



CANNON HALL

MUSEUM PARK & GARDENS

Restoring the glory, revealing the secrets at Cannon Hall Museum, Park and Gardens.

October Update

There is normally a monthly update on progress however the Project slowed through the summer as many tasks could not take place due to Covid, supply chain issues and the sheer number of visitors on site, however progress has been made despite the continued disruption.

The parkland has remained open throughout the refurbishment works and Covid with a continued increase in footfall and the associated issues this brings, such as litter and damage to path edges, as thousands of visitors tried to socially distance and trampled newly seeded areas.

Some parts of the parkland and gardens will remain fenced off until the end of Winter due to Covid and a few items need finishing off, there are areas that we cannot maintain social distancing and there are a few areas we want to establish before we open.

The Play Area - is now complete giving improved access and a few more pieces of equipment for children to enjoy, there is a new gate to the back of the play area taking visitors towards the parkland and new play features which are now throughout the parkland leading towards the Discovery area just behind the Deer Shelter.



The Discovery Area- area will remain closed until the Spring as we still have willow weaving and musical instruments to install, as well as the interpretation due in the new year, the ice house and midden are both now complete.



Walled Garden – The walled gardens opened at the end of August ready for the IGPTY (International Garden Photographer of the Year) exhibition which proved very popular as an outside exhibition, we hope to do more parkland art installations in the future, work on planting, top soiling and seeding picked up in September and October and is almost all complete. The new staging in the Volunteer/Learning glass house has also been installed.





Fairyland & Pleasure Grounds -The paths, fencing and planting in fairyland and the Pleasure Grounds are now complete, but fairyland will remain closed to allow the planting to take hold and this area is narrow so social distancing cannot be maintained.



Lakes - The jetty and boathouse are now complete ready for boating hopefully in the Spring depending on local restrictions, and all the pathways are now complete including the toppings.



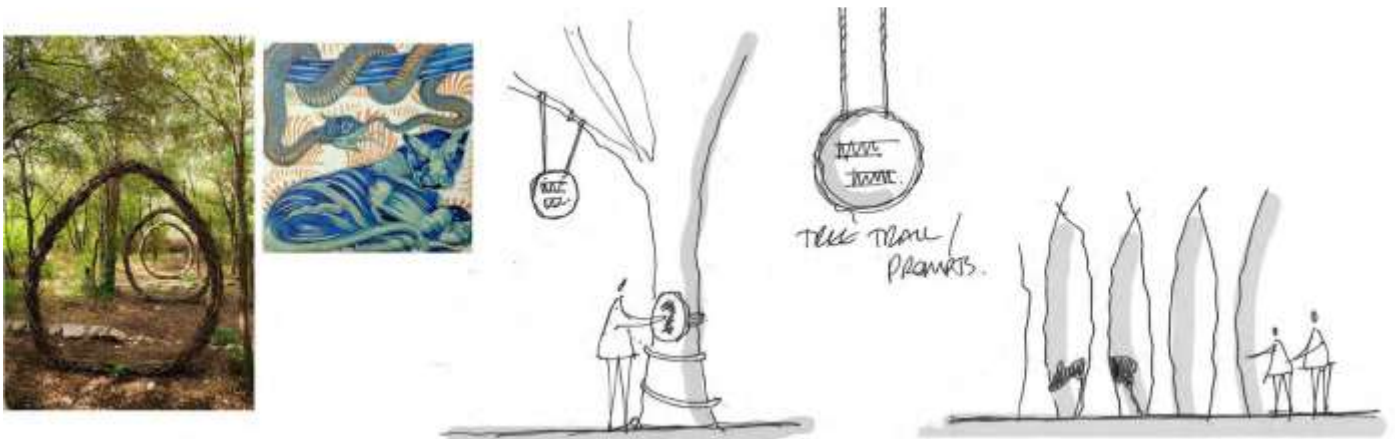
Landscaping – The top tennis court is being refurbished and is having meshed turf laid to ensure this area is more robust for future events, the walls around the boundary of this area have also been repaired. All the resin bound surfacing is complete setting off the Hall well, this surfacing is long lasting and looks good.



