

I need to say a massive thank you to everyone for getting involved in the Celebrating Repton year. It's been truly extraordinary the way so many people have thrown themselves behind an initiative that has been so patently resourced only with enthusiasm and goodwill, and the Gardens Trust really really appreciates your contributions.

I'll tell you who else would really appreciate it, and that's Humphry himself! I haven't really sat down since 2017 so still know very very little about Repton compared to all of you, but I get the feeling he liked a bit of glory, so I think he would have been delighted to see us all make such a fuss over him this year.

This presentation is by no means a definitive record of everything that has taken place. With a little more time, I would love to produce that, so please please send us a few notes of what your activity was and how it went, and photographs would be awesome. For the time being, let's make do with these 'highlights'. I apologise if you don't appear here – it's nothing personal. I tried to include more, but, I kid you not, actually developed a repetitive strain injury in my scrolling thumb – I think that says it all! Right, let's whizz as we've only got half an hour, and if I get anything wrong, just shout out!



thegardenstrust.org



Our adventure began in April 2017. Everyone was feeling buoyant after the success of the Capability Brown Festival, and wondered what would follow. I organised a small meeting for the few people I thought might have an interest in a nod to Humphry Repton's bicentenary. 36 people came,, from professional historians, to site managers to CGT volunteers.

We held a second meeting in October 2017 to get a clearer idea of what people were planning, and c70 people came, including from all the major national organisations. At this point it was obvious that some had been planning magnificent things for quite some time already - the Garden Museum, Woburn – and others were still wondering whether or not to give something a go.

We were really very very fortunate that with the help of Jenifer White, Historic England gave us a seed-funding grant of £10k, which enabled the GT to at least surf this extraordinary wave of enthusiasm, offering what help we could.

I appreciate in an ideal world we would have done more to support you, but it wasn't an ideal world, and I am so grateful to HE for allowing us to at least do what we could.



Things escalated fast, and we were just clinging on trying to catch up. Poor Humphry died early in the year, March, which meant that things seemed to reach a climax even before we'd really got ourselves set up. Nevertheless, we managed to get the [humphryrepton.org](http://humphryrepton.org) webpage up and running, and the all important shared events calendar. Thank you for your patience as we sorted out this infrastructure – it will continue to be built on now, so all useful work.

Thanks to Broadland DC, there was a fabulous launch at Aylsham Church in Norfolk, where Repton is buried, with around 130 guests.

We even managed to get Celebrating Repton listed as part of the European Year of Culture, and at this stage I started beginning nervous to turn on my laptop each day because there would inevitably be some new exciting development to be digested.



Some, such as Woburn and the Garden Museum have thrown PR weight behind the year, and this has resulted in some great attention for Humphry.

Thanks to Heritage Lottery fund (more of this later), we have also managed to get ourselves a PR agency, Firebird, and boy have they done a great job of whipping into shape those of us not used to the media game.

I show this picture here because it represents a career high for me personally as I found myself talking about Repton on the Friday night Georgey Spanswick local radio network – to millions of listeners – not on a culture show, but on a pop show between tracks by David Bowie and Olly Murs. Personally, I am massively driven by an urge to get garden history out of its niche and into the mainstream, so this was a massive moment.

Incidentally, I have done a TERRIBLE job of collating all the media coverage this year, so if anyone has managed to keep a scrapbook that they could let me copy, that would be amazine.





The social media attention has been great too, and poor Alison Allighan has found herself on a tremendous earning curve to manage all of this for us.

To date, I am delighted that we have amassed c600 twitter followers and c200 Facebook likes. I appreciate that this will mean nothing to many of you and seems terribly facile and superficial, but just think about if you suddenly had that many extra people reading your newsletters and finding out all about your work and interests, and then passing the newsletter onto their friends ... and then it has a little more meaning.

Very special thanks at this point must go to Carol Neville, for making it possible for us to post a Repton Tweet of the Day, which each contained a little nugget of Repton historic detail. Carol has just completed an MA dissertation on Repton, and despite not being a social media user herself very very generously agreed to source and write facts for us, which Alison could then set up to tweet on a daily basis. Getting copyright-free pics will be the key issue, but I am very hopeful that the GT might be able to continue this beyond 2018 with 'garden history tweet of the day'. Do let me know if you have photos or words on your sites or subjects that we could use.



