



Dear Garden Friends,

You are holding the 2nd edition of the EGHN Newsletter (www.eghn.org). One of the objectives of this project is to establish a European network that will serve as a platform for exchanging experiences on gardens and parks. In order to give you a first impression of the regional partners taking part in this project, please take a look at the following pages, which present *short regional portraits*, together with information on the respective anchor gardens. They are all well worth a visit.

Also in this edition, we describe one of the main key actions of the project, called *interregional gateways*, an innovative approach to a hopefully more successful marketing of parks and gardens within regional landscapes.

In the top left hand corner of this page you will see the recently developed new logo of the EGHN project, which symbolises the connection (common heritage) of nature (tree), designed parks and gardens (pathway), resting place and communication (bench).

Somerset

The name Somerset derives from the word 'summer', originally used by the Saxons over 1000 years ago. Somerset is an ancient farming county with five ranges of hills, extensive moorlands, flatland levels and a stunning coastline with towering cliffs and sandy beaches. Famous for cider, cheddar cheese and the timeless tranquillity of the rolling countryside, Somerset is also home to Exmoor National Park and several Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). Its land is steeped in mystery and legend – the home of King Arthur, King Alfred and historic Wells with its magnificent cathedral. Glastonbury Tor stands proudly over the Somerset Levels and Moors and the town is a centre for New Age travellers, as well as being home to Glastonbury Abbey, which is known as the birthplace of Christianity in England.

It was the monks of Glastonbury Abbey who led the way in draining the marshes and making the area rich and powerful through wool and trade. The town of Chard was the birthplace of powered flight and nearby Yeovil town is home to one of the largest helicopter manufacturers in the world. Somerset is a large county, geographically, which today has a modern infrastructure attracting industry and commerce from around the world.

The county also boasts some of the finest historic houses and gardens in Great Britain, as well as some of the most important smaller gardens, which are home to some unique collections of trees and plants. Museums and art galleries showing the county's heritage abound. Cultural tourism has been increasingly important for the economic development of the county, and Somerset has reached out to establish partnerships in Europe to build experience and share its cultural heritage with a wider audience.

Hestercombe Gardens – Paradise Restored

Somerset's "anchor garden" for the EGHN project is Hestercombe Gardens. Situated on the southern slopes of the Quantock hills with a beautiful view across Taunton valley, Hestercombe Gardens consist in fact of three different gardens from different periods of time; the oldest being a landscape park, which was laid out in the mid-18th century by Coplestone Warre Bampfylde. Even better known is the formal garden in Edwardian style, created in the early 20th century by Gertrude Jekyll and Sir Edwin Lutyens. Finally, there is a garden in the Victorian style close to the house. In recent years, all three gardens have been subject to acclaimed works of restoration.

www.Hestercombegardens.com



Hestercombe Gardens

Surrey

The county of Surrey has one of the richest concentrations of parks and gardens in England. Surrey's historic parks and gardens display many influences, with a diversity of inspiration driven by figures often at the forefront of contemporary design philosophies. Landform and soil geology predominate, while the cosmopolitan Tudor courts

of the 16th century and a position near to London combined to begin a long tradition of cutting edge garden design.

Writer John Evelyn’s 17th Century gardens at his Wotton home and Albury near Guildford display innovations inspired by the renaissance, while the major 18th century landscaped parks at Painshill, Oatlands and Esher Place embody the rise of the growing continental influences of the “grand tour” and the sophistication of the new political elite. The incomparable Capability Brown worked across Surrey, bringing his own style and expertise to parks from Clandon to Gatton, to be followed by the inimitable Humphrey Repton and his work at Hatchlands and Betchworth Park.

Commercial opportunities and industrialisation in the 19th century opened the county up to the creation of new homes and gardens with outstanding views from the Surrey Hills, while the acidic heathlands around Bagshot and Woking proved ideal for raising new rhododendron and azalea hybrids in specialist nurseries. Culminating in the Arts and Crafts movement at the close of the century, the collaboration between the architect Edwin Lutyens and the artist/plantswoman Gertrude Jekyll around Godalming once again placed the county at the forefront of international garden design – which continued into the 20th century with the development of new fashions including rock gardens, the Japanese style and sculpture gardens.

