

Lincolnshire Gardens Trust Newsletter

Autumn/Winter 2021

Registered Charity Number: 1050884

Inside this issue • Chairman's Letter, pages 1 & 2 • Snippets, page 3 • , pages 4 to 7
, pages 8 to 11 • , pages 12 & 13 • , pages 14 & 15 • Events 2021, page 16



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Membership and then the link to the Membership Form

Chairman's Letter



How good to get back to garden visiting again this summer after Lockdown! Members much-enjoyed a superb visit to Brightwater Gardens in early July – a delightful tour with garden owner, designer

Chris Neave and then delicious cake! Much has changed and evolved in the ten years since the last visit. It has taken a horrible pandemic to awaken many more people to the value of our open green spaces, parks and gardens and their many benefits towards everyone's health and wellbeing.

Lincolnshire Gardens Trust (LGT) was first founded in 1995 as a garden conservation and education charity to help protect and raise awareness of the county's historic parks and gardens. On Tuesday 3rd August, a belated (due to Covid) celebratory 25th Anniversary Party was held, thanks to the kind hospitality of the charity's President Annetta Turner and her husband Simon, on the lawn of their lovely country house garden in Folkingham. Huge thanks to them both on behalf of the members and guests who were uplifted to view Willowholt's wild-flower pasture and to explore extensive borders, roses and vegetable garden. Grateful thanks too to founder member/ past LGT chairman Lady Sally Bruce-



Gardyne for cutting the splendid anniversary cake, and to Elizabeth Bowskill and LGT trustees for organising scrumptious cakes! A garden book stall run by Grace Ellis raising over £80 towards LGT's Small Grants scheme. A familiar 'artist in residence' in the shade of the summerhouse captured a flavour of this memorable afternoon!

It was odd not to have the usual friendly November gathering for the LGT AGM last year when we had to make do with ZOOM for the formal matters. I missed seeing everyone and

catching up in person. So this month's LGT AGM, and 2021 Photography Prize-Giving, when we will welcome special guest speaker – Michael Marriott former Sales Director of David Austin roses, should prove to be an extra-ravishing and rosy afternoon at the wonderful Petwood Hotel with its beautifully restored Grade II listed gardens Book now and bring your friends! Looking forward to seeing you all there!

Steffie Shields

AGM GUEST SPEAKER

**MICHAEL
MARRIOTT**

Ravishing Roses

Petwood Hotel, Woodhall Spa

2.00pm Saturday, 20th November 2021

**Members £20 Non Members £25
to include Afternoon Tea and
LGT Photo Competition Prize Giving**

**Booking Essential by 6th November
www.lincolnshiregardenstrust/events**





Lincolnshire Gardens Trust

Good news! Last Spring, on receiving an initial Historic England consultation report for **Greatford Hall**, LGT researchers provided very useful historical information, especially in querying the omission of the parkland south of the hall. The report was revised and recirculated to all consultees, incorporating the relevant historical information and factual corrections into the History and Details sections. Then, in June 2021 the park and garden were listed Grade II. [Read more in GT News extract on page?](#)



Similarly, LGT responded to another Historic England consultation and made extensive detailed comments regarding **Norton Place** ultimately recommending that the site should be added to the Historic England Register. The house is by John Carr (1776) for Thomas Harrison MP and the park was designed by surveyor Thomas White (c1772), a former foreman of Lancelot 'Capability' Brown. Both house and bridge were featured in a J.C. Nattes collection of views of houses and churches in Lincolnshire commissioned by Sir Joseph Banks (1794). An 1803 engraving based on a sketch by Thomas Espin illustrates the house set amongst maturing trees as seen from across the lake. In June 2021 Historic England added Norton Place to the Register of Parks and Gardens of national significance: as a single-phase landscape that has undergone little alteration since the time of its creation and for the well-documented history of its development, including an original plan of White's designs; as a well-surviving example of the work of a Thomas White, a nationally important designer who also gave designs at Blyborough Hall and Brocklesby. The design interest of Norton Place has value as an intact naturalistic Brownian landscape, with a clear group value gained from the relationship between buildings and landscape, especially the Grade I listed house, Grade II* listed bridge, and Grade II listed lodges and coach house. Note that a new book is published this month (available on Amazon): *Thomas White (c. 1736-1811): Redesigning the Northern British Landscape* (15 Nov 2021) by Yorkshire Gardens Trust members Deborah Turnbull and Louise Wickham.



