

Forum 2026 - our speakers

Pam Smith – National Trust, Senior National Consultant for Gardens and Parks.

Pam describes herself as a Horticulturist and botanical heritage explorer alongside her role as Senior National Consultant for Garden & Parklands with National Trust. Pam is also Chair of Horticultural Trustees, Birmingham Botanical Gardens

John Lawson – Expert in greenhouses and heating

John has been sales director at Alitex Group, for nearly 40 years and managing director of Harrier Garden Developments since 2000 – a longstanding friend and supporter of the Network since the beginning.

Sheila Das – Head of Gardens and Parks, National Trust

Previously with English Heritage, Royal Botanic Garden, Kew and The Grove Hotel. Sheila was Garden Manager at RHS Garden Wisley from 2015 to 2024 with responsibility for practical training, edible growing, the Wellbeing Garden and the Members' Seed Scheme. She has been Head of Gardens and Parks for the National Trust since 2025.

Mark Morrell – Head Gardener, Holkham Hall

Mark has been head gardener at Holkham since 2019, taking over the role of managing the historic six-acre Walled Garden and estate grounds. He will share the story and history of the gardens and walled gardens, and their restoration, and give us an idea of what lies ahead as the walled gardens and glasshouses continue to evolve.