

CAMBRIDGESHIRE GARDENS TRUST

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The Trust aims to conserve, enhance, and recreate the historic landscape, parks, and gardens that exist or may have existed in Cambridgeshire, for the education and enjoyment of the public.

To raise public awareness and understanding of the value of landscapes, parks and gardens as part of our local and national heritage.

Creating gardens has been a major British pastime for generations. Many of our best gardens are internationally famous and attract thousands of visitors each year. Some are secure in the ownership of the National Trust or their present owners, but many are vulnerable to change and development and therefore may be at risk of total destruction.

Gardens have many levels of interest. They may be of horticultural, architectural, historic, or scientific importance. Gardens may also be valuable as examples of a designer's work or because of the people associated with them. Gardens can give pleasure and refreshment to everyone.

The initiative to form the Cambridgeshire Gardens Trust arose from a combination of interest & concern for the county's varied legacy of landscapes, parks, & gardens (both large & small) in public and private ownership. We wish to increase awareness and appreciation of these valuable assets. Also of concern to us is the possible loss of gardens in light of continuing /government pressure for residential developments.

The Cambridgeshire Gardens Trust, like all other county trusts in England & Wales, participates in events organised by the national Association of Garden Trusts.

The walled kitchen garden at Ramsey Abbey School was the subject of the Trust's first major project. Substantial work was undertaken by local volunteers in conjunction with the Resources & Education and the Libraries and Heritage departments of the County Council and school governors

A thorough survey of the walled garden was completed with the help of Ramsey Horticultural Society and students from local horticultural colleges. The Trust produced a report on the history of the Victorian layout which helped determine the final form of the restoration, The Ramsey Abbey Walled Kitchen Garden Trust is fortunate to have the support of Marshall's Seeds and the National Trust in developing the garden which, with the nearby Rural Museum, will become an additional attraction for visitors to Ramsey. The garden was officially opened by the Trust President, Lord Fairhaven on 18 May 2010 and is acknowledged as an important educational resource which will demonstrate to visitors the horticultural achievements of Cambridgeshire. The garden is maintained by a dedicated team of local volunteers.

The Trust has published a gazetteer of over 400 parks and gardens in the county. Entitled 'The Gardens of Cambridgeshire', it is available in local public libraries. The gazetteer was compiled following collation of information drawn from many sources in Local Record Offices and libraries.

The Trust encourages members to undertake research, the results to be published in our newsletter. To facilitate this, the Trust can arrange private visits to County Record Offices where historic documents, maps etc can be examined. Current initiatives seek to include local primary schools in horticulture/gardens.

Further information about our Programme of events is available from the Trust.
