

Repton bicentenary

A celebration of the life and works of landscape gardener Humphry Repton throughout this year will mark the bicentenary of his death in March 1818.

The Gardens Trust is taking the lead with national events and exhibitions across the UK, with special focus on Aylsham in Norfolk. Repton was born there, and Norfolk is the county where he had his first commission, Catton Park, Norwich (now a 28ha / 70 acre public country park).

He designed around 400 landscapes, including that of Tatton Park, Cheshire (pictured below; it is an RHS Partner Garden and site of an RHS Flower Show in July). Repton is thought to be the first person to use the term 'landscape gardening'.

As a way of showing customers what gardens and landscapes could look like, he prepared 'Red Books' filled with watercolours and hand-drawn images of the 'before' and 'after' views of his proposals. The Red Book from Pentlie Castle, Cornwall featured on the BBC TV programme *Antiques Roadshow* in 2015.

The RHS has a Red Book – of Waresley Park, Cambridgeshire

– in its collection. It will be on view in May as part of the 'Rethinking Repton' exhibition (3–22 May) to be held at RHS Lindley Library in Vincent Square, London. rhs.org.uk/libraries



REPTON'S LIFE

Humphry Repton, born April 1752, had several careers before deciding on landscape gardening. He took on the mantle of the country's most famous landscaper following the death of Lancelot 'Capability' Brown in 1783.

humphryrepton.org

New collection and more sites for Eden

A steep slope packed with dozens of different perennial red-hot poker (*Kniphofia*) at the Eden Project in Cornwall has achieved National Plant Collection status from Plant Heritage.

Among the 21 species and 79 cultivars grown in Eden's new 0.4ha (1 acre) hot-coloured garden, is unusual, brilliant yellow and early-flowering *Kniphofia* 'Luna' (right).

It is hoped the collection will ultimately contribute to the conservation in the wild of Africa's threatened *Kniphofia* species.



Global ambitions

Plans for eight new Eden Projects, including three new sites in the UK, will extend the garden's reach around the world. Work has already begun on Eden Qingdao, on reclaimed docklands on the east coast of China. There are plans for another two gardens in China plus projects in Australia, New Zealand and the USA.

In the UK, projects in Devon, the north of England and Northern Ireland are planned. Not all include trademark 'biomes', but will be built on reclaimed sites, from warehouses to motorway service stations. edenproject.co

Trees saved

Thanks to everyone who signed the RHS petition, the route chosen by Highways England (HE) for widening the A3 road will preserve land and some 500 trees (near the Trials Field, right) at RHS Garden Wisley, Surrey.

Talks continue, as the announced route removes direct entry to Wisley from the A3. As this could add seven miles to the journeys of some visitors, the Society urges HE to continue looking at options to improve access to the garden. rhs.org.uk/wisley