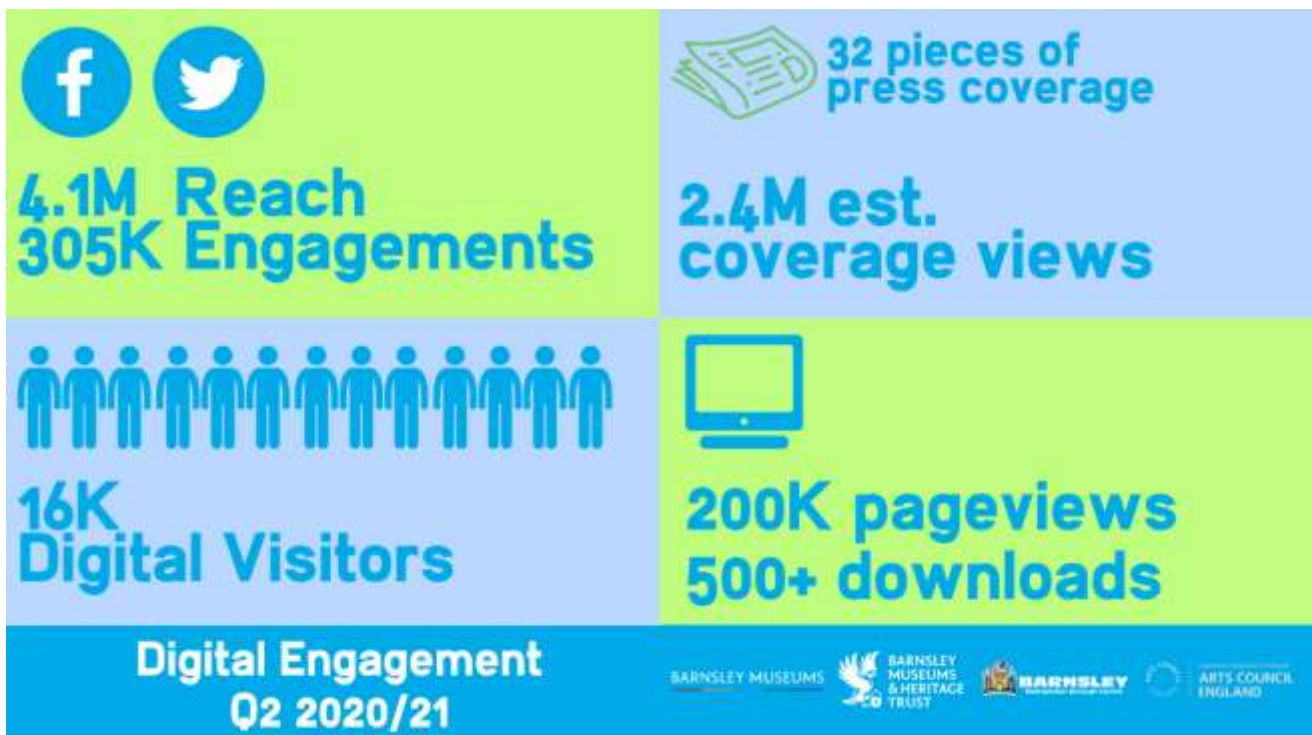
Access in some parts of the parkland and gardens will remain fenced off for some months, either due to ongoing works or to aid social distancing.

Further Work – We are expecting the two book end glass houses on the front of the North Range in the walled garden to arrive in March, this will make a huge difference to the appearance of the gardens and bring a welcome area to sit, relax and take in the new views of the walled garden from the north looking south. We are also refurbishing the garage and potting shed in the kitchen courtyard, these can then be used commercially for small businesses such as artists or ice cream and snacks.

We are also working on the designs for the interpretation which will be a combination of artwork, wayfinding and information throughout the landscape to education, inspire and intrigue visitors, you should start to see installations arriving in the new year.



The museum teams are still working behind the scenes, we have launched a suite of activities online through the website and social media to engage the public with innovative activities, we are also developing new activities all the time to engage new audiences and to help relieve the isolation, please go online and have a look at what we're up to. To find out more visit our website www.cannon-hall.com



We have also restarted our volunteer programme in reduced numbers and socially distanced, this is a welcome activity to keep fit and socialise safely, the volunteers also helped get the maintenance in the parkland and gardens ready for the Green Flag judging which we applied for last January, judging took place in September, we're pleased to say we achieved Green Flag and Green Heritage Award status, so a big thank you to all the staff and volunteers who made this happen.



Bees

There was a real shortage of grassland habitats to encourage insects and in particular bees, this was evidenced by the poor habitat survey results, so the Friends of Cannon Hall applied for and were successful in obtaining £2500 of funding from the co-op for a wildflower meadow.

We host work experience students from a number of colleges in the area, and we pride ourselves on offering meaningful learning outcomes, one student in particular Hanna has an interest in biodiversity so we developed this into a project for her from beginning to end, she consulted with the public, took advice from the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, read our Habitat surveys to highlight the short comings of the parks wildlife habitats, and came up with a scheme which is both aesthetically pleasing and beneficial to insects.

In 2019 Hanna, the Gardening team and volunteers got to work and created a wildflower strip across the entire front of the Hall following the haha, from one woodland to the other, connected habitats together to create a corridor.



The Green Flag Award also run the **Bees' Needs Award** which is an award given to good quality enhancement projects to benefit bees, there were 100's of applicants from across the country, but only 32 got the award, we are proud to have been chosen at Cannon Hall which is a credit to partnerships and volunteers working together to create something wonderful, the photograph below shows the wildflower meadow in season 2 in full flower – stunning!



We don't expect the next update to be until February 2021 as work on site will slow until the new year, when we expect the North Range Glass and interpretation to start to arrive. All work is expected to be completed by April 2021.