Painshill Park, an artistic masterpiece of the 18th century

Surrey’s “anchor garden” for the EGHN project is Painshill Park. Painshill was the vision of the Hon. Charles Hamilton. Between 1738 and 1773, he took a barren heathland setting and transformed it into a sequence of subtle, surprising vistas, inspired by his appreciation of great Renaissance artists. His achievement was admired by the likes of Thomas Jefferson and Horace Walpole and he influenced English landscapes for generations to come. What makes the Hamilton landscapes unique today is their restoration, so authentic that Painshill Park has been awarded the coveted Europa Nostra Medal. www.painshill.co.uk



Painshill Park

Western Loire

The Western Loire region, a 33,000 km² area stretching from the borders of Ile de France to the Atlantic coast, has long been a favourite spot for travellers and holidaymakers. To make it easier for you to plan your vacation, we have opened up a virtual region on our web site:
www.WesternLoire.com.

When you navigate along the Charm of its Rivers*, through the départements of Sarthe or Mayenne, you will discover plains and valleys intersected by beautiful stretches of water. The air is clean and the atmosphere peaceful. Children can splash about in the river, doing their best to overturn canoes, or try their hand at gardening or fishing. Parents are free to join in the fun, but also have ample opportunities to cater to their own needs - why not visit a medieval castel, listen to Gregorian chant in an abbey, sample fresh apple juice, or toast with the local speciality, rillettes, and other Gourmet Pleasures*? Why not hire a barge and follow the river towards Angers? The birthplace of the Plantagenets is full of history and evidence of the past can still be seen in the region’s Historic Sites and Tourist Attractions* such as Fontevraud, Saumur and Angers. The Loire crosses right through the old province of Anjou with its pretty towns and villages built of white stone, which blush beautifully in the light of the setting or rising sun. Here, where for centuries vines have been you can ride your horse flat-out, on a Discovery Trip* towards the ocean. You can also get to the sea by cycling along the banks of the Loire. You’ll very quickly come to Nantes, the regional capital, where Festivals and Shows* are held; this centre was also the port used to bring spices and flowers to the rest of France in days gone by Jules Verne was born here and his adventures leave a feeling of childhood in the air. Gradually, the creeks appear edged with yellow, red and golden sand.... The houses are opulent, hewn from granite to resist the strong winds that arrive with the spring tides. Their presence lets you know you’re getting close to a new world of boating, sailors and the Joys of the Atlantic*. Further south, where the rocks give way to long stretches of sand – kilometres and kilometres of sand and dune – the waves gently run aground on the beaches. The houses here are white, with brightly painted wooden and shutters. The weather is warmer. Children can now enjoy the pleasures of the sea, perhaps by trying out surfing; for parents, the medieval castles have given way to sandcastles, and the bikes on the islands dash towards the sea spray. Thanks to the Guide*, you can decide to go to the zoo, you can visit local markets or go for a quiet walk before getting back to your temporary home: your own gîte, castel, camp site or hotel. Whatever your desire, www.WesternLoire.com is here to make organising your holiday easier. And if you’re short of ideas,

our all-inclusive packages* will help you find something!

* With the wide open spaces of
www.WesternLoire.com,
you're already on your way

Parc Oriental de Maulévrier - Japanes wonder in France

Anchor garden for the Western Loire Region is the Parc Oriental de Maulévrier, south-east of Nantes. With 28 hectares, it is the largest Japanese park in Europe. Part of it was laid out between 1900 and 1913 by Alexandre Marcel, a well known architect from Paris. The park is situated in the flat wooded valley of the river Moine, which Marcel dammed to create a lake. Stone lanterns, copies of Khmer statues, even a rebuilt Khmer temple, numerous flower trees, Japanese maple trees, Japanese bridges, mossy rocks and many other elements create a meditative far eastern atmosphere. The park has been owned by the city of Maulévrier since 1983 and has been extensively restored. www.parc-oriental.com



