

Unforgettable Gardens 2020-23



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Value Vulnerability Volunteering



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Linden

What they mean to us, the threats they face, how it's not just the 'big names' but also the local sites, and how you can help save them for future generations.

It's a theme that has been carefully chosen to allow us to share our key messages around conservation and volunteering. This could not be more pertinent as we emerge from the pandemic, during which green space has never been more appreciated yet also more threatened. This is a really challenging time to be trying to run a national collaborative campaign like Unforgettable Gardens. But there is also a huge opportunity in Covid:

- Value of open space recognised and appreciated like never before
- Sense of community experience and the threats to that experience is heightened
- Willingness to volunteer and play a meaningful role is greater

We chose this theme because of our desire to have a real impact on the understanding of the issues of historic parks and gardens. It's time to turn the spotlight on just how precious yet vulnerable historic designed landscapes are. We want to use Unforgettable Gardens to talk about the work that ourselves and others do, and the ways that everyone can get involved.

Message Part 1: Historic parks and gardens are really precious and valuable. This could be because of the part they play in our national story, because they are cultural icons, or because we love to visit them. The parks and gardens you love are actually historic, and a key part of our national story. We here all know that parks and gardens can have amazing histories and be culturally very important, but many visitors simply don't. Let's share those stories.

This value became acutely obvious this spring, when people either flocked to public parks for their 1 hour of exercise, or pined for the historic gardens who had had to shut their gates.

Message Part 2: Historic parks and gardens are vulnerable.

As we know, they are threatened by all kinds of things – development, neglect, mismanagement, funding. Some have been lost already. We as a sector definitely need to get better at highlighting this vulnerability, as open space is so taken for granted.

Message Part 3: The good news, is that there are ways to protect historic parks and gardens. Fighting planning applications, research and recording, campaigning, restoration, public awareness.

This isn't a job for someone else to sort – everyone has a part to play. Particularly by becoming a volunteer. (Or by joining the GT...)

Slide 3



UG is all about collaboration, it's about collective effort. But here are some of the things that the GT itself has been getting up to for UG:

- We are running a series of online lectures about Unforgettable Gardens in the UK and beyond. Some of these have been arranged in conjunction with County Gardens Trusts (CGTs), or other organisations such as the Historic Gardens Foundation to give an international perspective. I'm excited that we have agreements from English Heritage and the National Trust to provide Head Gardener speakers for some of these, which will provide a fabulous insight into what it takes to keep an Unforgettable Garden running in the 21st century. These have been a fantastic way to raise profile amongst a relatively wide audience- 2597 attendees Jan-July 2021.
- We're working on new research and recording training for volunteers ensure that lesser-known gardens are understood, literally made Unforgettable by being recorded. Many CGTs are undertaking research and recording projects to protect important gardens in the county. Sally will talk about this and other CGT initiatives later.
- We have been featuring an Unforgettable Garden of the Month online and in social media. This picture is Crossing Temple, Essex, a C20 recreation of a Tudor garden managed with huge volunteer input, and our current UG of the Month.
- We have upped our social media game this year to help highlight deserving parks and gardens. Do please come and find us on Twitter, FB and Instagram, and use the hashtag #unforgettablegardens



Like everything we do, Unforgettable Gardens is all about collaboration and encouraging people, sites and organisations to get involved.
Please get involved, please

Our intention is that the GT will support and cheerlead anyone who would like to organise an activity and badge it as Unforgettable Gardens.

In a minute, Sally will talk about some of the great things that County Gardens Trusts are doing. I'm just going to take a moment to talk about collaborations so far from some of the other national organisations.



