

Sharing Repton: Historic Landscapes for All



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In the past few years and I suspect in the future also, the GT has been putting a lot of effort into reaching new people. It's about getting garden history out of its niche, about responding to pleas from CGTs to give help getting more volunteers involved, and about making sure that we are relevant in the 21st century.



We're just coming to the end of our 2-year Sharing Repton: Historic Landscapes for All project, with Lottery funding.

It's been amazing. We've had amazing partners amongst County Gardens Trusts and sites across the country, and we've piloted 5 simple activities to get new audiences involved. We've done a family excursion, a garden history themed social event, a public open day (HOD), a small research and recording project for entirely new volunteers, and a super-introductory conservation workshop to show local people that they are stakeholders in historic parks. CLICK And we accidentally ran a 6th pilot which taught garden history to school children.

These pilots have blown me away. All of them have exceeded their targets, most of them have been repeated. I've had an Afghanistani gentleman ask me to stop offering coffee when he was trying to learn about Humphry Repton, I've seen 600 people listening to African drumming and learning to belly dance in an 18th century landscape, I've seen 90 10 year olds get to grips with heritage values, and I've heard refugees describe how visiting Kenwood made them finally feel so part of British society.

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But it's not just about sharing the good stuff with people who deserve it.

We now have models that can be used to attract any demographic, and all of the materials from these are available for free download on our online Resource Hub at our website – we really hope that you will all delve into these and reuse them for your own benefit.

The family excursion has produced simple engaging activities like tree measuring and view appreciation to liven up any visit and make it approachable for younger or less-educated audiences; the research and recording project has resulted in a model that genuinely ended up with a dozen super-volunteers who can research, write Statements of Significance and accessible leaflets, and organized open days; we have everything you need to run an open day; and do I need to say any more other than that we are repeating our super-introductory conservation workshop on Saturday for people local to a park in London and after only 2 weeks of publicity we now have 30 bookings. We are very excited to think of the opportunity for LPGT to engage these people as new volunteers.

Please take a minute over lunch to take a look at the photo display. I've also popped out some leaflets from the project, including a few that we have designed to be accessible to new audiences.

Unforgettable Gardens: save our heritage

2020-22



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So whilst, I'm up here, please let me tell you a little about the theme that we will be working to for 2020-22.

We've learnt from the Capability Brown Festival and the Celebrating Repton bicentenary that focussing on a theme can be a really effective way of honing our messages and grabbing the public's attention.

Anniversaries are a great way to do this, but they have downsides, namely you're at the mercy of history in terms of topic and timescale.

I feel like we've done a fab job acting as the PR rep for Capability and Humphry but now its time to control the spotlight's direction, and turn it on the work done by those of us in this room.

Unforgettable Gardens: save our heritage

- Historic parks and gardens you love are under threat
- Some have been lost already, but we can remember them from research
- People are working to save historic parks and gardens
- You can get involved!



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Historic parks and gardens are a much-loved part of our shared national story, but they have always been at risk of destruction by neglect, development, austerity, or misguided treatment. These precious treasures are more at risk than ever, and the Gardens Trust is on a mission to rescue them.

It's about what they mean to us, the threats they face, and ways you can help save them for future generations.

Let's collaborate, please!



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- Logo
- Webpage
(thegardenstrust.org/campaigns/unforgettable-gardens-saving-our-garden-heritage/)
- Event Calendar
- #unforgettablegardens



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Lord Elis-Thomas, the Deputy Minister for Culture, Sport & Tourism in Wales, is keen to attend and speak.

will plan to theme their events and courses on Unforgettable Gardens in 2020 and then aim for an exhibition in 2021.

Unforgettable Gardens branding on

- Visit to a phenomenal but vulnerable park
- Publish research on a lost but not forgotten garden
- Exhibition of archive material of a public park
- Lecture on a historic garden and what led to its loss
- Training day for inspired new volunteers on conservation or research and recording?



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Any idea at all is welcome!



I'm very keen that this should be an extremely outwards looking celebration (ie not just talking to garden history types) that grows our audience and fulfils its potential as an opportunity to win new supporters, volunteers, or even members.

To be clear, we have devised this theme specifically as a platform to give us all the best possible shot at inspiring and attracting new volunteers and supporters. Let's make the most of it.



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Please do get in touch, whether you want to hear more about how Sharing Repton worked out for us and how you could use it, or whether you're interested in getting involved in Unforgettable Gardens, perhaps by running a branded activity.