



CAMBRIDGESHIRE GARDENS TRUST

Registered Charity no. 1064795 www.cambridgeshiregardenstrust.org.uk

About Us

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, lectures, visits, 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 us. For more information visit www.cambridgeshiregardenstrust.org.uk, where there is a downloadable [membership form](#), or contact our Membership Secretary Judith Christie via membership@cambridgeshiregardenstrust.org.uk. We look forward to welcoming you to another CGT event in the future.

Cover illustrations, clockwise from the top left: a gazebo, water gate and maltings behind on the River Lea at Ware, photo: Bridget Flanagan; artist's impression of the Fens Reservoir; Fens grassland; Detail of a late 16C copy of an earlier map, possibly medieval in origin showing the area around Four Gotes in Tydd St Giles, near Wisbech, courtesy of Wisbech & Fenland Museum.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE GARDENS TRUST STUDY DAY 2026

Water in the Landscape



Saturday 14 March 2026

Hemingford Abbots Village Hall, High Street, PE28 9AH

Coffee from 10:00am

Water in the Landscape

In this historically rain-sodden country we have always been able to take water for granted. This is no longer the case and over the course of this Study Day we hope to be able to discover what water has offered in the past in the way of economic development, landscape enhancement and recreational opportunities and what we have to look forward to. We could easily have made this a two-day event, but will settle for the time available when we are very lucky to have speakers with us today to cover fascinating aspects of water management in the past, present and future.

Programme

10.00am Registration and coffee

10:30am	Welcome and introduction	<i>Prof. Susan Oosthuizen</i>
	Pre-drainage water management in the Cambridgeshire peat fens	<i>Prof. Susan Oosthuizen</i>
11.15am	Watching the world go by: 18C gazebos overlooking the wealth of river-borne trade	<i>Bridget Flanagan</i>
12.00pm	Boughton Waterscapes and Beyond	<i>Lance Goffort</i>
12.45pm	Questions to the morning's speakers	<i>Prof. Susan Oosthuizen</i>
1.00pm	Buffet lunch served in the foyer	
2.00pm	The vision for the Fens Reservoir: an exciting destination where people, nature and water come together	<i>Stuart Holmes</i>
3.00pm	Short break	
3.10pm	From one great plague to another – the history of the superb Euston Hall garden	<i>Introduced by Judith Christie</i>
3.55pm	Closing remarks and vote of thanks	<i>Liz Whittle, CGT Chair</i>

Our Speakers

Prof. Susan Oosthuizen is Emeritus Professor of Medieval Archaeology in the University of Cambridge, an Emeritus Fellow of Wolfson College, Cambridge, and a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries and of the Royal Historical Society. Her research focuses on rights of common and the development of English rural landscapes and society between about 400 and 1300 AD. A list of her publications, both books and papers, often with downloadable copies, can be found at her Wordpress site: <https://profsusanoosthuizen.wordpress.com>. Her most recent book is the best-seller *The Emergence of the English* (Arc-Humanities Press 2019).

Bridget Flanagan is a tenacious history researcher with a focus on the social history of Huntingdonshire and the influence of the unique Great Ouse Valley landscape. Bridget is a Trustee of the Great Ouse Valley Trust which seeks National Landscape designation for the area. Her books include *Artists along the Ouse 1880-1930* and *A Commanding View – The Houses and Gardens of Houghton Hill*. Her recent project, with co-author Keith Grimwade, was the publication in June 2025 by Windgather Press of *The Watermills and Landscape of the River Great Ouse in Cambridgeshire*.

Lance Goffort is Heritage Landscape Advisor, Project Director, Specialist in Landscape restoration, Waterscapes, Estate Infrastructure and Trees. Currently working in Scotland, Wales, and overseas on major projects as well as Birmingham Botanical Gardens glasshouses and gardens. This year he celebrates 40 years working in the industry with great teams and experts on amazing projects.

Stuart Holmes is the Landscape lead within the LDA Design & Fereday Pollard Fens Reservoir Masterplanning team. As a Landscape Architect working in major infrastructure Stuart has been involved in the development of the Fens Reservoir masterplan for the last three years. Before specialising in major infrastructure, Stuart was involved in several Cambridgeshire projects including the development of a masterplan for Peterborough Station Quarter, the Peterborough City Centre public realm strategy and the landscape design for the King's College Cranmer Road residential campus in Cambridge.

Steve Temple, sadly no longer with us, was an extraordinarily gifted inventor with a passion for finding out how things worked and an armful of patents dealing with the hydraulics of inkjets. Over many years, Pippa re-designed their garden at Impington Mill while Steve restored the mill to full working order and headed the Mill Section for the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings. In his memory we are showing again a recorded talk given by Steve and Pippa in 2021 about their visit to Euston Hall where Steve uncovered some historical mysteries regarding the Hall's water tower and pumping system.