ENGLISH HERITAGE

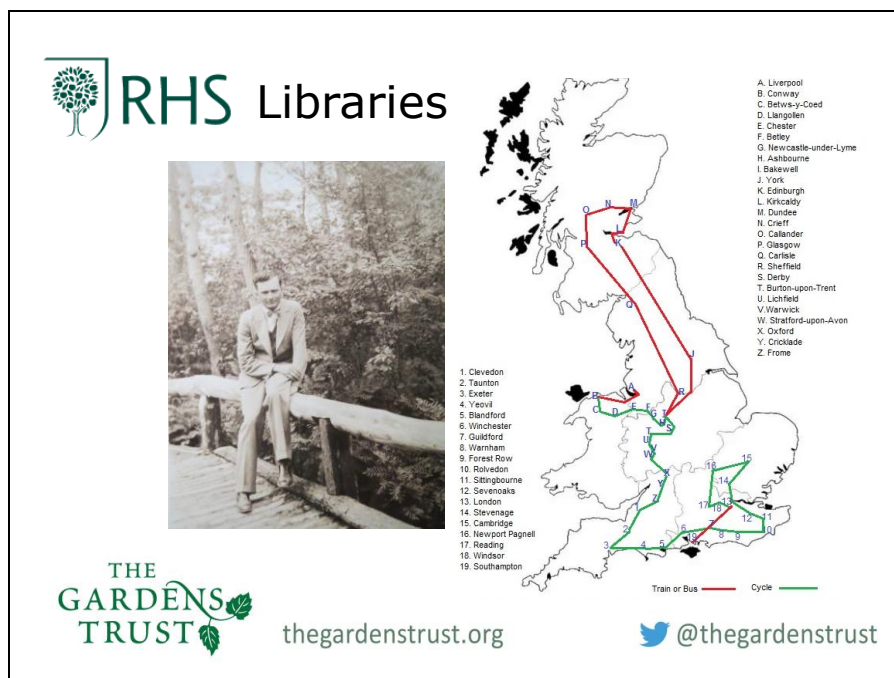


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In 2021 English Heritage offered us and CGTs the opportunity to exhibit and talk about UG at their Blooming Gardens events across the country. It's no mean feat to do this for the first time in a pandemic, but of course the brilliant CGTs rose to the challenge- here is the Isle of Wight's stand at Osborne.

As part of this arrangement the GT produced and printed for each participating CGT 2 pop up banners that share UG messages around garden history and conservation – composed so that although they use specific examples, they are appropriate for use across the country. They were professionally designed, and put together with help from Sue Hayward, a professional curator that we are lucky enough to have volunteering on our Audience Development, Marketing and Communications committee, so they're really ace. We have the design files for these and are more than happy to share with anyone who would like to print these for their own use, just drop me a line.

In fact, the GT has a stand at the Historic Building, Parks and Gardens event in Westminster tomorrow and will be using these banners then, so do call by and take a look.



We are working with RHS Lindley Libraries on an online exhibition around Loyal Johnson, a young Californian garden designer who in the summer of 1928 cycled around Britain visiting gardens. He visited 62 gardens – most well-known today but not all – and kept a very detailed and charming journal of his experiences.

The intention is that the exhibition will highlight the value of research and recording – this is what Loyal did in the last century and is what we are doing today – and will update the stories of the sites that Loyal visited. We can choose the sites carefully so that they share a range of UG messages around local and national sites, decline, threat, rescue, value of recording for future generations, being part of history as a visitor etc. The hope is that we can work closely with CGT volunteers on the content material.

This project includes:

- Enabling capacity building work for CGT volunteers around interpretation, social media and audience development.
- Media beginning spring 2022
- Online exhibition launch April/May 2022 as part of National Gardening Week.
- Linked audience development work in Summer 2022. This is still in development, but spoiler is that it may well include bike rides!

This is a very exciting project, and Loyal is just the loveliest character to be at the centre of this. There are plenty of parallels with today – gardens in the aftermath of facing a major international challenge (1WW - covid), health and wellbeing of garden visiting, interest in recording our experiences. We are very optimistic that this exhibition and associated coverage will do a huge amount to share our messages with a very wide audience.



We are thrilled that Historic Houses are throwing themselves into digital activity for UG. For example:

- From January they will be including an Unforgettable Garden of the week in their weekly e-news.
- They will be highlighting an UG on social media every Thursday, using the #unforgettablegarden hashtag. Of course, we will repost and share.
- And I believe in Spring 2022 they will run an online lecture on the theme of Unforgettable Gardens by three gardeners sharing experiences of working on UGs.
- And they are creating an Unforgettable Gardens page on the HH website, linked to ours for people to learn more about the issues around garden history and conservation.



My very great hope is that as we open up more and more post-pandemic groups such as CGTs, and sites such as Historic Houses, and beyond of course, will organise in-person activities for UG. These could be walks, talks, community fairs, school workshops, exhibitions in local parks, you name it.