Of course, as you will appreciate, the media were all clamouring for pictures, and the GT does not hold a picture library. We turned to you all for help, and were so grateful that many sites and photographers sent photos and archive pictures that we have been allowed to use and pass on without copyright worries. This is Pentillie in Cornwall, who sent us an array of photographs and Red Book images. Having this mini-photo library has been a massive boost for us, and one of the things I'm wondering is whether the GT could continue to fulfil this role post-Repton – we're often asked for images, for whatever reason, and perhaps sites or organisations might wish to give us a small stock for this purpose, in return for publicity? (I'm thinking we could also use them for social media.) Let me know if you have any thoughts on this.



Whilst we're talking about pictures – IGOPTY, the International Garden Photographer of the Year competition held a special Repton award this year, with the winner being this by Simon Lea of Warley Woods in the Black Country.



Staying on the photography thread for a second – Historic England extended their map of historic landscape aerial photographs to include Repton's. Do take a look on their website.





One of the brilliant things about this year is the sheer mass of new understanding and knowledge we have of Repton.

In January 2018 our fantastic CGT Repton research coordinator, Kate Harwood, organised a meeting for Repton researchers, in which c40 came together to share notes and queries on their work. (This seems like a good point to say a massive thanks to Kate for her unstinting work this year.) It was such an inspiring meeting ,especially to see so many people working together for a common goal. One of the best things, I thought, was the way that the big names of Repton academic research – John Phibbs, Tom Williamson, Stephen Daniels – came to the meeting and freely shared what they knew with the volunteer researchers also there, and equally absorbed all the new nibbles of info that were being uncovered. Stephen Daniels, esteemed Professor Emeritus at the University of Nottingham, declared that he learnt more about Repton in that morning than he had through the rest of his career. That to me is one of the key moments that sums up what has been so wonderful about Celebrating Repton 2018 . It's not really about Repton, it's about the way that we have all come together and mucked in to create something very special.



Many CGTs poured their research into new books on Repton in their county. Bucks, London, Essex, Kent, Norfolk, Yorkshire, Herts. I believe these are all on display or available for sale over lunch – do take a look. Worth noting that these are SERIOUS books!

## BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

Humphry Repton: Just what did he do for us in Bucks?

Based on several years of research by members of the Buckinghamshire Gardens

Trust this book explores just

what Repton did in Buckinghamshire and links beyond the county too. It is informed by a detailed

gazetteer and illustrated with many of his beguiling images, including watercolours from his unique Red Books.

Repton undertook at least 12 commissions in historic Buckinghamshire including the lower gardens of the still

spectacular Ashridge, now a business school, and the park at Stoke Park, preserved as a country club and golf

course. Further details from <http://www.bucksgardenstrust.org.uk/our-publications/humphry-repton-just-what-did-he-do-for-us-in-bucks/>

ISBN 978-1-5272-2348-6, August 2018, 160 pages, 80 illustrations, many full colour  
Price £20 + £3.50 postage and packing

To receive a copy, please send a cheque for £23.50 made out to Buckinghamshire  
Gardens Trust to 11 Fledglings Way, Winslow MK18 3QU

#### HERTFORDSHIRE

Humphry Repton in Hertfordshire by Susan Flood and Tom Williamson

Repton made a particularly significant contribution to the landscape of Hertfordshire, working at no less than eighteen places in the county, ranging in size from great mansions like Cashiobury and Panshanger to more modest 'villas' owned by wealthy businessmen and industrialists, such as Wood Hill in Essendon. Particular attention is given to those places for which Repton prepared one of his famous 'Red Books'. The book presents complete transcriptions of all the key documents relating to Repton's activities, including the full text of seven Red Books.

[www.hertsgardenstrust.org.uk](http://www.hertsgardenstrust.org.uk)

ISBN 978-1-909291-98-0, March 2018, hardback, 304pp

Price £25 plus postage and packing. Available to

order <https://www.herts.ac.uk/uhpess/books-content/humphry-repton-in-hertfordshire>. Also available from Amazon or any good book store.

Structure and Landscape William Wilkins and Humphry Repton at Haileybury 1806 – 1810 edited by Toby Parker and Kate Harwood

Coming soon

#### KENT

Humphry Repton in Kent

Humphry Repton., the first person to call himself a landscape gardener, is not so widely known as his predecessor 'Capability' Brown whose anniversary we celebrated in 2016 but he was an very important influence on the development of garden design in the C19 and many of his ideas and principles are still very relevant today. Repton wrote several books describing his work and ideas as well as his Red Books in which he explained and illustrated his proposals for his clients are famous.

