

## The Renaissance Garden in Britain – nature produces better fruit if cultivated

---

<b>Start date</b>	8 July 2016	<b>End date</b>	10 July 2016
<b>Venue</b>	Madingley Hall Madingley Cambridge		
<b>Tutor</b>	Caroline Holmes	<b>Course code</b>	1516NRX068

**Director of Programmes** Emma Jennings

**For further information on this course, please contact** Linda Fisher, Academic Programme Manager on 01223 746218  
Liz Deacon, Programme Administrator on 01223 746227

**To book** See: [www.ice.cam.ac.uk](http://www.ice.cam.ac.uk) or telephone 01223 746262

---

### Tutor biography

Caroline Holmes lectures regularly for the Institute of Continuing Education, University of Cambridge; for NADFAS in the UK as well as Spain, the Netherlands, New Zealand and Australia, the Royal Horticultural Society; for the Landmark Trust, National Galleries of Scotland, Swan Hellenic, Martin Randall Travel in France and Ciceroni in France and Italy. She is author of eleven books. Her *RHS Herbs for the Gourmet Gardener* was finalist in the Garden Media Guild 2014 Reference Book of the Year Award. Other titles include *Monet at Giverny* and *Follies of Europe - architectural extravaganzas*. Design consultancies include Tudor- inspired gardens for a Humanist Renaissance 'journey' around Notre Dame de Calais, 16th-18<sup>th</sup> century orchards and gardens with modern operatic borders at High House for the Royal Opera House, and the poisons planting in the Alnwick Garden. She co-presented 'Glorious Gardens' on Anglia TV and has presented several series for BBC Radio 4. Caroline was the recipient of 'The Gertrude B Foster Award for Excellence in Herbal Literature' in 2011 from the Herb Society of America.

---

## Course programme

---

### Friday

Please plan to arrive between 16:30 and 18:30. You can meet other course members in the bar which opens at 18:15. Tea and coffee making facilities are available in the study bedrooms.

19:00	Dinner
20:30 – 22:00	Order, Power and Conceit: The Italian Renaissance in England - Cardinal Wolsey, Henry VIII and Hampton Court and Whitehall Palaces
22:00	Terrace bar open for informal discussion

### Saturday

07:30	Breakfast
09:00 – 10:30	The French Renaissance in Scotland – Stuart kings and French wives with special reference to Linlithgow and Falkland Palaces
10:30	Coffee
11:00 – 12:30	Shakespeare, the Book of Common Prayer, Gerard and the language of plants with special reference to Kenilworth Castle and the Stratford Birthplace Trust gardens
13:00	Lunch
14:00 – 16:00	Free
16:00	Tea
16:30 – 18:00	The Prodigy House and Gloriana's Glass with special reference to Hardwick Hall, Theobalds and Burghley House
18:00 – 18:30	Free
18:30	Dinner
20:00 – 21:30	An evening of prose, poetry and Tudor garden advice – students are invited to read pieces written between 1485-1610 which can then be discussed
21:30	Terrace bar open for informal discussion

## **Sunday**

07:30	Breakfast
09:00 – 10:30	<i>Who would looke dangerously up at Planets that might safely loke down at Plantes?</i> A walk around Madingley Hall gardens identifying Renaissance plants and their uses
10:30	Coffee
11:00 – 12:30	An overview of remnant, restored and re-created British Renaissance gardens from the ubiquitous knot to Kentwell Hall, Astley and Stirling Castles to Hardwick Hall
12:45	Lunch

**The course will disperse after lunch**

---

## Course syllabus

---

### Aims:

- To contrast and compare the parallel Renaissance garden developments in England and Scotland
- To gain an insight into the ingenious use of plant symbolism by Shakespeare
- To analyse the evolution of decorative design styles