It was good to get out and about again on another sunny day in July 2021, when four LGT trustees volunteered to help judge **South Kesteven's Best Kept Village Competition 2021**. Judging is done in house during July for 80+ villages, with Steve Frisby SKDC Parks



Swinstead

Project Officer assisted by LGT representatives, looking at village facilities, grounds maintenance and street scene, front gardens and evidence of community pride and ownership. The competition is split into two categories:

Small Villages populations: 100 – 500

Winners: 1st Stubton, 2nd Swinstead, 3rd Welby

Large Villages populations 501 – 5000

Winners: 1st Harlaxton, 2nd Thurlby, 3rd Fulbeck
Prizes consisting of gold bins plus cash prizes and framed certificates to the parish council of each of the winning villages were presented at a ceremony in Wyndham Park Visitor Centre in October 2021.



LGT remains actively committed to encourage all ages in the enjoyment and care of gardens throughout Lincolnshire especially the many varied historic gardens, parks, and designed landscapes, also offers support and advice for school grounds. We work closely with the Conservation Officers of the Gardens Trust in responding to planning applications local to

Lincolnshire and in supporting their current 3-year 'Unforgettable Gardens Project' especially with our annual LGT Photography Competition. The online ZOOM app has certainly changed the way we live our lives! The Gardens Trust has had to adapt and change their business model approach with rewarding results. By organising some superb, engaging and reasonably priced online talks organised throughout the pandemic period, they managed to raise over £75,000 for the charity in the process! Garden experts together with researchers from various CGTs are now running regular series of garden history talks with a growing audience with interest in designed landscapes able to tune in, enjoy watching and raise questions from the comfort of their homes. I hope some members appreciated a worthwhile initiative by LGT trustee/SLHA Chairman Ian George the recent online talks organised by SHLA in association with LGT. Let us hope for more people volunteering within their CGT to offer their skills to help with furthering the worthwhile aims of the GT: Research, Conserve, Campaign. The Gardens Trust relies on members and donors to support its work. Please consider joining. There is a special rate for those who are also members of County Gardens Trusts - £25 rather than £35. See www.thegardenstrust.org/support-us/

Steffie Shields

Circles in a Curious Mind

William Stukeley - *landscape historian or garden designer?*



Part 1

Three centuries ago, Holbeach-born Dr William Stukeley (1687-1765) was celebrated primarily as an antiquarian, well-known for his expertise in Roman history, coinage, and archaeology. Yet, more than this, his training in medicine instilled an interest in health, while his observation and topographical draughtsmanship skills, and a gift for mathematics, proved invaluable to record landmarks and sites of interest. His travels fuelled an increasing interest in both design and a mixture Druidism and Christian theology. As a result, his less well-known passion for plants and gardening, coupled with a vivid imagination, led to some unique garden-making.

As a young boy with insatiable curiosity, he accompanied the local Holbeach apothecary in '*simpling*' on expeditions to gather medicinal herbs. Everywhere he explored he found evidence of Roman occupation. The momentous restoration of the Monarchy, when significant fen drainage schemes influenced by Dutch engineers impacted on the Lincolnshire countryside, changing local landscapes and farming practice dramatically. Likewise, new gravel and stone pits for building and improved roadmaking, unearthed archaeological finds

His father John enjoyed gardening. He had property and local drainage interests in the town, and also invested in tree-planting. Early roots were significant to Stukeley. Returning in the 1750's, he was horrified to see his father's '*sacred groves*' had been cut down. He made a drawing of the 17C Artisan Mannerist house where he was born, with its large garden and pastoral setting and, from memory, sketched in the foreground his father's sizeable plantation, though no longer extant.