As part of a country wide celebration of his work members of Kent Gardens Trust research team have produced a beautifully illustrated book describing Repton's five commissions in Kent with a short introduction to his life and artistic principles.

Humphry Repton in Kent is a companion volume to Capability Brown in Kent. It is 140 pages long and will interest not only garden historians but anyone with an interest in the social history of the county and the lives of the leading figures of the time. Our research has revealed fascinating and hitherto unknown contemporary letters and drawings and has made extensive use of Repton's Red Books.

Coming soon: Publication Autumn 2018

Price £10 (£8 for Kent Gardens Trust members) ISBN 978-0-9934044-1-2

Copies may be obtained direct from Kent Gardens

Trust [www.kentgardenstrust.org.uk](http://www.kentgardenstrust.org.uk) or from bookshops.

#### LONDON

## REPTON IN LONDON: The Gardens and Landscapes of Humphry Repton (1752-1818) in the London Boroughs

A fascinating insight into the unique range of gardens and landscapes Repton designed in and around the capital. His 50 plus commissions within the London Boroughs ranged from classic garden squares such as Russell Square and contemporary villas through to large landscapes such as that at Kenwood. Reproducing images from two of the customised Red Books and from his formal publications, this beautifully illustrated book sheds light on Repton's work that has not previously received such detailed scrutiny.

Price £15 plus postage and packing. Available to order

at [www.londongardenstrust.org/publications/repton.php](http://www.londongardenstrust.org/publications/repton.php)

## NORFOLK

### Humphry Repton in Norfolk

The research team and members of the Norfolk Gardens Trust are delighted by the reaction to their latest book – Humphry Repton in Norfolk. This richly illustrated A4 hardback book contains 228 pages displaying 305 colour images, describing Repton's life, work and art in his favourite county. The team of 10 researchers worked on 23 sites before submitting their findings to the book's three editors: Sally Bate, Rachel Savage and Tom Williamson. All seven of the Norfolk Red Books are fully pictured and described, and amongst the many other paintings, drawings and engravings is a leather-bound book of Repton sketches made in 1779 – 80 (before his landscape gardening career began) photographed for the first time.

The last chapter in the book looks at 'lost Repton Norfolk sites' and examines the work of his competitors (Louden, Haverfield and the Kennedys) in the county in the same period. This book has been self-published by the NGT and a subvention from the University of East Anglia has led to the production of a high-quality book at a very competitive price of £20, to make it affordable to all. Available in Norfolk bookshops and by post from City Bookshop, Norwich or Norfolk Gardens Trust

via [peterwoodrow235@btinternet.com](mailto:peterwoodrow235@btinternet.com) or [sally.bate@ngs.org.uk](mailto:sally.bate@ngs.org.uk)

## YORKSHIRE

### On The Spot: The Yorkshire Red Books of Humphry Repton, landscape gardener by Patrick Eyres and Karen Lynch

This book explores all the places attributed to Repton in Yorkshire:- Armley, Bessacre, Harewood, Langold, Mulgrave Castle, Oulton, Owston, Rudding and Wentworth Woodhouse. It contains the most up-to-date research and reproduces the extant Red Books, courtesy of the owners, along with a festival of associated imagery that includes all Repton's Yorkshire illustrations for Peacock's Polite Repository.

[www.yorkshiregardenstrust.org.uk](http://www.yorkshiregardenstrust.org.uk)

Publication date May 2018 New Arcadian Press.

Price £20 plus postage and packing from <http://www.newarcadianpress.co.uk/>





More of this research will be opened up at 'DISCOVERING THE REAL REPTON',  
 On 5<sup>th</sup> November, which is a joint Symposium between the Garden Museum and The Gardens Trust at which  
 County Gardens Trusts' researchers from across the country will showcase their research findings.  
 It's going to be juicy – talks include:  
**Sarah Dickinson**, Surrey Gardens Trust: **Tracking down a Hardenberg Basket**  
**Toby Parker**, Hertfordshire Gardens Trust: **Repton and the East India Company Patronage**  
**Patrick Eyres**, Yorkshire Gardens Trust: **Repton and the War Profiteers**  
**Glynis Shaw** Welsh Historic Gardens Trust: **Repton and John Nash as partners**  
**Kate Harwood**, Hertfordshire Gardens Trust: **'Jack the Giant Slayer' – using research to save a Repton Landscape**



Of course Johnny Phibbs is always a great adventurer and, already having copies of all known Red Books, he set out to ask CGT researchers if they could possibly transcribe them for him, in return to invaluable access to the copies.