One of the easiest and most effective ways to reach new people is to run a Heritage Open Day. I'm delighted that HODs have created a special UG category for us and have a host of support so that even those of us with little experience can get involved. Sarah from HODs will be running a workshop for us in January to talk us all through how to go about this – watch this space for details.



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SAVE OUR HERITAGE WITH
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Planned activities by
County Gardens
Trusts

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Sally

Linden has already mentioned the Unforgettable Gardens logo and straplines and the CGTs have been encouraged to use any of the 4 versions of them from our Resource Hub. They can attach them to a wide range of activities, whether they are research projects, events, or publications. We can then promote their activities in our E-Bulletin, Newsletter, website and social media. The same applies to any organisation, or site who would like to arrange an UG activity – we can help you to reach a wider audience as possible and spread the news about our historic parks and gardens.

I'm now going to share with you some CGT activities that have already taken place or are in the planning process.



A great Unforgettable Gardens opportunity arose for 7 CGTs this last summer, working with English Heritage. 7 super gardens, looked after by English Heritage, held Blooming Gardens days in June. The County Garden Trust for each garden put together a team of volunteers and information about the research and work that they do, in order to have a display at the Blooming Gardens day. Each CGT was given two pull-up display banners by the Gardens Trust and we and the CGTs were very grateful to Chris Weddell for his enthusiasm and organisation of these days.

If one of the garden sites here, is in your county, then the local CGT has a stand and display material ready to go. If you are thinking of holding a special open day or event, then they may be able to link in with you and add extra value for your intended audiences.



William Champions Garden, Warmley



Thomas Goldney's Garden, Bristol

Avon Gardens Trust

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This is the first of two gardens having a twinning event for Unforgettable Gardens and is being arranged by Avon Gardens Trust.

Kay Ross, the Chairman of AGT has had a long-term involvement with the restoration and promotion of William Champion's Garden just outside Bristol at Warmley. Champion was a successful 18th century industrialist who created his own fantasy-style garden next to his house and brass milling works. Garden features include the grotto shown top left and the 8-metre-tall statue of Neptune who used to stand in the middle of a lake.

Around the same time the impressive gardens at Goldney Hall which is now part of Bristol University, were built by Thomas Goldney a business associate of William Champion.

Avon GT propose to hold an Unforgettable Gardens twinning event next year which will highlight the two gardens to a new audience, and they hope this will result in volunteers to support one or both gardens.



The Rosary, Norwich

Histon Road Cemetery, Cambridge

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The second garden twinning event gets way this week on Thursday evening is between two non-conformist cemeteries! Both landscapes are Grade II* on the Register of Parks and Gardens.

The Rosary in Norwich was laid out in 1819 and was the first non-conformist cemetery built outside London. The second is the Histon Road Cemetery in Cambridge, which was designed and laid out by John Claudius Loudon in 1843.

Gin Warren of Cambridge GT has been researching these two sites for some years and is giving an online talk to members of both Camb and Norfolk Trusts, as well invited congregations of associated churches in both cities. To follow up the talks the subject it is proposed to hold exchange visits to both sites for anyone who'd like to take part.

Ghastly Churchyards and Brave Men
An illustrated Zoom talk
7.30pm, Thursday 18 November 2021
Dr Virginia Warren, Dip Garden History from the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh
Cambridgeshire Gardens Trust member

This online talk will be about the setting up of new un consecrated, nonconformist cemeteries in East Angles in the first half of the 19th century.

At this time, death - like life - was more straightforward if you were well off, rural and a member of the Church of England. But if you were nonconformist, the church and state placed constraints on your way of life and how and where you were buried.

Most urban churchyards were grossly overcrowded and mismanaged. If you were condemned by enemy to live downwind of one and obliged to use its parish pump, even Blackwell wouldn't sacro spaces with you. The note from one Norwich parish pump was described as "almost pure essence of churchyard".

Deep in the determined and philanthropic Unitarian minister Thomas Drummond, and the nonconformist and Bishop of Norwich Henry Bathurst. These men saw a need to allow these places to be gardens, not horror shows.

