



Bedfordshire Gardens Trust

Repton in Bedfordshire: A Study Day at Moggerhanger Park

Friday 27th April 2018

Humphry Repton (1752-1818) was the leading landscape gardener of later Georgian England, combining “the united powers of the landscape painter and the practical gardener”. He undertook more than 400 commissions during his 30-year career, and created red leather-bound books for clients that contained “before and after” plans, watercolours and visionary ideas for improvement.

Repton was called in at Woburn Abbey, The Hazells in Sandy, Moggerhanger Park and Battlesden Park, and for the first three his Red Books survive. At Moggerhanger Park he produced proposals for Godfrey Thornton in 1792, with further proposals for the adjoining Beeston Leasowes in 1798. The house stands in the middle of the park and was remodelled in the 1790s (and later) by John Soane. Now listed Grade I, it was rescued from near-dereliction in the 1990s and is recognised as one of the most complete examples of Soane’s work.

The programme will include an overview of Repton as a landscape artist by Kate Harwood, a lecturer and writer on garden history, who will be helping to coordinate research produced for the bicentenary on behalf of the Gardens Trust. Details about the Repton sites in the county, researched and collated by volunteers from Bedfordshire Gardens Trust, will form the basis of the second talk. Guided tours of the landscape with particular reference to the Repton proposals will follow the Head Gardener’s presentation on his plans for Moggerhanger.

- Coffee and tea on arrival at 9.30am, starts at 10.00am
- Welcome and introduction
- The Landscape Art of Humphry Repton – Kate Harwood
- Coffee
- Repton in Bedfordshire – Felicity Brimblecombe
- Buffet lunch
- Evolution of Moggerhanger Park – Tim Kirk
- Tour of Moggerhanger Park – Bedfordshire Gardens Trust Research Team
- Tea and discussion
- Departure at 4.00pm or optional house tours available at £5 per person – duration one hour

Enquiries to treasurer@bedsgardenstrust.org.uk (www.bedsgardenstrust.org.uk) Please discuss disability access with organisers.

Name:

Address:

Tel no: Email:

Number of places: ----- at £45 per person for Bedfordshire Gardens Trust members
----- at £50 per person for non- members
() please indicate number of house tours at £5 each. **Payable on the day**
Any special dietary requirements _ _ _ _ _

Please make cheques (which may be post-dated to 1st Jan 2018) payable to Bedfordshire Gardens Trust and send to Repton Study Day, The Treasurer, Bedfordshire Gardens Trust, River View, Old Watling Street, Flamstead, Herts AL3 8HN.