

Garden History in 10 Objects



This is a hands-on course, that begins by using 10 garden-related objects to spark discussion amongst participants, working in small groups. The objects vary according to the site and circumstances – some are genuine artefacts, others facsimiles, but all are interesting in their own right. They range from bits of gardening equipment to maps, and old adverts through to models via fruit and veg. This part of the day lasts about 90 minutes. It's followed by an illustrated lecture that puts the objects into a broad chronological and social context covering 5000 years of garden history.

The afternoon can take many different forms depending on the venue and/or organisation. In some there are 3 short lectures on garden-related topics, usually with some local connection. In others there might be a tour of the garden, a discussion of the problems facing the site as well as one or two short lectures. We end the day with suggestions for further research and things that might be of interest.



The day has now run successfully at several different venues in London as well as in Birmingham, Sheffield, Nottingham, Chelmsford, Exeter, Shrewsbury, Cambridge, the National Arboretum at Westonbirt, and a couple of stately homes and museums, with groups ranging from 8 to 80, although ideally it would be between 20 and 50.