As a result of this year's endeavours, Johnny reports that: 'All known to exist are transcribed bar Tregothnan. Most checked by at least two people. One new red book found. Around 20 new attributions and revisions to the list I compiled with Steve Daniels. Copies of transcriptions sent to those counties that asked for them. I'm still deep in Repton and enjoying it. Back to USA for another 8 talks in a fortnight. Just starting to realise how good he was.'

"Thanks to Weston Park for Babworth pics



And also in this year we have been delighted to buddy-up with at least 2 student researchers looking seriously at Repton – Carol Neville, who’s MA ‘The Chameleon – an exploration of the changing face of Humphry Repton’s garden landscapes 1788-1818’ is available over lunch, and Stephen Radley, whose PhD on Northamptonshire landscapes allowed him to look in detail at Repton’s work at Barton Hall in Northamptonshire, and we were really pleased that he was able to lecture on this at the GT AGM conference weekend this year as part of the New Research Symposium.

Talking of education, obviously close to all our hearts is that more people should learn about Humphry Repton, and beyond into the realms of garden history. I was delighted therefore that the Grapevine education initiative, brainchild of David Marsh and endorsed by the GT, extended their garden history courses this year to include a special Humphry Repton in Context course.



At the start of the year, knowing very little about Repton, I started to hear whisperings that he didn't give much detail on plants. Historic England commissioned Sarah Rutherford to look into this and produced a really useful report on plantings of the period, in which she did pretty much confirm that our hero is not a plantsman, although there were lots of good planty things going on at the time. It is downloadable for free from the Historic England website, or there is a link from [humphryrepton.org](http://humphryrepton.org)





And of course there have been fabulous exhibitions! The one that we're all buzzing about at the moment of course is 'REPTON REVEALED The Art of Landscape Gardening' at the Garden Museum, which only just opened.

This special exhibition brings together Red Books and watercolour paintings, many never publicly displayed before, to celebrate the bicentenary of his death.

c23 Red Books are on display and this exhibition reunites the largest number of Red Books in one place in 25 years.

*Repton Revealed* includes objects from around the world, and from public and private collections, including the Royal Collection Trust, the British Library, Royal Academy of Arts and The Oak Spring Garden Foundation.

As well as seeing the Red Books and other Repton watercolours, the exhibition will include a specially commissioned digital animation of Armley, a Repton Garden in Leeds. This allows visitors to step inside and experience the magic of Repton's designs.

The exhibition is been curated by Stephen Daniels, Professor Emeritus at the University of Nottingham, who will share what he has learned about Repton in a lifetime of research, and 20 years since the publication of his classic book "Humphry Repton: Landscape Gardening and the Geography of Georgian England".



Also very popular was a Repton exhibition at Woburn Abbey which ran from March to October and has now been extended into 2019

Included in the exhibition is Repton's largest and most elaborate Red Book created for the 6<sup>th</sup> Duke of Bedford and on public display for the very first time alongside the Red Book for Endsleigh.

The Exhibition was officially opened by Alan Titchmarsh and the Duchess of Bedford during a launch event, which was attended by over 100 interested guests. [pic is of exhibition with Keir Davidson, Matthew Hirst, The Duchess of Bedford, Alan Titchmarsh MBE, Martin Towsey (Head Gardener)]

Also at Woburn a Repton Study Day took place in April and included a lecture, visit to the exhibition, guided trailer tour through the parkland and guided tour through the gardens and a champagne reception, with a toast to the great man himself. A repeat of this day is already on sale for 2019.

Although Woburn already claims to be the most realised Repton landscape, efforts to restore and add more of the features Repton proposed in his Red Book will continue over the next few years.



And up in Yorkshire, Peter Goodland prepared an exhibition that the North of England Horticultural Society (NEHS), mounted at the Harrogate Autumn Flower Show (14-16 September 2018), with offcuts being used for a display at a conference on Repton & Horticulture in Sheffield (and you can see this during lunch). Peter describes these as 'the result the of a happy collaboration between the NEHS (Nick Smith, the Show Director), the Friends of the Botanical Gardens at Sheffield (Jill Sinclair), and GARLAND Trust (myself and Nathalie de Vernon)'.