Stukeley was top of his school when, aged 13, he left to join his father and uncle's law practice. However, this young man determined to become a doctor. Four years later, arriving at Cambridge University, he wasted no time: '*I soon made a map of Cambridg, & a drawing of our college a drawing of the Section of king's college chapel & a map of the county for our simpling use with Dr Stephen Hales.*' Besides his studies, he made notes and sketched local views, churches and university's college. He also kept a '*Book*

of Friends' with autographs of his eminent 'heroes' mathematicians, scientists and physicians, including Fellows of the Royal Society, Sir Isaac Newton, astronomer Edmond Halley and Sir Christopher Wren. He also made large additions to John Ray's '*Catalogue of Plants around Cambridge.*' (1660)

A visit the Duke of Montague's fine gardens at Boughton in Northamptonshire in April 1708 proved both solace and distraction from parental loss: in 1706, his father died, his mother in 1707, followed by his uncle Adlard & his brother John the following year. He was amazed by the waterworks: '*Nature is rack'd and improved ten thousand ways and made to submit to powerful laws of Mechanism and where the fountains were controlled by an Engine of neat Workmanship, to force up water in great Draughts which cost alone a thousand pounds.*'

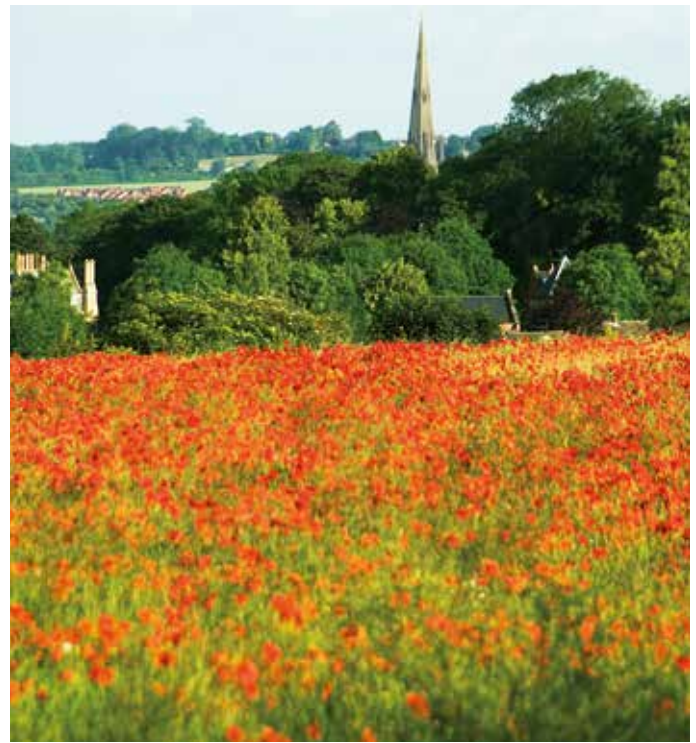
After graduating in Physic in 1709, Dr Stukeley spent his first year working at St Thomas's Hospital, London, before returning to his beloved Lincolnshire to run his own medical practice in Boston, at that time the second biggest port outside London. Every summer, 1710 -1725, the young doctor joined the '*Itinerant Society of Boston*': notable gentlemen, lawyers and like-minded, educated professional men of science and religion with insufficient money to travel abroad. They undertook excursions for serious study, exploring the East Midlands, and later further afield south into Kent, Wiltshire, Gloucestershire, Devon, Cornwall, and north to Cumbria, Falkirk and Edinburgh in Scotland.

I recommend searching online, where you will find many examples of the amazing wealth of Stukeley drawings which survive from this period, especially www.rareoldprints.com These give a flavour of Stukeley's many wide-ranging 'curious' journeys to early monastic sites, springs, medieval castles, cathedrals, decoys and bridges, ancient landmarks and great estates - and the focus of this article - great gardens of the period. Here are grand house settings, hills, valleys, roads & rivers, wildernesses and orchards, fountains, canals, walks and statuary and parterres where iconography and geometry were also the height of fashion.