The 1821 un consecrated Rosary Cemetery in Norwich is testament to their forward-thinking approach, and an early example of a garden cemetery compatible with Sir Christopher Wren's widely disregarded suggestions of a century before.

The tomb of Thomas and Ann Drummond in the Rosary Cemetery, Norwich

CAMBRIDGESHIRE GARDENS TRUST

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Gin Warren of Cambridge GT has been researching these two sites for some years and is giving an online talk to members of both Camb and Norfolk Trusts, as well invited congregations of associated churches and the friends groups in both cities. Gin's talk is entitled Ghastly Churchyards and Brave men and the flyer show here is written to interest garden historians and non-historians alike.

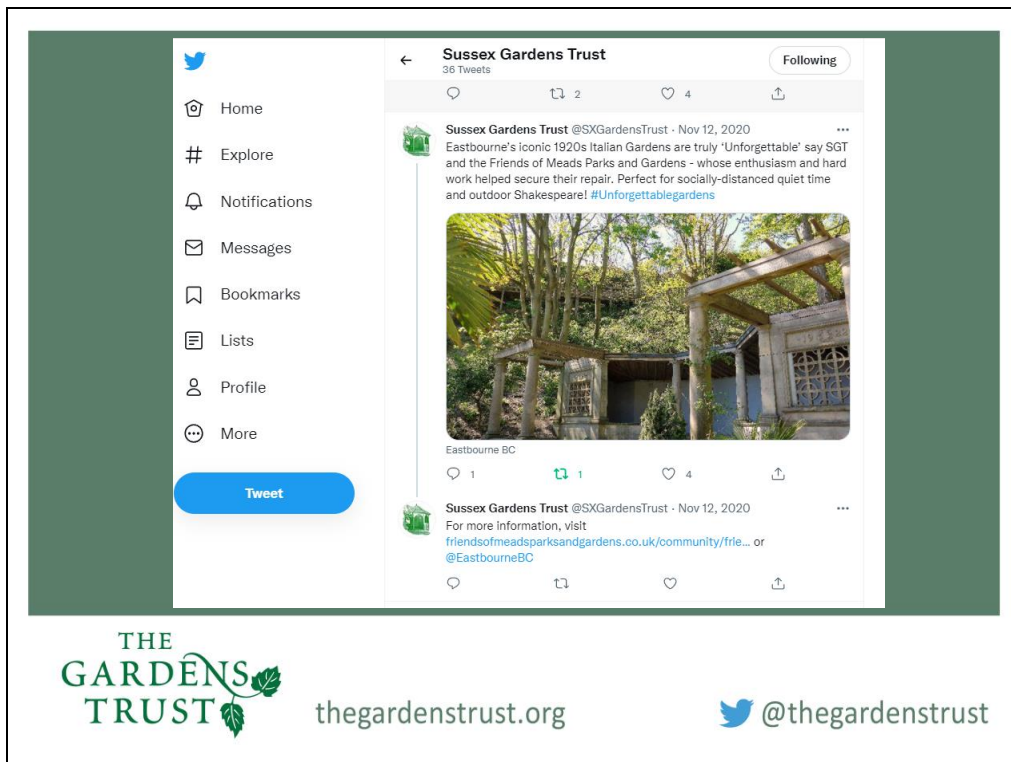
To follow up the talks Gin has it in mind to organise exchange visits to both sites for anyone who'd like to take part, see the cemeteries for themselves and find out more.



Hertfordshire GT have been holding a series of talks for members on specific gardens, badged as Unforgettable Gardens.

Also, their members have been taking photographs throughout this year so they can select 13 images for a calendar of Hertfordshire's Unforgettable Gardens to celebrate their 30th anniversary in 2022.

(Images clockwise from top left: Ashridge, Cedars Park (Cheshunt), Hatfield House and Tewin Gardens (Welwyn Garden City) for illustration only not actual 2021 entrants)



Sussex Gardens Trust started a Twitter page and has been posting some of their county's Unforgettable Gardens, often in collaboration with owners or head gardeners. The majority of CGTs are now appreciating that social media is a good way to spread news, make connections and reach existing and new audiences. However, they are always looking out for help with running social media platforms and please do engage with their posts if they appear on your timelines. Using the hashtag #UnforgettableGardens will also hopefully flag posts up on our social media sites and we can share and engage with them too.



