

## Land of the Fanns: The Know It. Love It Project



### USEFUL WEBSITES FOR HISTORIC GARDENS/LANDSCAPES RESEARCH:

As you would expect, in the last ten years the numbers and range of websites devoted to/of relevance to historic gardens research has multiplied enormously and rather annoyingly, also keep changing!

These are the MAIN sites you might like to have a go at looking at in the coming weeks.

The date and location of the site, or type of historic feature, you are researching will also lead you to other websites. (e.g. there are websites relating to icehouses, some relating to images, others walled gardens etc.)

The range and type of resources available, and the range of subjects encompassed by garden history itself, makes this just a snapshot! However, it is a useful starting point in any research.

I include a one line description, so you know what to expect from most of the sites.

I have divided it into General; Site Based Research; Person Based Research; Maps and Plans; Aerial Photographs; Art and Images; On-Line Books; and more general themes.

Websites tend to get easier to navigate the more you use them so please don't be put off at first but keep trying and just have 'fun' browsing and using different search terms to get used to a site.

Try and have a file in your website 'bookmarks' (if that is how you work) and work through them in order!

Twigs Way, Sept 2019 for Land of the Fanns



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



## **GENERAL**

Never Forget to try a general '**Google**' search, or a search on **eBay** and **Amazon**. **Google** (or whichever search engine you use) may also come up with links to articles written and stored on the **JSTOR** (see below) site and other heritage sites. Although it can be surprisingly patchy for some of the main source sites which may have blocked access.

**eBay** You may not be able to 'buy' the site you are researching but you may find there are old postcards or images, advertisements, books, leaflets, guides, articles, old images etc. This may help with images of old parterres, specimen trees, or even old 19th century articles cut out of magazines and now being sold.

## **GARDEN HISTORY GENERAL**

### **thegardenstrust.org**

The Gardens Trust websites runs/hosts a 'Resource Hub' Section which includes a wide range of materials on research, research projects, and even a specific section on Land of the Fanns which will host all our handouts and (eventually) all the PowerPoint sessions you have seen. Although it may seem a bit overwhelming at first there are some excellent training resources.

To find it go to the [Gardens Trust Home Page](#), then to [Resource Hub](#), scroll down and find [Land of Fanns](#).

Whilst you are there you might browse some of the training downloads for '[Understanding Historic Parkland](#)' which we will use later in our sessions at Thames Chase.

### **Gardens Trust Blog: <http://thegardenstrustblog.wordpress.com>**

There is an **excellent** 'blog' written by the Gardens Trust Trustee David Marsh and issued every Saturday. It is always on a different subject and always informative. You can also search past blog subjects:

## **SITE BASED:**

### **Parks and Gardens UK: <http://www.parksandgardens.org>**

This is the official site that all county gardens trusts and researchers and English Heritage should feed into with their research. Contains links to Historic England Register of Parks and Gardens (now National List). Also gives further (offline) references. First stop for any researcher!

### **Historic England (was English heritage) Heritage Gateway: <https://www.heritagegateway.org.uk>**

The Historic England 'portal' (I hate that word) to their full range of historic information on sites, plus links to an image gallery (**Images of England**), link to the County and Nationally based records of listed and registered sites . **Try the 'About heritage Gateway' for a good idea and guide as to what is available.** I find the division of all the various ancillary parts confusing and

difficult to recall which I have searched and which not, once you are lost in the labyrinthine structure - but it is a totally invaluable source when researching individual sites or a theme such as topiary, tea gardens, moated sites etc. The image sections are excellent

See also **British Listed Buildings**  
**<https://www.britishlistedbuildings.co.uk>**

**National Archives: <http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk>**

An amazing array of National records (ie records that were from national sources - local sources will be at local archive offices). The link I have given is for the 'Discovery' Page which is where you enter search terms for the collections. However, do be aware as with any archive source only a small percent is online still.

**Your local Archive Office will have an on-line catalogue depending on the county these are of very variable quality and coverage:**

**The Essex Record Office website**

**<https://www.essexarchivesonline.co.uk>:**

used to be known as SEAX – but has now been re-named and moved to a new website.

**Its search mechanism is fabulous!** Some images can be seen on-line, and for all documents there will be quite a thorough description – so much so that sometimes you don't need the actual document!

**Also, for site specific:** Both National Trust and English Heritage have websites with information links to research carried out at their sites. SO, Go to English heritage website and choose a site and as well as telling you about when it is open, where the café is etc it also has a link to finding out more which can be quite thorough.

## **PEOPLE SPECIFIC**

**Oxford Dictionary of National Biography On-Line:**

**<http://www.oxforddnb.com>**

Really excellent resource for owners/plant hunters/writers/etc. You can join if you have a library card for a library that pays to access (most do). It is much better than Wikipedia!