Prosperous nobility returning from grand tours, inspired by Italian, French or Dutch garden design, invested in and expanded their ornamental gardens. The influence of John Evelyn's book 'Sylva' and the devastation of the 1703 'Great Storm' led to huge amounts of tree-planting. Quincuncial forest gardens, featuring a star arrangement of five avenues, were all the rage. Even more informative than Kip Knyff bird's eye engravings, we see human scale in Stukeley's drawings, the curious travelling public, as well as the topography. The more he saw, the more he had an opinion on what he saw: including Wolverton Hall, Chatsworth, Wilton, Marlborough, Barrington Court and Blenheim. *'Blenheim the garden is... taken out of the park, and may still be said to be part of it well contriv'd by sinking the outer wall into a foss, to give one a view quite round and take off the odious appearance of confinement and limitation to the eye.'*

A lifelong friendship with brothers Roger and Samuel Gale, as also with Maurice Johnston, the founders of Spalding Gentlemen's Society (1709-12) is recorded in their lively letters. Stukeley found patronage with the principal families of Lincolnshire - dukes of Ancaster and Rutland, the Tyrconnel and Cust families, who sought his advice re local discoveries at Grimsthorpe, Belton and Belvoir Castle. Architecture, especially Vanbrugh's works, interested him greatly, whose garden designer collaborator, Stephen Switzer featured among many correspondents. Writing from Spye Park in Wiltshire, where he was creating a cascade, Switzer wished he had Stukeley's expert advice on levels and water engineering gleaned from his intensive studies mapping Roman Lincolnshire and the waterways of the Lincolnshire Fens.

In 1717, Stukeley moved to London desiring to mingle amongst the intelligentsia during the exciting era of enlightenment, *'for opportunities of study, or for the best conversation in the world'*. Besides helping to reform the Society of Antiquaries, he became a Fellow of the College of Physicians, founded the Society of Roman Knights, and joined the Freemasons. He made friends with Lincolnshire born Jonathan Sissons a scientific instrument-making business in the Strand. Here he made a prototype



drawing of his new telescopic addition to a theodolite, also came across astronomer /garden designer Thomas Wright who worked for Sissons.

In 1726, he opted to leave London. Whether he fell out with one or two important people, or more likely a case of being 'burned out' after publishing his illustrated folio book *'Itinerarium Curiosum - An account of the antiquity and remarkable curiosity in nature or art observed through travels in Great Brittain'* (1724). He needed to withdraw to the countryside for which he often yearned. He returned to doctoring and bought a 17C yeoman's house in the centre of Grantham, not far from his brother Adelard, and still intent on study and writing regularly to his friends: *'I am preparing my instruments for observation of the weather, and quantity of rain, &c. I shall send you my memoirs of them when ready.'*... *'The particular situation of Grantham is most admirable, a very large concavity, hills quite around at the reasonable distance of a mile, ... & a fine meandrous river [Witham] running through it at the bottom of my garden'. Here he enjoyed the prospect of St Wulfram's steeple to the north, as well as the river and willows, a tumulus and a pleasant spring, St Anne's Well to the east, '& all the roads around are thick with violets...'*

It was easy visiting distance to the Colsterworth area with its many orchards, which he called the *'Montpelier of England'*, and to Sir Isaac Newton's home in Woolsthorpe. *'After dinner, the weather being warm, we went into the garden, & drank tea under the shade of some apple trees, only he, & myself.'* In March 1727, Newton passed away. He determined to capture those special memories by writing the great man's biography, (later published in 1752) to include the momentous discovery of gravity from a falling apple.

By December, Stukeley had found happiness, marrying Frances Williamson of Allington in St Nicholas's Church, Barkston. His drawing of the happy couple a year later, admiring their town garden, shows his pride in his achievements. He had created a 'Roman' Pavement, a mosaic leading into the garden, the latter neatly divided by four large parterres formally planted with small topiary trees. Stukeley loved gardening in the fresh air and was fully aware of its positive impact on his health. *'I am far from coming into the modern whimsy of banishing all greens and flowers, and reducing it to grass and forest trees garden ... I think gardens are chiefly designed for walking & therefore should consist mainly of walks for tho mine be 230 feet by 130 yet I have only 4 parterres, each 400 foot square'.*

