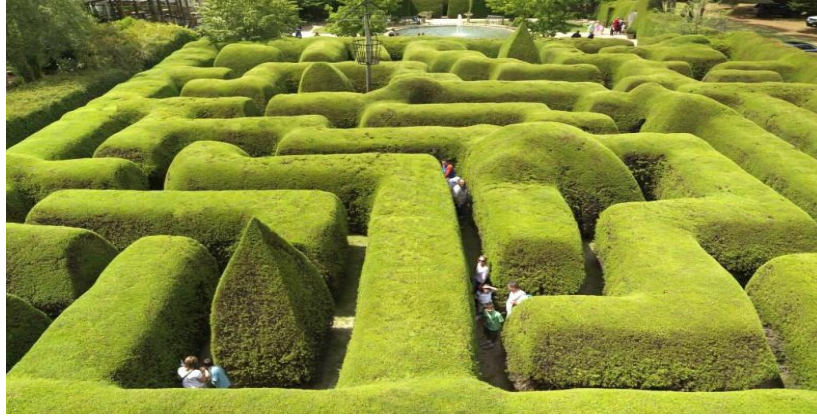




New Research Day Birkbeck Garden History Group Saturday 28th March 2026



Join us for what promises to be a stimulating afternoon showcasing new and original research from recent graduates of the MA in Garden History at the University of Buckingham.

13.00 Registration and buffet lunch

Programme

13.50 Welcome & Introduction

Chairman: Dr David Marsh

14.00 The Origins of the National Garden Scheme in 1927

Speaker: Clare Waters

Abstract

The opening of more than six hundred private gardens across England and Wales in 1927 marked a transformative moment in charitable fundraising, leisure culture, and public access to previously private landscapes. This talk explores the origins of the National Garden Scheme, established as a memorial to Queen Alexandra to support district nursing through the Queen's Institute of District Nursing (QNI). Drawing on primary sources, it follows the development of Elsie Wagg's innovative idea into a coordinated national movement, underscoring the pivotal leadership of the Women's National Committee—particularly Lady Georgiana Mure and Millicent Stobart. Set within the broader currents of interwar philanthropy and expanding leisure culture, the scheme's rapid success stands as a defining milestone in the history of garden visiting.

14.30 From Thames to South Esk: The Influence of the Duke of Lauderdale on Scottish Gardens 1660 – 1707

Speaker: Kate Naameh

Abstract

John Maitland, Duke of Lauderdale (d. 1682), was an exceptionally influential statesman in Restoration Scotland and a prominent figure at the court of Charles II. This talk unites the evidence of his English and Scottish gardens to consider how he may have acted as a key conduit for transmitting emerging ideas in garden and landscape design from England to Scotland in the later seventeenth century.

15.00 Short Break

15.15 London's Municipal Parks and the First World War: The War's Impact on their Use and Management between 1914-1919 with Particular Reference to the Parks of Hackney and Stoke Newington

Speaker: Pauline Kinch

Abstract

This research explores the impact of the First World War on London's municipal parks and their management by the London County Council (LCC), focusing particularly on the parks of Hackney and Stoke Newington during a period of dramatic change – from peace to war. This is an under-researched period for the LCC's local parks; previous research has largely concentrated on the role of some of the grander and larger London parks during this war. This is probably the first time the parks of Hackney and Stoke Newington have been looked at in detail, bringing them into greater focus. The management of the parks, by the LCC Parks Committee, is analysed and shows their determination and resourcefulness in managing taxing wartime challenges.

15.45 Closing Remarks by Chairman Dr David Marsh

16.00 Tea

Venue The Gallery, Alan Baxter Building, 77 Cowcross Street, London EC1M 6EL

Nearest Underground: Farringdon

Tickets £37 — BGHG members **£39** — Non-members

Ticket Includes lunch and afternoon tea/coffee and biscuits.

Tickets are available through BookWhen at bookwhen.com/bghg . You can pay online with a card, or via BACS to Birkbeck Garden History Group, account no. 01471228, sort code 30-97-81, with reference 'New Research'. There is also an option in BookWhen to pay by cheque if necessary but credit card or BACS payments are preferred.

Enquiries

For any questions, please email bghgbookings@gmail.com