- Northamptonshire Gardens Trust
- Unforgettable Gardens talks

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As you heard from Linden earlier, the Gardens Trust has been holding online weekly Unforgettable Gardens talks on Wed evenings and we could not have done this without help from many of the CGTs.

Northampton Gardens Trust kicked off these talks, back in Sept 2020, by choosing 4 of their Unforgettable Gardens and finding people who are knowledgeable and able to share their enthusiasm for these landscapes. These talks have been attracting huge numbers of people across the country and indeed across the world. As well as watching live, the talks are recorded and are available to watch for a week afterwards.

Unforgettable Gardens Talks

Nat. Botanic Garden of Wales	Belsay Hall	Friar Park	
Little Sparta	Studley Royal	Le Jardin Secret, Marrakesh	
Swiss Garden, Shuttleworth	Coton Manor	Houghton	
Albury Park	Sutton Place	Kirby Hall	Munstead Wood
Oxford Botanic Garden	Sandringham	Painshill	Burghley
Plaz Metaxu	Apethorpe Palace	Lyveden New Bield	
Aberglasney	Deene Park	Cragside	The Plantation Garden
Venetian Waterways	Monet's Garden	Plas Cadnant	
Peace Garden, Muslim Burial Ground	Brompton Cemetery		
Heale Garden	Alwick	Hafod Garden	

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Northamptonshire Gardens Trust led the way and other CGTs quickly followed. These are a selection of the Unforgettable Gardens that have had their moment in the Wednesday evening spotlight.

As you can see there are the well-known and not-so-well-known landscapes; the great estates and small urban gems; private gardens, public parks and cemeteries.

The Wednesday evening slots are already booked ahead until September 2022, but if you would like to put forward a park or garden with a good speaker to present it, please do. Our thanks go to the CGTs who organised the talks, the speakers who generously gave their time and knowledge, and the Gardens Trust team of volunteers who ensured they went ahead on the night.



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Berkshire Gardens Trust is revisiting their Ribbon of Green Walk across Reading, linking up several parks and other green historic places. Apart from being an educational leaflet it forms part of the Ribbon of Green mental health walks initiative.

Slide 19.



Several County Gardens Trust are using the Unforgettable Gardens theme to undertake new research and recording projects. For example, Kent GT is looking at sites in Swale District Council, these are researched and uploaded to the district council's system to inform their planning and conservation officers, as well providing heritage information for developers and other interested parties.

London GT is now in the process of recruiting new volunteers to research or update entries for their inventory. The Borough of Lewisham is this year's London Borough of the Year, so the LGT research team are concentrating their efforts here.

Berkshire and Buckinghamshire are researching public parks in the light of the important part they have played over the past 18 months. The results of the research may be uploaded to their websites or printed into pamphlets to distribute locally. Additionally, Buckinghamshire are researching the many artists' gardens in their county.

Norfolk is mid-way through digitising town garden surveys carried out in the 1990s. Researched, collated and printed before the digital age, there were two printed copies available to read in the two Norwich archive centres. It has become evident that they need much updating to reflect the changes that have taken place over the last 25 years, and the new digital copies will be circulated widely to the district councils and other interested parties.