And at the RHS, there was a very special collaboration indeed. RHS Libraries collaborated with students from Writtle University College to take a fresh look at Humphry Repton's gardening principles. The students, in their third year of study on Writtle's Landscape Architecture and Garden Design courses, had the opportunity to learn about Repton's ideas and respond within their own public landscape design projects. Through his own words – from original works at the RHS Lindley Library – and through the landscape – with curated tours at RHS Hyde Hall – the students have explored Repton's thoughts on boundaries and views, the picturesque, accessibility, and on working with and presenting to clients. Writtle's students will be the landscape designers of the future. With community as clients and sustainability at the heart of public projects, they have taken Repton's approaches and pushed them further. Their final project designs, each presented through the student's own take on Repton's famous 'before and after' have been displayed in an exhibition at the Lindley Library in London (3 May-22 June), at are being shown at RHS Garden Harlow Carr (1 Sept-18 Oct) and at RHS Garden Hyde Hall (29 Oct-18 Nov).





Just launching now is a fabulous exhibition by Hereford and Worcester Gardens Trust  
 - **[In the Enemy's Quarters - Repton in the West Midlands](#)**

This is hosted at the [Hereford Museum And Art Gallery](#) in [Hereford](#), entrance is free and an illustrated catalogue available

Three Red Books on display including Hewell Grange.

It's been a mammoth task for HWGT volunteer David Whitehead (here he is at the top, getting involved in our HLF Sharing Repton project) – so hats off to him.



And of course there have been conferences, kicking off with a joint venture between Hall Norfolk Gardens Trust & the Gardens Trust 1-2 June 2018 - 'The Prophet in his own Country'. Fully-booked within what seemed like seconds of launching, this looked at 3 Repton gardens in Norfolk-Sheringham Hall and Park, Barningham Hall, Honer Links Country Park Hotel, Cromer .



Later in the summer, we had a two- day conference based at Ashridge, Hertfordshire, to cast new light on the life and works of Humphry Repton and consider his legacy in landscape design, packed with garden visits and lectures.



Then most recently the Friends of the Sheffield Botanical Gardens and the Landscape Department at the University of Sheffield held a Repton & Horticulture conference exploring the often-overlooked aspects of Reptonian and late Georgian horticulture. Papers included Mark Laird on Repton's distinctive horticulture at Woburn; Camilla Beresford on Repton's use of trees and shrubs to conceal and reveal; Mick Thompson on Repton's development of the flower garden; Jon Finch on Repton's use of colour; Jan Woudstra on Reptonian influences in Nash's planting at St James' Park; Sarah Rutherford on the Historic England late Georgian hardy plant list; and Brent Elliott on two centuries of Repton's reputation.

Those who missed this conference will be delighted to hear that thanks to HE support, the proceedings of the Repton & Horticulture Conference will be available as a free download on the Gardens Trust website from Spring 2019.

Organised by the Friends of the Botanical Gardens, Sheffield and the Department of Landscape at the University of Sheffield, the two-day conference took place at Sheffield Botanical Gardens and Wentworth Woodhouse on 20th and 21st September 2018. It was sponsored by the Stanley Smith (UK) Horticultural Trust, the RHS, the Yorkshire Gardens Trust and the North of England Horticultural Society, and was part

of the Gardens Trust Celebrating Repton initiative. Edited as usual by Barbara Simms and Cris Ratti, the papers will be presented as a 'virtual' issue of Garden History 50: supplement 1, Spring 2019. Paper copies will also be available to buy. Publication of the proceedings has been supported by Historic England and the Gardens Trust.





And of course there was a plethora of what CGTs do best – Study Days, visits and lectures. I simply can't read details of them all, but I'll rattle through the roll call:

**Sussex and Kent Gardens Trusts Joint Study Day at Brightling Park.** (The Study Day will provide a brief outline of the historical development of Brightling Park while the two principal lecturers, John Phibbs and Laura Mayer, will look at Repton's life and work. Choice of guided walks to see some of Brightling Park. Tickets £50, Sussex GT and Kent GT members £45 16<sup>th</sup> June.