### Content:

Italian Renaissance design and intricacies arrived in Britain via France and the Low Countries, the realities have been masked by enthusiastic, romantic seekers of a lost world - we must try not only to understand a lost art form and aesthetic but a revolutionary attitude to nature as it was conquered and tamed by human arts under the impact of Renaissance culture. The wealthy educated may have visited Italy and France but more importantly would have been able to read publications in their original Latin, Italian or French. 2016 marks the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Shakespeare's death, with their liberal use of plant language, his Elizabethan works provide a fascinating insight into contemporary society. Although no gardens survive, using contemporary drawings, paintings and writings we can trace their complex forms and planting. Renaissance culture led to gardens as settings for many activities from the timeless courtly dalliance, to philosophical and political discussions as well as an outward display of wealth and power. Houses and palaces were designed as an architectural whole with their surrounding landscapes. Taste was manifest and the garden was a place of leisure, as London's population swelled its citizens created pleasure areas without the city walls, as can be seen on the 1559 Agas copperplate map.

### Presentation of the course:

The sessions will be lectures illustrated with powerpoint presentations but students are encouraged to discuss and debate the interpretations and legacy of the subject matter. On Saturday evening the readings provide an opportunity to hear the 'voice' of the period and its relevance to the evidence already presented. The 'field' visit around Madingley's own gardens offers a chance to identify, touch and discuss the uses of Renaissance plants.

### Outcomes:

**As a result of the course, within the constraints of the time available, students should be able to:**

- To search for the cryptic language presented in floral form in portraits
- To appreciate the intricacies of Renaissance geometric designs
- To visit Renaissance sites in Britain as well as Italy and France with an enhanced understanding

---

## Reading and resources list

---

Listed below are a number of texts that might be of interest for future reference, but do not need to be bought (or consulted) for the course.

---

Author	Title	Publisher and date
EDWARDS, Paul, SWIFT, Katherine	<i>Pergolas, Arbours and Arches: Their History and How and to Make Them</i>	2001 Barn Elms Publishing
FEARNLEY- WHITTINGSTALL, J.	<i>The Garden - An English Love Affair</i>	2002 Weidenfeld & Nicolson
HOBHOUSE, P.	<i>Plants in Garden History</i>	1992 Pavilion
HOLMES Caroline	<i>New Shoots, Old Tips</i>	2004 Frances Lincoln
HUGHES Ted	<i>Tales from Ovid</i>	1997 Faber and Faber
MABEY, Richard	<i>The Gardener's Labyrinth by Thomas Hyll</i>	1987 OUP
STRONG Roy	<i>The Artist and the Garden</i>	2000 Yale University Press
STRONG Roy	<i>*The Renaissance Garden in England</i>	1988 Thames and Hudson
THOMAS, Andrea	<i>Glory and Honour: The Renaissance in Scotland</i>	2013 Birlinn
THOMAS, Andrea	<i>Princelie Majestie: the Court of James V of Scotland, 1528-1542</i>	2005 Tuckwell Press
TUSSER, Thomas	<i>500 Points of Good Husbandry</i>	1984 OUP
*WHALLEY Robin & JENNINGS Anne	<i>Knot Gardens and Parterres</i>	1998 Barn Elms Publishing

## Website addresses

[www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p00546xd#](http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p00546xd#) BBC Radio Four In Our Time The Tudor State  
[www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p003k9dl](http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p003k9dl) BBC Radio Four In Our Time The Field of the Cloth of Gold  
BBC Radio Four In our own time – Humanism and the idea of universal peace

The Garden History Society Quarterly newsletters and Occasional Papers provide excellent recent research findings and criticism; the following will be of relevance:

\*Tudor Gardens The Journal of the Garden History Society Vol. 27:1 Summer 1999

Theobalds Palace: The Gardens and Park Martin Andrews The Journal of the Garden History Society Vol. 21:2 Winter 1993

**Note** Students of the Institute of Continuing Education are entitled to 20% discount on books published by Cambridge University Press (CUP) which are purchased at the Press bookshop, 1 Trinity Street, Cambridge (Mon-Sat 9am – 5:30pm, Sun 11am – 5pm). A letter or email confirming acceptance on to a current Institute course should be taken as evidence of enrolment.

*Information correct as of:* 26 April 2016