Slide 20



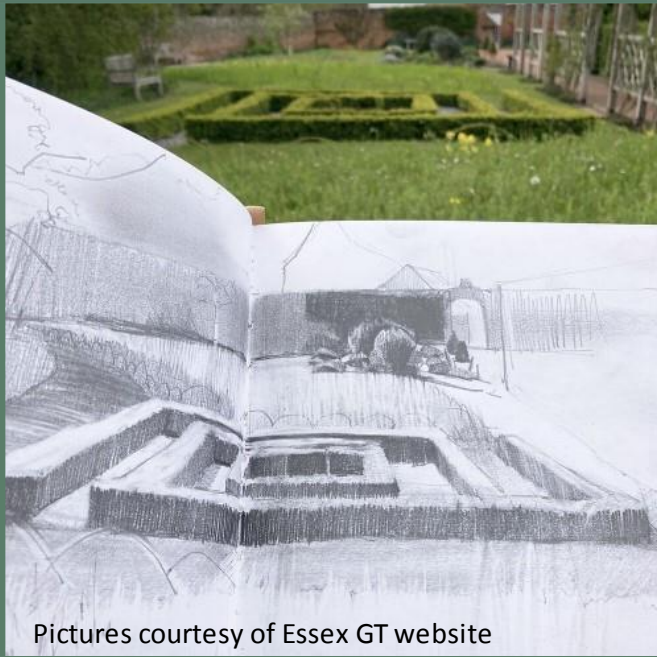
Norfolk Gardens Trust
drone photography



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Also in Norfolk, the Trust has a member who is a keen drone flier and camera man. Stuart has started recording many of their county gardens and public parks from the air, to form a record of how they look and are faring in the early 21st century. These films are being editing and then stored in the Norfolk GT digital archive of maps, photos, images and now, videos.



Pictures courtesy of Essex GT website



Essex Gardens Trust

Artist in Residence

Jane Frederick



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Lastly but by no means least, Essex Gardens Trust.

Essex is researching for their inventory of parks and gardens in Thurrock District. They have also badged lots of their talks and events under the Unforgettable Gardens banner.

Another great initiative is their appointment of an Artist in Residence, Jane Fredrick, who is recording their Unforgettable Gardens over the course of a year. Jane has also been leading 'tour n draw' events for EGT members and guests, in some of their beautiful landscapes.

AVON	LONDON GARDENS TRUST
BEDFORDSHIRE	NORFOLK
BERKSHIRE	NORTHAMPTONSHIRE
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE	NORTHUMBRIA
CAMBRIDGESHIRE	NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
CHESHIRE	OXFORDSHIRE
CORNWALL	SHROPSHIRE
CUMBRIA	SOMERSETT
DERBYSHIRE	STAFFORDSHIRE
DEVON	SUFFOLK
DORSET	SURREY
ESSEX	SUSSEX
GLOUCERSTERSHIRE	WARWICKSHIRE
HAMPSHIRE	WELSH HISTORIC GARDENS
HEREFORD & WORCESTER	WILTSHIRE
HERTFORDSHIRE	YORKSHIRE
ISLE OF WIGHT	
KENT	SCOTLAND'S GARDEN &
LANCASHIRE	LANDSCAPE HERITAGE
LEICESTERSHIRE & RUTLAND	
LINCOLNSHIRE	NORTHERN IRELAND
	HERITAGE GARDENS



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We are always keen to hear about the activities the 37 CGTs are planning, so please do let us know. I hope that some of the ideas I have shared here will spark an Unforgettable Gardens idea of your own.

If you are from another organisation or an historic park or garden, and you would like to get in touch with a county gardens trust, do check out the CGTs' list on the Gardens Trust website homepage, and find their contact details and see if they would like to collaborate and enable you to share your historic landscape with new audiences.



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Linden

I hope that hearing these ideas is giving you food for thought for ways you might get involved. All kinds of ideas that helps celebrate and support our garden and landscape heritage will be welcome, from any range of groups, sites, individuals.

So, what can the GT offer you by way of support?

1) Firstly, a logo. This is free to download from our website. Go to the Unforgettable Gardens page of our Campaigns section, or the Unforgettable Gardens part of the Campaigns section of our online Resource Hub, and you will find it

This shared branding and publicity is key – the more we can link it together, the greater the legibility for the public, and the greater the impact.

2) We would also love you to add any Unforgettable Gardens events to our online events calendar. If you go the Events section of our website, you will see there is an online form for you to add it yourself.

3) We would also love you to use the hashtag #unforgettablegardens on your social media.

4) We can help with highlighting Unforgettable Gardens via our Unforgettable Garden of the Month, or the online lectures. Just drop us a line if you'd like to link up with these initiatives. A small but important note – it massively helps us to spread the word if we know what everyone's doing. Don't be shy to drop us a line.

In case your head is spinning, we're putting the various materials and ideas around UG on the Resource Hub on our website. Take a look around.

We'll end there, but I just want to drop in one more point. We desperately want you all to get involved and all contributions are welcome. Remember though, those of us here are probably already more than familiar with the messages that historic parks and gardens are valuable and vulnerable and that there are things that could and should be done to protect them. What we really need to do is share this message with a wider range of people not already engaged with the subject – do please think about what you can do that will spread the message to the unconverted.

Thank you.

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