Later Stukely wrote to his friends: *'... a wall I lately built between my garden, & a lesser garden filld with all sorts of odoriferous herbs. Next the garden it is made after the manner of the front of a greek temple within upon the wall which is plaisterd, I have painted Sr: Isaac Newtons profile,*



which I had taken very exactly, it is done in the manner of your Cæsar's head. It stands upon a pedestal somewhat like a tomb or cenotaph, with this inscription GENIO LOCI NEWTONO MAGNO... on both sides ivy climbs up the wall. Next my herb garden it represents the ruins of some old religious house, & there is made in the wall a cell or grotto, which I call the hermitage, like those I have frequently seen in travels. Upon the top of it, is plac'd an iron cross with a fane which I pull'd off the remains of Oseney abby, before it, is a stone globe (an orrery) upon a pedestal, painted with the geography, & set in its due elevation & regard to the heavens, corresponding exactly with the true globe, & when the sun shines, is affected in a similar manner, showing where it rises, sets, is in its meridian &c. the whole is overgrown with moss, camomile, ivy, phyllitis, (hart's tongue fern) & such sort of plants, to make it more natural, & in the wall is this inscription cut in a handsom stone & in imitation of roman letters BEATAE TRANQVILLITATI P. W. STUKELEY. 1727. His 'Hermitage Vineyard' featured an elegant Greek amphora in the middle of four flowerbeds and a Roman altar 'a brick from Verulam' next to his Gothic grotto. At the bottom of the garden near the river, the site of an old orchard, Stukeley created a 'sylvan temple of the Druids' in 'the circus or amphitheatre': within a circle of filbert (hazelnut) hedging, a n inner circle of 'pyramidal greens' surrounded by a grass walk with an old apple-tree in the centre, overgrown with mistletoe that he had collected in Grimsthorpe Park.

Nearby an old Medieval house on St Peter's Hill, close to the site where he was convinced the Eleanor Cross once stood, had been demolished. He

rescued a stone a lion and put it in his garden. In July 1729 Frances was born, the first of 3 daughters. The same month, Stukeley became a deacon; by the November, he was ordained a priest. He was about to change his life yet again and, uproot his family further south to Stamford, leaving his first real home that he had extensively modernised, and a garden which bore all the signs of an accomplished and innovative garden designer making use of historical artefacts which would have added a unique sense of place.

Part 2 is to be continued in the LGT Spring/Summer 2022 newsletter: how Stukeley, (the original landscape detective – much in common with today's garden historian/ gardens trustee!) went on to develop his ideas in town garden design at the same time as publishing his ground-breaking works on Stone Henge and Avebury.

Steffie Shields

References:

Stuart Piggott 'William Stukeley: An Eighteenth-century Antiquary' (Thames & Hudson 1985)

John F.H. Smith FSA 'An Important Set of Stukeley Drawings' (Spalding Gentlemen's Society 2016)

John F. H. Smith FSA 'William Stukeley's House and Garden in Grantham, 1726-1729'. *Antiquaries Journal*, 101, 2021, pp. 390-423

Heritage Lincolnshire invite LGT for advice about planting the landscape surrounding the Old King's Head (Kirton) restoration project

As Heritage Lincolnshire's (HL) project to restore the Old King's Head coaching inn reached completion, they invited the LGT to provide some input about planting the external spaces surrounding the inn.

The building has a 400-year history. Its position on the Boston to London road, opposite Kirton's central and imposing church, demonstrates the significance of this (then) market town throughout the centuries. The life for the building started circa 1599, and further construction work in 1661 created a fine example of the Fen Artisan Mannerist style (Nikolaus Pevsner *The Buildings of England* (Yale) 2002) thus becoming worthy of preservation and restoration. This backstory provided context for the LGT's input.

The site has two external spaces; an area next to the hotel accommodation (using the old stable block) for parking and an exterior space dividing the hotel accommodation from the main inn, café and administration building. The tall sidewall of an adjacent building dominates the central area, and mature trees on adjoining land overhang the car-park boundary fence. The maintenance of any future planting is to be carried out by volunteers.

