as a legacy.



2018 bicentenary of Repton's death is our next big opportunity to raise awareness for historic designed landscapes.

He understood how to win hearts and minds, we should rise to his challenge. So the GT, thanks to almost £10k grant from HE, has worked this year to encourage and cheerlead people to get involved, and designed a structure in which we can all collaborate and join together individual modest and achievable contributions to make an impressive and exciting whole. It's a Festival, but a kind of cooperative approach. Clearly doesn't have the c£1m HLF grant that CBF enjoyed, but in some ways this has added to the excitement ... let's see just how much we can achieve with a heap of goodwill and pooling the resources available to us all.

So what has the GT set up?



## County Gardens Trusts' Repton Research Coordinator:

kateharwood@thegardenstrust.org Online discussion forum: http://thegardenstrust.org/forums/forum/repton-forum/

## Online Repton bibliography: currently at

http://thegardenstrust.org/publications/cgt-publications/

## Suggested outputs for County Gardens Trusts' Repton research

- PGUK
- Research results and snippets can be added to the Historic England *Heritage List* (*Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest*) via their Enriching the List initiative.
- Books, leaflets (online or printed) or walking guides are a great way to share your work. The Gardens Trust will create a similar list for Repton so that we can publicise your work as a whole.
- Exhibitions! Maybe consider following the example of Welsh Historic Parks and Gardens Trust, who mounted their exhibition in pubs to reach a different audience from the usual museum crowd?
- Historic Environment Records are online records of heritage assets maintained by

local authorities and are used in the planning system. You would be doing a great conservation service by adding information on Repton sites to the appropriate Historic Environment Record, especially if you can do this in the form of a Statement of Significance.

• Talking with LI about building on the map that's on capabilitybrown.org to add Repton sites.



Support structure to enable skill sharing.

Hub, mailing list, networking meetings.

Is growing but already contains things like logo application form, suggested playlist, suggested activities, ways of using Repton research, some contact details, obituary and pic of grave to be reused (thanks to Broadlands DC) – everyone has been very generous.



Shared Branding and publicity – the more we can link it together, the greater the legibility for the public, and the greater the impact.

**Communications Adviser:** <u>susannahcharlton@thegardenstrust.org</u> – delighted to publicise with website, social media, press releases where reasonable

Logo: Available from <a href="mailto:repton@thegardenstrust.org">repton@thegardenstrust.org</a>

**Web page:** <u>www.humphryrepton.org</u> (to grow into a microsite with additional material)

**Online Repton Events Calendar:** Coming soon! – everyone's activities welcome, not just GT or CGTs

**Twitter:** @Repton200, @humphryrepton using hashtags #humphryrepton and #Repton200

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/HumphryRepton/

Hope to be adding a public-facing e-newsletter in 2018



At the GT itself as well as masterminding this collaboration, we are running several joint conferences, with the Garden Museum, Ashridge, and Norfolk GT. Our annual Family Picnic will be with NGT at Wicksteed Park, which was designed by Repton as Barton Seagrave. (Also HLF application to pilot and skill share 5 audience development activities designed to find ways that volunteer groups can achievably help to connect BAME audiences with historic parks and gardens.)

Of course, CGTs have stepped up to the plate and at the current count there are at least 22 CGTs plus WHGT and Scotland's Garden and Landscape Heritage planning at least 53 activities – walks, talks, publications, exhibitions, and at least 10 Repton research projects.

It's not just us though – it's been absolutely amazing how the whole sector has thrown itself behind this. We have the National Trust and English Heritage marketing their Repton properties and offering Repton-themed activities; the HHA urging their member sites to get involved; HODs are working with us to get Repton sites opening in September with CGTs' help; there is a huge Red Book exhibition planned at the Garden Museum; the International Garden Photographer of the Year competition is going to include a Repton category; the Georgian Group are organising a competition, study day and publication; Historic England is increasing its aerial photos of Repton sites; the RHS is planning to look at aspects of Repton's disability; academics and consultants are generously sharing their knowledge; the Historic Gardens Foundation is publishing updates on the celebration so that other countries can learn from our experience; Broadlands DC where Repton first worked (Catton) and is buried (Aylsham) are planning heaps of activities including a big launch of the year; and of course a myriad of sites from Woburn Abbey to local authority Grovelands Park in London are going to be celebrating. We had a networking meeting for anyone interested in London this autumn and it was really fabulous how collaborative and non-competitive everyone was, freely sharing their advice and resources. It seems to me that 2018 will be groundbreaking not just in awareness raising for Humphry, but in our willingness and ability to work together to create something that is bigger than the sum of its parts.



So what's my point of speaking here?

Firstly, to let you know that next year is all about Repton and if you haven't got involved yet, then please do!

Secondly, to share the news of just how brilliantly we all seem to be pulling together – from CGTs to big organisations to sites – to produce something next year that may not have a big central team and budget, but will certainly be rather special. I'm really hoping that this will provide an excellent blueprint for the future.