

## **NINETEENTH-CENTURY ENGLISH GARDENS**

*Course tutor: Jane Bradney*

### **Learning Outcomes**

By the end of the option students will be able to:

- systematically and effectively describe, interpret and analyse English gardens from the nineteenth century
- systematically and effectively describe, interpret and analyse English gardening texts of the nineteenth century
- identify and evaluate evidence from the wide range of sources relevant to gardens and gardening in nineteenth-century England
- begin to engage with the concepts, values and debates that informed English garden history in the nineteenth century.

### **Course content**

The sessions will chart major changes in private and public gardens in England alongside the growing popularity of gardening during the nineteenth century. There will be strong references throughout to the relationship between these topics and broader social, economic, political and aesthetic changes. The theme of national identity will allow exploration of the role of Empire, plant introductions, the assimilation of foreign gardening styles and evolving concepts of the English garden. Growth of the middle classes, suburbia, and the role of female and amateur gardeners will be explored through the new gardening press, the development of mass markets and the emergence of gardening as a beneficial leisure activity. The contribution of historicism and sentiment will be considered through the 'Old English' garden, the Shakespearian garden, garden ruins and gardens as repositories of memories. Increasing scientific knowledge will be shown to encourage a garden fashion for geology, rockeries and mineral parterres whilst developments in evolutionary science and colour theory encouraged new planting styles. Writers, gardeners and designers such as Donald Beaton, Juliana Ewing, James Shirley Hibberd, John and Jane Loudon, William Andrews Nesfield, Joseph Paxton and William Robinson will be considered.

### **Select bibliography**

Bisgrove, Richard, *William Robinson: the wild gardener* (Frances Lincoln, 2008)

Elliott, Brent, *Victorian Gardens* (Batsford, 1986)

Elliott, Paul A., Charles Watkins and Stephen Daniels, *The British Arboretum: trees, science and culture in the nineteenth century* (Pickering and Chatto, 2011)

Evans, Shirley Rose, *Masters of their Craft: the art, architecture and garden design of the Nesfields* (Lutterworth Press, 2014)

Helmreich, Anne, *The English Garden & National Identity: the competing styles of garden design, 1870-1914* (Cambridge University Press, 2002)

- Hitchin, Claude, *Rock Landscapes and the Pulham Legacy* (Antique Collectors Club, 2012)
- Page, Judith W. and Elise L. Smith, *Women, Literature, and the Domesticated Landscape: England's Disciples of Flora, 1780-1870* (Cambridge University Press, 2011)
- Lasdun, Susan, *The English Park: royal, private and public* (Andre Deutsch, 1991)
- Loudon, John Claudius, *The Suburban Gardener and Villa Companion* (Longman et al, 1938)
- Simo, Melanie, *Loudon and the Landscape: from country seat to Metropolis 1783-1843* (Yale University Press, 1988)
- Robinson, William, *The Wild Garden* (1894 4th edn reprinted London: The Scholar Press, 1979) (other editions may also be consulted)
- Scourse, Nicolette, *The Victorians and their Flowers* (Croome Helm, 1983)
- Waters, Michael, *The Garden in Victorian Literature* (Scolar Press, 1988)
- Wilkinson, Anne, *The Victorian Gardener: the growth of gardening and the floral world* (Sutton Publishing, 2006)
- Wilkinson, Anne, *Shirley Hibberd the father of amateur gardening; his life and works 1825-1890* (Cortex Design, 2012)