Parc Oriental

Cheshire

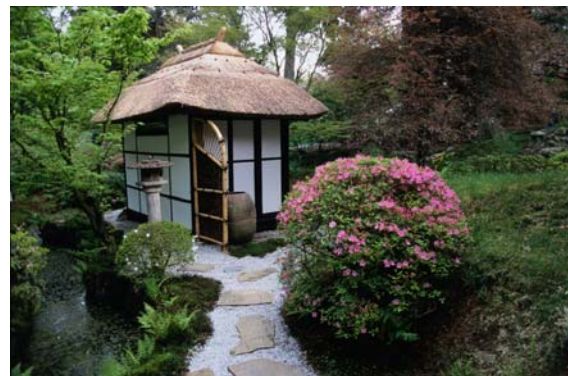
Almost every part of Cheshire has its own example of horticultural excellence, whether it is woodland gardens, rich in wildflowers and birdsong, deep tumbling borders hugging the sides of castles, or springtime orchards framing medieval buildings with bloom. The wealth of gardens owes much to Cheshire's history. Cheshire is a wonderful, varied county, with historic parks and gardens scattered fairly evenly throughout. As a heritage county, Cheshire also boasts famous stately homes, fascinating museums, quality shopping and rural crafts, traditional country shows, great food - and, of course, one of Europe's most historic and popular cities, Chester.

At Arley Hall the centrepiece is provided by a breath-taking double herbaceous border, reputed to be the oldest in England. Capesthorpe Hall dominates a landscape park punctuated with clumps of trees and three serene lakes. Cholmondeley Castle Garden overlooks 800 acres (3420 hectares)

of parkland and water gardens. Beneath its walls are a raised terrace garden with seats and commanding views. Dunham Massey has magnificent trees that are reflected in the Elizabethan moat, as well as historic features of an orangery, mount and well house. Gawsworth Hall romantic features are perfectly echoed in the garden's broad lawns studded with evergreen trees and shrubs and formal planting of roses that add to the hall's beautiful setting. The garden also boasts an open-air theatre. Lyme Park gardens have retained many original Tudor and Jacobean features and are of great historic importance.

Tatton Park – 1000 acres of variety

Tatton Park is one of the most complete historic estates open to visitors. The early 19th-century Wyatt house sits amid a landscaped deer park and is opulently decorated, providing a fine setting for the Egerton family's collections of pictures, books, china, glass, silver and specially commissioned Gillow furniture. The theme of Victorian grandeur extends into the garden, with fernery, orangery, rose garden, pinetum and Italian and Japanese gardens. Its two historic houses, the Mansion and Tudor Old Hall, are set in 1000 acres of beautiful parkland with lakes, tree-lined avenues and herds of red and fallow deer. There are many walks, a working farm, a children's play area, speciality shops and a superb programme of special events to complete the picture. The trail around the lake offers the chance to see many varieties of waterfowl. <http://www.tattonpark.org.uk/>



Tatton Park

North Rhine Westphalia

In the last decade North Rhine-Westphalia (NRW) has undergone a profound transformation of its economic structure, which had in the past been dominated by heavy industry. Visible changes have taken place in the northern Ruhr area in the last several years, where a previously industrialised area has been converted into a lush park district and the antiquated former industrial plants are today being used for art and cultural exhibitions (International Construction Exhibition Emscher Park). NRW is drawing on these experiences to develop the

“REGIONALEN”, cultural and natural areas, which use topics such as art, nature, aesthetics and ecology to become part of an urban modernisation process.

A remarkable result of this process is that the state's wealth of historical gardens and parks will continue to be developed and maintained, thereby creating a greater public awareness of their potential. There are several different areas within NRW, which attract visitors interested in garden culture: besides the Ruhr area/Emscher Park there are the gardens along the Rhine, which demonstrate the history of garden architecture, from Baroque private villas to urban green areas, including Schlosspark Augustusburg in Brühl, which has UNESCO World Heritage Status, or Schlosspark Benrath in Düsseldorf. A regional garden route (“Street of Garden Art between the Rhine and the Maas”) is currently being established. There is also the region of Ostwestfalen-Lippe, where a cultural program (“small paradises”) taking place within the castles or in the gardens has been developed, thus improving the urban cultural landscape. Finally there are the many gardens in the rather agricultural area around the city of Münster.

Schloss Dyck, Cosmopolitan at the lower Rhine

Schloss Dyck is an original medieval castle surrounded by water and a large park. Under the auspices of Prince Joseph (1778-1851), the park was planned by Scottish garden designer Thomas Blaikie. Prince Joseph made a name for himself in Europe through his early botanical studies and his collection of succulents. In 1999 the privately-owned castle became a foundation, whose ongoing task is not only to continue local traditions but also to focus on regional development. Future plans include the integration of exhibitions and garden shows as well as the establishment of a scientific institute for garden architecture. As lead partner in the European Garden Heritage Network, Schloss Dyck has positioned itself internationally as coordinator of the project “Street of Garden Art between the Rhine and the Maas”.