#### **SCOTLAND'S GARDEN AND LANDSCAPE HERITAGE – Study Day at Valleyfield**

##### **WALES – talk at Bodfach and Stanage**

(WHGT AGM Bodfach Hall, talk Laura Meyers 23.05.2018 WELSH HISTORIC GARDENS TRUST

CLWYD BRANCH AGM Rhug, and walk over Repton landscape with John Phibbs 17.03.2018

BRECON & RADNOR BRANCH Talk, Stanage Park, Gareth Williams (Curator of Weston Park) 23.05.2018

MONTGOMERYSHIRE BRANCH

GWYNEDD BRANCH Talk, Jane Bradley TBC )

**WARWICKSHIRE - Study day on Stoneleigh Abbey**

( with John Phibbs 'Humphry Repton at Stoneleigh Abbey' discussion of landscape Jane Austin used as model for Sotherton, in Mansfield Park. Tour of Abbey grounds. 16.05.2018 Leamington Tennis Court Club, 50, Bedford St., Leamington Spa CV32 5DT)

**Oxfordshire - Lecture by Jane Bradney: on Repton's Legacy – The Red Books**

(19.10.2018 6:30 for 7pm. Kellogg College Banbury Road Oxford  
[https://ogt.org.uk/events\\_news](https://ogt.org.uk/events_news) )

**Suffolk Gardens Trust study day at Henham Park.** (Speakers to include Hektor Rous, George Carter, Laura Mayer and Edward Martin.

All details of the event and booking form in Suffolk Gardens latest Spring copy of the Newsletter. Following the success of the Capability Brown Day in 2016 early booking advised.) SEE PICS, THANKS TO BARBARA SEGALL

**Lincolnshire Gardens Trust AGM, with a Lecture, Stephen Daniels** 'Revealing Humphry Repton: Approaches to the art of landscape gardening for his Bicentenary ( 18.11.2017 Scrivelsby Court & Babworth with Red Books TBC )

**Bedfordshire Study Day, Moggerhanger Park** (27.04.2018 )

**AVON and Gloucestershire Gardens and Landscape Trust Joint Study Day, Leigh Court** including talk, Stephen Daniels and possible loan of Red Book TBC

**Cornwall Repton Day – tours of Antony and Pentillie** (talks John Phibbs, tours of Antony and Pentillie. 27.04.2018 )

DEVON Study day, Endsleigh TBC CHECK  
Dorset Repton Study Day 16.05.2018 CHECK

**Notts and Yorks GT Joint Visit to Langold**

October 2018



We were also of course pleased that the Georgian Group got involved, thanks to Bettina Harden, particularly with an evening lecture at Keats House, Hampstead, given by Dr. Laura Mayer and will trace Repton's designs from their Picturesque beginnings to the progressive Gardenesque style.  
 Tickets £20 including wine. 6<sup>th</sup> Sept



And of course a whole host of other events.

Not surprisingly, our dynamic friends at Broadland DC in Norfolk led the charge, with their Repton200 festival running from March-June and including 50 events such as:

25th March - **Guided walk around Catton Park and exhibition:** 40 - 50 people This was a walk ran by the Friends of Catton Park, of the park history and flora/fauna.

With this, the friends and Catton Society also put together an exhibition of the history of Catton and its links to Repton.

22nd April – **Repton Memorial Service:** Approx. 100 people. This was a church service with a rededication of Repton’s grave at Aylsham Church.

Ensemble East Concert – 120 people This was **an orchestral performance demonstrating music of Repton’s time.**

**Wheelbarrow trail of Old Catton:** The trail involved over 15 community groups each designing a wheelbarrow and these were then placed in historic locations around the village of Old Catton. There was a great amount of effort put into this by community groups and it meant that a great variety of people could get involved; from church parishioners, school and pre-school children, local runners, and nature lovers.

18th May - **Stephen Daniels Lecture** – 75 people Expert speaker, Stephen Daniels whom is a professor in Nottingham University, gave a lecture about Repton.

**First Steps - 40 families over 4 weeks Planting activities for toddlers.**

24th March - **Repton workshop with Tom Williamson** – 40 people Day long workshop by landscape historian, Tom Williamson, telling people about how Repton worked.

Book launch event – **120 people Launch event for Norfolk Garden's Trust book** about Humphry Repton which Broadland assisted with.

Funding





Hurrah, there were family events.

The Gardens Trust's annual Family Picnic was held with NGT at Wicksteed Park in honour of Repton – these pots have paper Humphry's in them.

At Warley Woods there was a 'Picnic in the Park' – a Community celebration of the year with live music and fun family activities. Special guest, Humphry Repton.



And I'm at least 14 Humphry's Heritage Open Days – I'm so keen that we should be doing more HODs, a great way to reach a wider public. For example, Humphry Repton Bicentenary Walk at St John's, Ryde: This easy walk led by the Isle of Wight Gardens Trust explored the St John's Estate from the late 18th century to the present day. St John's was originally landscaped by Humphry Repton & other landscaped grounds were developed in the 19th century.

