

Forum 2026 – Programme

Holkham Hall and walled kitchen gardens in north Norfolk

Walled Kitchen Gardens - Looking to a different and positive future

Day 1 – Friday 9th October - Holkham Hall

Arrival from 9-9:30 - Guest arrival to Holkham, via the South Drive. (details will be sent to attendees)

- Registration and tea & coffee in Lady Elizabeth Wing

9.45am - Welcome and Introductions

Talks 10am-13.00

- **10.00 Pam Smith**
- Developing a philosophy of approach to historic walled gardens
- **10.45 Gemma Sturges**
- Resilient planting within the walls at Audley End



11.15-11.30 – mid-morning break and refreshments

- **11.30 Sheila Das**
- Slow Gardening: Resonating through past, present and future
- **12.15 Mark Morrell**
- The walled gardens at Holkham Hall

During the morning there will be an update on Susan Campbell's archive at Hestercombe, from archivist Ben Whitworth and Mike Kleyn.

13.00 Lunch

- buffet lunch will be served in the main room of the Lady Elizabeth Wing

13.45 – Depart Lady Elizabeth Wing with Mark Morrell for a tour of South Terraces including the Game Larder and exiting via West Steps for the walled garden

14.30 – 16.30 – The Walled Garden with Mark and his team

16.30 – 17.00 – Walk/drive back to Lady Elizabeth Wing for final Q&A

17.00 - Q&A and discussion (with teas & coffee)

17.30 – Guests to depart Lady Elizabeth Wing and walk/drive back to the Walled Garden for -

18.00-19.30 - Reception in the garden - Following the end of the main programme, we will go back to the Walled Garden for a social gathering, to which everyone is welcome. A rare opportunity to see the gardens into the evening, and to continue conversations - perhaps with a glass of Estate wine!

We would like to thank our friends at [Harrier Garden Developments](#) for sponsoring the evening

Please note, timings for both days, apart from arrival and registration, may be subject to change.

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Day 2 – Saturday 10th October – visits to Walled Gardens in North Norfolk

(Maps and instructions for parking & entry to the properties will be sent out to attendees)

The day will start at our first garden, Houghton Hall for 10.00am

Houghton Hall

We are very grateful to Lord and Lady Cholmondeley, and garden managers Richard and Rosie Ernst for welcoming us to visit their walled gardens.

Houghton is an early C18 landscape park by Charles Bridgeman and Sir Robert Walpole, with buildings by William Kent, the principal layout of which has been retained through two centuries of parkland development. (Historic England)

Houghton's award winning five acre walled garden stands as a testament to thoughtful restoration, seamlessly blending functionality and elegance. Here, imaginative planting, captivating sculptures, and delightful surprises await at every turn. The garden is divided into several contrasting 'ornamental rooms', including an Italian Garden, Mediterranean Garden, Rose Garden and the Richard Long Houghton Cross Lawn. The garden was described as "tantalising" by Monty Don, who filmed his visit for 'Monty Don's British Gardens'.

The walled garden lies c 350m south-west of the Hall behind 3m high red-brick walls. The interior has been developed since Lord Cholmondeley succeeded in 1990. The walled garden is contemporary with the building of the new hall and stables in the early C18 whilst the internal layout and glasshouses are all of late C20 origin.

<https://www.houghtonhall.com/see-do/the-walled-garden>

Mannington Hall (c.12.00am)

We are also very grateful to the owners and head gardener Alan Power, and looking forwards to meeting senior gardener, Mike Owers who will introduce us to the walled gardens.

First recorded in 1460, the moated Hall remains a rare survival of a late-medieval manor house, set within a landscape shaped as much by working life as by careful design.

First laid out in the 15th century, the gardens at Mannington Hall have evolved alongside the Hall itself, responding to changing styles, uses and ideas over time. The Walled Garden and surrounding formal areas highlight some of the more recent additions at Mannington. Built in the early 20th century to provide produce for the Hall, the Walled Garden was later redesigned in the 1980s as a heritage rose garden. Laid out in a series of compartments enclosed by hedges and trellising. Nearly 50 years on, many of the original rose varieties have been lost, in more recent years, the planting has been enriched with a wider range of perennial plants, extending the flowering season, increasing horticultural interest and supporting nature through improved soil management and a greater diversity of pollinator-friendly plants.

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Mannington Hall is currently undergoing important conservation and restoration work to safeguard the historic building for future generations.

<https://mannington.co.uk/gardens-and-grounds/>

c.1.15pm - We will stop for lunch at the Lynton White Institute, Salle Park Estate

Salle Park Walled Garden (2pm onwards)

Our third garden, on the Salle Park Estate is a fully productive kitchen garden, where we'll meet Head Gardener Tom Barwick who will introduce us to the gardens and their work.

Built in 1761, originally Salle Hall, the gardens at Salle Park Estate are a mid-18th century landscape park and 20th century topiary garden. The walled kitchen garden lies c 350m south-west of the hall, on the southern boundary of the park. Of mid C18 date, it was built at the same time as the present house and originally covered just over 1 acre (c 0.4ha).

Today the traditional walled kitchen garden is productive and laid out in quarters: one laid to lawn, one for fruit bushes and the others for a large variety of seasonal vegetables, infilled with annual flowers. The herbaceous border runs from north to south through the middle of the garden and is planted as a hot and cold border.

Around the edges are espalier-trained apple and pear trees, with peaches and figs to the south wall. There is a mature herb bed and a large glasshouse with grape vines, propagation equipment and our cacti and succulent collection.

<https://www.sallepark.co.uk/gardens>

**We are finishing the day at Salle Park with Tom and his team,
to formally end the Forum at 4.00pm**

we are very grateful for the ongoing support of our friends at