The Trust prepared a short report for Heritage Lincolnshire that put forward a vision for a flexible space rather than a prescriptive design. The proposal is to create simple, attractive and low maintenance landscaping, achieved by using planters planted with specimen shrubs and complemented by large terracotta or metal pots

and containers. Using containers which can be moved around in the area between the stable block and main building, will create a space for guests that is elegant and flexible. Using sizeable shaped Box or Yew as an architectural feature in containers will complement the Old King's Head's heritage. A vigorous climber was identified to mask the flank of the adjacent building. A council tree officer is needed to survey boundary

trees before any decisions on their future could be made. A performance area in the central space was key to making the most of this area by attracting visitors to the inn for events, thus generating revenue.

Heritage Lincolnshire welcomed the input from LGT and the report enables HL to create an attractive external space which compliments the restored buildings.





Heroes Commemorative Orchard

The creation of a Community Orchard in the heart of Grantham



Some part of this story was relayed to you in the brief Spring Newsletter we published in March 2020, but I have been asked to tell you more about how and why the Orchard was created and the highs and lows of managing such an enterprise.

The desire to plant a community Orchard AND to create a Memorial of some of the local WWII military associations was the trigger, and the ideas soon combined as a single project. The idea of the Memorial element was to create a living tribute to the district's military heritage, British forces and our wartime allies from around the world who came together to fight for freedom and recognises the American First Airborne Division who trained around Grantham before parachuting into Holland for the Battle of Arnhem; the orchard ticks the "planting trees in an urban environment" box. The idea was brought to the Wyndham Park Forum to provide the "Community" lead on the project. Land adjacent to Wyndham Park is owned by the National Trust and run as an urban farm with a local tenant farmer grazing his cattle in an area known as Sedgwick Meadows. South Kesteven District Council negotiated a 50 year lease with the National Trust to use an area of approximately 3 ½ acres of this farmland. And of course Wyndham Park is already a WWI memorial park.

And so the next question was how to fund the project? That is where SKDC's new Crowdfunding project came in, and we launched our fundraising

in November 2019, reaching our target ahead of the deadline, and finishing with a total of over £12,000. And more was offered later. Nothing could be prepared until the end of the funding had passed, but as soon as it was we were able to get the fencing sorted and an initial cut of the grass – which had previously been grazed by cattle.

The fruit trees were sourced from an East Anglian company called East of England Apples and Orchards Project (<https://www.applesandorchards.org.uk/>), who provided advice and compiled a list of varieties local to Grantham and Lincolnshire, with the right mix to allow for pollination and variety that might be suitable for our Orchard. The planting list also came with useful information about flowering period, place of origin and earliest recorded date, as well as whether the fruit is sweet or acidic. So, with the field almost ready and the trees due to arrive at the beginning of March it was time to create a planting plan.

We had 75 trees to plant – 75 trees to mark the 75th anniversary of Victory in Europe (8th May 2020) as well as the 75th anniversary of Arnhem.

Fifteen of the trees were to be silver birches planted in three lines of five to represent the allied aircraft identification markings under the wings on D-Day.

The fruit trees needed to be 10 m apart so a grid was laid out on paper with the dimensions of

the field. The site is on a slope with the top west facing – so the heat of the morning sun is in the lower portion of the field and the afternoon sun touches the upper slope. The earliest flowering varieties were grouped lower down and the later flowering apples in the upper field in the hope that the early morning frosts would be less in the lower corners sheltered by an established hedgerow.

On the planting plan the names were too long so a code system was used, and the code also written on the tree stake once the tree was planted. As this lettering fades and some of the trees stakes have since been removed we are planning a more permanent ID system of names tags on the trees.

Two planting days were planned – one weekend day (for those who work) and a school day so that the pupils who had contributed to the fundraising could be invited along. All sponsors were invited along. As it was our planting days were on the limit of the announcement of the first National Lockdown due to the Covid19 pandemic. Sunday 15th March 2020 was well attended and it was all we could do to stop the volunteers planting too many trees since we needed plenty for the following planting day on Thursday 19th March. As it was only the National Junior School were able to attend and we had to share the jobs out between approximately 100 pupils. We had Ollie Ryan-Moore (Head Gardener at Easton Walled Garden) to provide an educational planting demonstration for them. He had come with another special tree – The Squadron Apple – donated by Lady Ursula Cholmeley, which was planted at the top of the Orchard positioned between two American Acers (October Glory) which arrived & were planted two months later in May.