Walk finished at St John's House - now the site of Oakfield Primary School - where there will be an exhibition of children's work on the landscape of St John's and refreshments provided by the school.



And its brilliant that sites got involved directly too, and I really hope that we can build on these relationships in future. This marvellous pic is of the Royal Pavilion in Brighton (designer's plans for the Royal Pavilion Estate, commissioned by George IV in 1805. Repton's vision was never realised but he produced one of his beautiful illustrated Red Books, enabling us to see what might have been, and his ideas influenced John Nash, who later transformed the Royal Pavilion. Some of Repton's designs for the Pavilion and an original Red Book will be on display during the talk), and we were delighted to have the enthusiasm of curator Dr Alexandra Loske, who has given a whole cluster of talks this year.

Humphry Repton and his Designs for the Royal Pavilion

**Date/Time**

Date(s) - 21/06/2018

6:00 pm - 7:30 pm

**Location:** The Keep Archives

Art historian and curator Dr Alexandra Loske returns to The Keep to talk about the celebrated landscape designer's plans for the Royal Pavilion Estate, commissioned by

George IV in 1805. Repton's vision was never realised but he produced one of his beautiful illustrated Red Books, enabling us to see what might have been, and his ideas influenced John Nash, who later transformed the Royal Pavilion. Some of Repton's designs for the Pavilion and an original Red Book will be on display during the talk.

**£10 / £9 (FoTKA / RPM members) per person, includes glass of wine or soft drink- advance booking and payment essential as numbers are limited.**



We were also delighted this year to get to know Caroline Ratcliffe of Saling Grove, who organised an exhibition at her home at Saling Grove.

This explores his career and influence from Essex to New York, and looks at the future of the park and gardens Repton designed there, ending with a look at the future of his landscape at Saling Grove, which is under direct threat from the creation of a new town with over 10,000 houses. Which is more important: housing development or protecting a heritage setting and landscape?

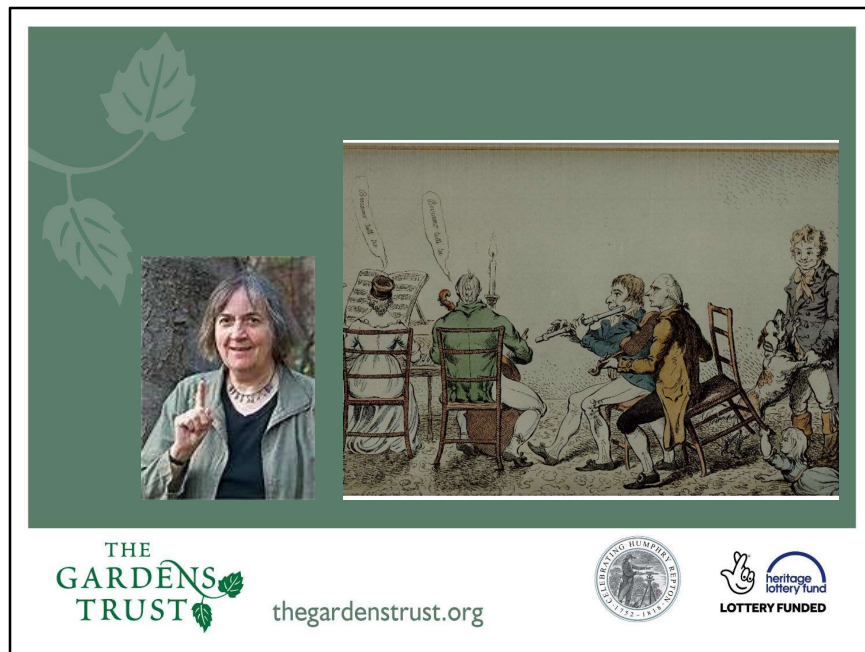
Celebrating Humphry Repton 1752-1818 exhibition is at [Saling Grove](#), Great Saling, Essex CM7 5DP until the end of August 2018 and open on Sundays from 2-5pm. The exhibition is in the Orangery at Saling Grove, and you can then enjoy tea and home-made cake in the Walled Garden (pictured). Free entry.





And the NT got involved, clearly stating from the outset that their main thrust would be to support others wanting to use their landscapes – places like Antony, Attingham, Tatton all got involved.

I'd also like to give a massive thanks to English Heritage, who have thrown themselves behind the celebrations, and particularly our Sharing Repton HLF project, despite only having 1 Repton landscape, this one.



