



# Nantwich Walled Garden Society

## Newsletter: Issue No. 6, Summer 2018

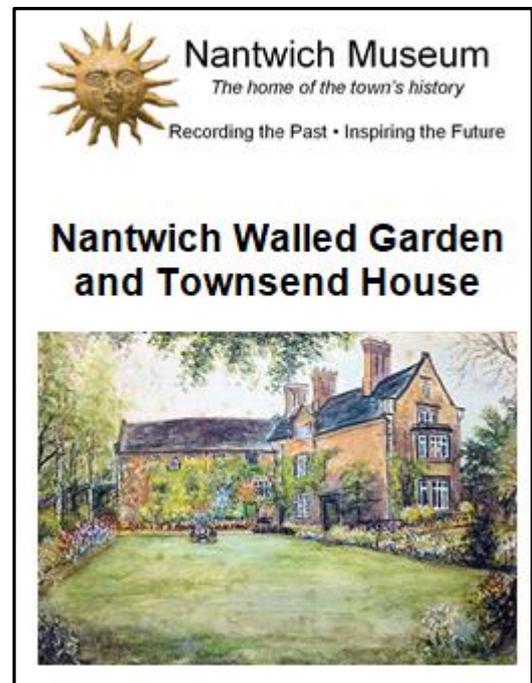
Welcome to Issue No. 6 of the *Nantwich Walled Garden Society Newsletter*. If you missed previous Issues, they're on the Society's web site, see <http://nantwichwalledgarden.org.uk/newsletters/>.

### Planning Application

Since publication of our last Newsletter, we have learnt that all appeals by 4 Real Developments (owners of the Walled Garden site) concerning their 2008 planning application have been rejected. It is our understanding that all applications relating to the site have now either lapsed or been rejected. We are awaiting further news from Cheshire East or the developer.

### Nantwich Walled Garden and Townsend House Booklet

A booklet by NWGS members Linda Briggs, Helen Cooke and Catherine Mehan is now on sale in Nantwich Museum shop, price £3.95. The booklet covers the fascinating history of the Walled Garden and Townsend House from the late 1500s to date and includes pictures, maps and images from Wilbraham family records. A brief history of the Nantwich branch of the Wilbraham family is also included. The proceeds from sales will be split between the Museum and the NWGS.



### Nantwich Museum's Exhibition: *Welsh Row through the Ages*

The Museum's 2018 summer exhibition is running from 18 July – 13 October, and illustrates the continuity and change on Welsh Row throughout its long and varied history. There is an information panel at the exhibition on the Walled Garden and Townsend House and a short talk on the subject will take place on Saturday 11 August along with two additional talks about Welsh Row. There will be several guided walks along Welsh Row during the exhibition period too. Please enquire at the Museum for tickets and more information.

### Sugnall Walled Garden Visit



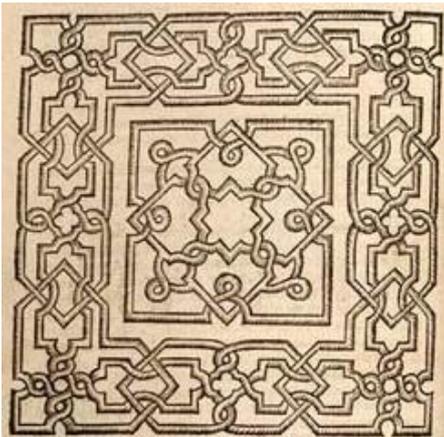
In July, members of the NWGS, Nantwich Civic Society and Nantwich Museum visited Sugnall Walled Garden, Staffordshire. This two-acre walled garden, dating back to 1737, was fully restored in 2006/7. The group was inspired by a stimulating talk by the head gardener (followed by a delicious cream tea), and returned to Nantwich full of ideas about how the Walled Garden here could be restored.

Thanks to Diana Hall for organising the visit.

## The Elizabethan Garden

Garden Historian and NWGS member Dr Shirley Evans is an expert on Elizabethan gardens, and has kindly contributed the following article.

*Elizabethan gardens attached to smaller provincial manor houses, as opposed to the palaces of royalty and the mansions of the aristocracy, witnessed little change in style until the close of the Stuart dynasty. That is with the exception of the KNOT which became increasingly elaborate. These KNOTS were central to the overall design of the garden and were intended to be looked down upon from an elevated vantage point, in order to appreciate their intricate internal designs. Square in shape, divided into four, they were outlined with low growing, clipped evergreens, usually Boxus with the paths sanded or grassed. They could be either 'Open' when the pattern was set in lines of low growing plants with the intervening space filled with different coloured earths or 'Closed' when the spaces between were filled with flowers of one colour.*



*The underlying purpose of these gardens, however, was symbolic, designed to celebrate and praise Queen Elizabeth I and pattern was everywhere. Spring was the Queen's time and May her month. The rose, particularly R. Eglantine, became associated with her presence; if grown in the gardens of her courtiers it was understood that she was omnipresent. Her portraits depict a variety of symbols, which could only be read by her more knowledgeable subjects, and these included flowers, not only the Tudor and Eglantine roses but pansies, carnations and lilies. She also took on the mantle of the Virgin Queen, reflecting the way the Virgin Mary had fulfilled a role in the Hortus Conclusus of*

*the Medieval Garden. It was through these symbols that the Queen reinforced her role as ruler and protector.*

*Thus these gardens were not only productive in their use of edible plants and fruiting trees but also had a crucial symbolic significance.*

*(Image taken from Didymus Mountain, The Gardener's Labyrinth, 1571. This is one of the earliest depictions of a KNOT to appear.)*

**Would you like to get involved?** If so, please email the NWGS Secretary, follow us on Twitter or Facebook, and visit our web site. We welcome input from all members of our community to help us secure the future of this important historic site in our town.

### Further Information

**Join the Nantwich Walled Garden Society:** email [secretary.nwgs@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.nwgs@gmail.com) or complete the form here <http://nantwichwalledgarden.org.uk/join-the-nwgs/>.

Annual subscription: £10 (family membership).

**Visit:** Nantwich Museum, Pillory Street, Nantwich.

**Visit our website:** <http://nantwichwalledgarden.org.uk/>



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