About Us

The green spaces of parks, gardens and landscapes that so many people enjoy have been left to us by the vision, dedication and skill of our forebears. A few are being created by contemporary designers and artists. However, with ever-increasing development, our designed green legacy can easily be nibbled away or lost entirely. Cambridgeshire Gardens Trust seeks to conserve, enhance and restore the historic landscapes, parks and gardens within the county for the enjoyment of the public. The Trust also seeks to raise public awareness and understanding of the value of landscapes, parks and gardens as part of our local and national heritage.

The Trust pursues these aims by researching and recording historic and contemporary landscapes, in both rural and urban settings within the county, and by transferring knowledge through the newsletter, study days and publications. We are also a focal point for local groups to advise on conservation, restoration work and management plans. Through our affiliation with The Gardens Trust, we provide informed comment to planners and foster a consultative approach to development proposals.

The Trust has an active programme of visits, often to gardens not normally open to the public, complemented by talks and study events such as this. There are also opportunities to become more deeply involved through research, outreach, planning and publishing activities. If you aren’t already a member, why not join: the annual subscription is just £15 (£25 for a couple) and provides benefits including two newsletters a year, access to a programme of visits, talks and study days at membership rates, discounted prices for our publications and a chance to engage with a diverse group of stimulating members and guests.

For more information visit www.cambridgeshiregardenstrust.org.uk, where there is a downloadable membership form, or contact our Membership Secretary Sarah Hundleby via admin@cambridgeshiregardenstrust.org.uk. We look forward to welcoming you to another CGT event in the future.
How Green Was My City

Our theme, paraphrasing Richard Llewellyn, examines the role, effectiveness and sustainability of green ‘lungs’ in an urban context. We are sure you will enjoy lively discussion with our eminent speakers and relax over a hearty lunch with speakers, members and guests.

Programme

10:00am  Coffee and registration
10:20am  Welcome and introduction  Liz Whittle
10:30am  Who that has reason, and his smell; Would not among roses and jasmine dwell? Twigs Way
11.15am  Making place: Vision Park and elsewhere  David Brown
12.00pm  Short break
12.15pm  Going beyond the garden: low-input, high-impact urban landscapes  Nigel Dunnett
1.15pm  Two-course buffet lunch served in the foyer
2.00pm  Palaces, parks, cemeteries and villas: the cost of urban gardens  Roderick Floud
3.00pm  Case study: a new garden for Schlumberger  Simon Bittleston and Bridget Flanagan
3:50pm  Closing remarks and vote of thanks  Liz Whittle
4:00pm  Close

Our Speakers

Dr Twigs Way, previous Chair of CGT, has worked in historic landscapes for over twenty years, from medieval parks to gardens and landscapes of all periods. At present she blends lecturing, research, writing, publishing, crafting landscape management plans, visiting historic sites, and the history of female gardeners. She relaxes by weeding her own garden, sometimes with a mattock...

Dr David Brown, one-time CGT Chair, is a landscape architect, arboricultural consultant and landscape historian. The conservation and management of parks and gardens has formed an important aspect of a long career within both public and private sectors, including advice on the Schlumberger Winter Garden. His talk focuses on the design process in the context of the ‘Cambridge Phenomenon’ using specific examples from his personal experience, including Vision Park.

Dr Nigel Dunnett is Professor of Planting Design and Urban Horticulture at the University of Sheffield. He is a plantsman, designer and pioneer of the new ecological approach to planting gardens and public spaces. His work integrates ecology and horticulture to achieve low-input but high-impact landscapes that are dynamic, diverse, and tuned to nature, described in his 2019 book Naturalistic Planting Design: The Essential Guide. An Ambassador for the RHS, Nigel’s projects include the Queen Elizabeth London Olympic Park and The Barbican Centre. He is a gold medal-winner at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show.

Prof. Sir Roderick Floud FBA is an economic historian and a leader in the field of anthropometric history, being one of the first to bring computational statistics to the study of economic history. A distinguished academic career at Oxford, UCL, Birkbeck, Stanford, London Metropolitan University and Gresham College has been followed by interest in a new field: the economic and social history of British gardening, culminating in his book on the topic published in November 2019.

Dr Simon Bittleston has served Schlumberger in several roles including VP for research and Managing Director of Schlumberger’s research centre housed in the striking ‘tent’, designed by Michael Hopkins and located on the West Cambridge campus. An applied mathematician, he created a new garden for the lab in 2011-12 and recounts the process as a case study in designing a corporate garden in the 21C.

Bridget Flanagan is a tenacious history researcher with a focus on the social history of Huntingdonshire and the influence of the unique Ouse Valley landscape. Her books include Artists along the Ouse 1880-1930 and, this year, A Commanding View – The Houses and Gardens of Houghton Hill. She is a Trustee of the Great Ouse Valley Trust which seeks AONB status for the area. Bridget wrote a Newsletter article after visiting the Schlumberger garden in 2012 with the then NADFAS garden research group. She conveys her impressions then and now as the garden matures.