**Ancestry UK: <https://www.ancestry.co.uk>**

If you have ever done family history, you will know this site well. It is a pay to use site but useful for tracing information on life/death etc of specific gardeners etc. For designers or well-known people etc you should use Parks and Gardens (see above) or Oxford DNB.

## **OBTAINING ON-LINE HISTORIC MAPS AND MAP BASED RESEARCH**

**National Library of Scotland online Ordnance Survey Historic Map Base:**  
**<http://maps.nls.uk/os/>**

Just don't ask why Scotland has done this!! You can now access historic 6-inch and 25-inch (in process) of all of England and compare side by side with modern OS or aerial photos. You can even have one loaded over the other so to speak! Brilliant resource! Saves hours and hours of time.

**Bing Maps** or other modern mapping will also give you modern maps and aerial photographs (Verticals) of various kinds.

## **AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS**

**Cambridge University Collection of Aerial Photographs:**

**<https://www.cambridgeairphotos.com>**

This was the standard repository of all APs from the 1940s onwards specialising in archaeological and earthwork and landscapes. Its on-line presence is a shadow of what is there in the actual resource: however I searched 'Thorndon' and came up with a list of APs that, when I clicked on their numbers, the actual image came up located on a map! So, they are getting there!

**Britain from Above:** **<https://www.britainfromabove.org.uk>**

Very similar to CUCAP – lots of 1940s and 1950s and more recent. These are oblique images and so good for archaeology/earthworks/gardens etc

## **BOOKS AND PERIODICALS OLD AND NEW**

**Biodiversity Heritage Library:** **<http://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>**

Has **really superb selection** of online readable and printable texts from 18th century onwards including botanical works, gardening periodicals etc etc All Gardeners Chronicle! (Not searchable really - some limited search per book but not reliable)

**British Library:** **<https://www.bl.uk/>**

Good just for checking whether books have been written - or dates of people and books or even actually going down there!

**Cambridge University Library:** **<http://www.lib.cam.ac.uk>**

Ditto - also has excellent on-line section on Sales catalogues/Sales Particulars which come up in general search.

The new iDiscovery search will bring up articles, newspaper links, books, images, etc. So, you will have to learn to focus the search using the options.

**Country Life:** **<http://www.countrylifeimages.co.uk>**

This is the link to the picture library - but it will also tell you when there was an article on the site. Note all images are on the picture library sadly. There is a huge index for Country Life in hard copy in many libraries! **Essex Record Office** has an excellent series of bound copies.

JSTOR: **JSTOR** [www.jstor.org](http://www.jstor.org) In a general google search you may sometimes come up with JSTOR which is a digital source of academic journals and articles. Including Garden History Journal! It provides [full-text searches](#) of almost 2,000 journals. Most access is by subscription, but some of the site's [public domain](#) and [open access](#) content is available at no cost to anyone. If you have a library card or even Essex for Writtle it may subscribe.

**Abe Books:** This is a bit of an oddity - it attracts specialist book and image sellers often of antiquarian interest. It also sells (and you do not have to buy to record!) letters etc and signed copies of books, or tells you about bookplates in books, so you can trace the ex-library of a person.

## **ART AND IMAGES**

Note some of these sites have a very wide range of images of people and sites including those taken from old books and periodicals, postcards, as well as cartoons on various garden related topics. Some specialise in photographs and some in paintings, but others are much more general.

**AKG Images Picture Library:** <https://www.akg-images.co.uk/>  
Surprising range of English wartime images as well as paintings and pictures. Includes much modern news stuff so ensure you delimit search terms.

**Art UK:** <https://artuk.org>  
An amazing site with lots of paintings from all local and some national galleries and private collections as well as statues!! Because it includes private collections it has some of the only online images of private landscapes etc. Check out their 'Kew' entries for example.

**Bridgeman Art Library:** <http://www.bridgemanimages.com/en-GB/>  
Paintings and images reflecting history and culture generally: Fun to explore

**Francis Frith:** [www.francisfrith.com/uk](http://www.francisfrith.com/uk)  
Not just photos! Concentrates on England in 1850-1950

**Getty Images:** <http://www.gettyimages.co.uk>  
Surprising range of English wartime images as well as paintings and pictures.

**Mary Evans Picture Library:** <http://www.maryevans.com>  
A lot of older material including from old books and periodicals. Has quite a lot of general garden material and some specific gardens (check out Chatsworth)

**Yale Center for British Art:** <http://britishart.yale.edu>  
Good for landscape paintings some gardens

**NOTE: Also good for exploration** are the online searchable collections in the Fitzwilliam (Cambridge), National Gallery, Tate, V&A, etc. I find the Tate has a really excellent selection.