There have been more than a few moments this year, when something very special happened. For me, one of these moments was being forwarded an unexpected email from Judy Tarling, a music historian, to say that she had off her own bat compiled and written up a list of music that Repton would have listened to, and that she was happy to share it. It's those kinds of acts of spontaneous and generous spark that have really made Celebrating Repton so special. Judy's brought some cds along today, so with a bit of technological luck, over lunch we should be dining to the sounds of Judy's research.



I was also so pleased that we have had the support of the Historic Gardens Foundation, who have given us column inches in their newsletter and magazine, Historic Gardens Review, which is read all over the world. Their editor, Gillian Mawrey, kindly penned some text on gardens internationally, which was used as part of a display at the Heritage Open Day at Catton Park – this is on display over lunch and I’m sure we can find a way of letting others reprint or borrow it. This image is of the forthcoming issue of Historic Gardens Review, which will have the first of a two-part article by Peter Goodchild that explains Repton for an international readership.



Another such moment was being contacted by Haddonstone, who had marked the bicentenary by making a unique bust of Repton, and offering to donate one to our celebration. We are using this bust as a prize for a new competition, called Sharing Landscapes, which we hope will encourage us all to work harder at sharing our enthusiasms with more people – we will be launching this at lunch.



## Sharing Repton: Historic Landscapes for All



- The Gardens Trust is working with volunteers and sites to share our passion with diverse local communities and create new friends and supporters for these heritage assets.
- 5 pilot activities, based around Repton sites across the country.
- Skill sharing, guidance materials and training workshops so others can offer similar local community events in the future.


[thegardenstrust.org](http://thegardenstrust.org)


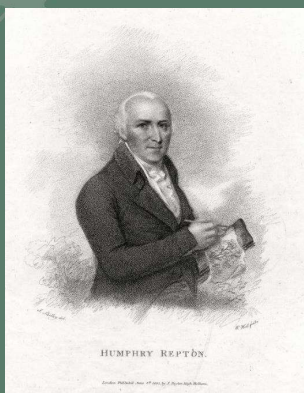


Now obviously I'm totally biased, but I think that one of the highlights of the year has definitely been the GT achieving a Heritage Lottery Fund grant to help us use the Repton celebrations as an excuse to learn how to engage bigger and more diverse audiences with historic parks and gardens , and then to help you to benefit from our learning curve.

The grant is for almost £100k, the project is called Sharing Repton: Historic Landscapes For All, and it runs until the end of 2019.

It is using Repton as a hook to pilot 5 achievable activities that offer ways of engaging new types of people to historic parks and gardens and garden history, and then a whole load of opportunities for others who want to learn from our experiences to do so, not least of all with all the pilot materials and case studies going online. In a minute we're going to hear from the local stars who organised each of the pilot activities to hear how they got on, and I do hope that you'll have an open mind to the thought that you might in future want to repeat even a tiny nibble of one of the activities – and if you do that in the next year of course the GT will still have funding for me to be able to help you with that.








Humphry's Legacy

- Collaborating
- Knowledge
- Impact
- Historic Landscapes for All

THE GARDENS TRUST

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So, you can see that it's been an extraordinarily busy year – thank you for all you've done, and thank you for bearing with us as we've done our best to keep up and support you.

What do we think the legacy of the year is? Everyone will have their own opinion, but I'd like to suggest these 3 things:

- 1) We've all got a lot better at working together. I have been repeatedly bowled over by how you've all swung into action, worked together, turned a blind eye to the lack of central resource, and just pitched in. I hope we'll continue this mindset in future, and look forward to hearing from you.
- 2) We all know a lot more about Humphry Repton than we did 18 months ago! We have all those fantastic books, and also lots of other resources, and over the next year I'm going to be finding time to curate as much of this as possible into a sensible and accessible home at [humphryrepton.org](http://humphryrepton.org). As a side note, don't forget to add what new research or notes you can to your local Historic Environment Record and also Historic England's Enriching the List.
- 3) I'd like to think that we've all got a bit better at understanding how we can work together on a campaign, or celebration, to have a real impact. Let's have at least a year off to look at lessons learnt and gather steam again, but I'd love to hear from you all with thoughts on what we could campaign or celebrate next.

Perhaps another anniversary, or perhaps just a timely issue? Put your thinking hats on.

- 4) And, of course, my bias, I like to think that thanks to our HLF project we will get better at making sure that Historic Landscapes are for All



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