<http://www.stiftung-schloss-dyck.de/>



Schloss Dyck

KEY ACTION: INTER-REGIONAL GATEWAYS

Interregional Gateways? This sounds sophisticated. What lies behind it? Interregional Gateways are about cultural landscapes like the Loire valley in France, which is famous throughout the world for its magnificent Renaissance castles. These castles, however, do not stand alone. They are part of a whole landscape, which besides historical buildings consists of the river itself, of the surrounding hills, of vineyards and fine restaurants, of towns with a rich history and charming little villages. Other examples would be Tuscany with its rich art history and the romantic Rhine Valley with its picturesque ruins. These regions offer a whole range of different elements, but their identity is based on one highlight, which serves as a kind of brand for the region. Perhaps this highlight could, for some regions, be parks and gardens.

Objective

The main objective of this key action, as part of the overall Interreg III B project is to show how existing parks & gardens can have an impact on the identity and the image of a particular region, on its local development, social inclusion, tourism and economy. Furthermore, the objective is to increase this effect by various means, e.g. by the establishment and marketing of regional garden routes.

Case Studies

To this end case studies have been developed over the last few months, giving a detailed profile of the five anchor gardens of the regions participating in the project. They include factors such as ‘the garden as employer’, ‘the garden as purchaser’, ‘the garden as possible location for events’, ‘the budget’, ‘the number of visitors’ etc. (These case studies are available upon request).

Next Steps

In the next few months the project team will define and develop adequate models to increase the economic, social and environmental effects of parks and gardens in the context of sustainable development.

Pilot region

One pilot region in North Rhine Westphalia (NRW) has been selected to demonstrate how this key action can be implemented. It is the region of Ostwestfalen-Lippe, located in the northeast of NRW. The region has already established a cultural program of concerts and lectures that take place at historic gardens and castles. Thus a profile of the region, linking it with gardens, has been developed. Now, within the key action of the Interreg project, a new anchor garden, four further gardens and ten other sites of cultural interest and

characteristic of the region are being identified. The title of this regional route will be “Garden routes of cultural events”, and the sites will be museums, exhibitions, art galleries, cultural institutions, art and crafts displays, etc. These sites form a regional route, which will initially be presented on the Internet. In a second step, regional ‘round-tables’ with representatives from various institutions will develop strategies to enhance the resources identified and presented within the routes. Such strategies might include improved transport links or slow traffic conditions, urban development measures, joint events (e.g. fairs, exhibitions etc.) and joint promotion activities and marketing plans. This will help to give a new impetus to sustainable development based on cultural heritage, to a new image and awareness and finally to promoting new tourism opportunities. Finally, cooperation with similar regional routes in other countries will lead to the development of attractive European tourism opportunities and new transnational activities based on the principles of the INTERREG programme.

In the meantime the first interim reports have been received for some of the project action areas. A summary description of the latest developments in relation to the five anchor gardens makes it clear, for example, that the importance of the parks for the long-term development of their respective regions is increasing, and that they are becoming actively involved in such processes. Another report summarises the results from a number of visitor surveys carried out in German parks and gardens. For the five anchor gardens there also exist comparative investigations concerning their accessibility (e.g. road, bicycle route and public transport connections), the implementation of best possible access, and the local provision of information. These and other studies (predominantly in English) will be available for download from around the beginning of November 2004 onwards from the newly-revamped website: www.eghn.org

First public presentations of EGHN at prestigious flower shows in Great Britain / EGHN awarded the gold medal of the Royal Horticultural Society

Two of the largest and most prestigious gardening events in the world, the Hampton Court Palace Flower Show, Surrey (270,000 visitors) and the Tatton Park Flower Show, Cheshire, provided the opportunities in July for the first public presentations of the EGHN project in England. This was made possible via a co-operation agreement with the National Council for the Conservation of Plants and Gardens (NCCPG), the world’s leading institution for the protection of plants, and one of

the EGHN project partners. During the course of the several-day events the five regional partners from Germany, England, and France provided information in the form of posters and leaflets on the anchor gardens involved and the content of the project.

Visitors were also able to learn more about the project by talking to the project representatives. As part of the Hampton Court Show the German ambassador gave a festive dinner in London in order to better familiarise the interested English audience and the media with the ‘classical garden in Germany’. *During the Tatton Park Show, the EGHN project, in collaboration with the National Council for the Conservation of Plants and Gardens (NCCPG), was awarded with the gold medal of the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS).*

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