Then of course we were completely thrown by lockdown. Fortunately a small team of volunteers found solace and companionship in meeting twice a week to water all 75 trees – with watering cans filled from a bowser which we had been lent for a few weeks and which we then replaced with a purchased one. This Orchard Watering Team as we called ourselves carried out the watering during all the hot, dry months of both 2020 and 2021.

Of course it had been hoped to have workshops and learning sessions about the care and upkeep of the fruit trees, but these have been put on hold. It did mean that we were a bit lax in attending to two important elements of care: one removal of the fruits formed in the



first couple of years, and keeping the base of the trees clear of long grass. Some varieties of apple did bear fruit – delicious looking apples and some tasty cherries, but unfortunately these disappeared just before we volunteers decided we would treat ourselves. This year the developing fruit was pinched out as it formed – and we have managed to clear the base of the trees of the long grass.

We were joined in February by Ollie Ryan-Moore again, this time for a pruning lesson – and learned that the trees which bore fruit that first year had not put on new growth in the same way.

The grass was allowed to grow long, and we had a beautiful meadow of wildflowers – mainly buttercup and thistles – but plenty else besides. Butterflies, moths, and grasshoppers were seen, along with a surprised frog or two when we watered. However not having managed to find someone who would cut the grass for hay has meant this element of care has also been lacking

– three and a half acres is a big area to manage by hand. We are working on solutions to this – but if anyone knows a farmer or small holder in the Grantham area who might be able to help with a hay cut (or two) annually for free, please point them in our direction.

In November 2020 we had 450 saplings from the Woodland Trust community packs to plant in the space between our double fence-line: varieties to add to the Orchard theme – Wild Harvest including blackthorn, dog rose, rowan, hazel and hawthorn. These were planted by volunteers over three or four sessions.

Because of lockdowns and a slowing down of everything we took our time to get the final features in place: three benches were installed in March 2021 and the interpretation boards in June. Last summer we created an area of paving in front of the lower entrance, so wheelchairs can easily access the field. We discovered people naturally took a circular route around the orchard, but a few horizontal paths across the slope appeared – mostly created we believe by foxes, but also followed by some people who criss-crossed the field to extend their walk.

On a negative side, the installation of benches



led to an increase in anti-social behaviour, not helped by the schools being off for so long, and nowhere else for young people to go. This has eased somewhat and SKDC are looking into installing CCTV linked to central control in town.

On September 21st 2021 during the week of the anniversary of the Battle of Arnhem, we held our postponed Official Opening, with invited guests and orchard project donors attending, joined by Royal British Legion standard bearers, Army representatives (in dress uniform), descendants of men who fought at Arnhem, members of South Kesteven District Council and Wyndham Park Volunteers.

It is hard to believe that we are approaching our second autumn for the Orchard. There is still work to do, and we are hoping to be joined soon by Community Engagement teams from one of the local schools to help with regular jobs within the Orchard.

Elizabeth Bowskill

Lincolnshire's Apples

In this article Grace Ellis provides a short introduction to the apples that were developed and grown first in the county of Lincolnshire.

At least 320 British apple varieties dating from before WW1 have survived down to the present day. Some are widely grown but many exist only in the large national collections at Wisley in Surrey and Brogdale near Faversham in Kent. Increasingly however, local collections are being created in many counties.

Of the 320 varieties, around a dozen are assumed to have originated in Lincolnshire.

Many having been developed by local nurserymen and grown on in traditional orchards – particularly those attached to country estates and farms-for centuries part of Lincolnshire's rural landscape. They were often too to be seen in the gardens of larger village, suburban and city houses. Large commercial orchards were not planted until the late 19th or early 20th century. Orchards were started on the edge of the fens around Spalding and Boston and Wisbech. They were often sited very near railway stations so produce could more easily be transported to London and other cities. Most of these orchards are now long gone.

Three nurseries feature prominently in the breeding and development of orchard fruits in Lincolnshire. Thomas Laxton of Stamford during the mid 19C was responsible for many new varieties. He and his sons later moved to Bedford where they developed one of the world's largest commercial nurseries. William Ingall of Grimboldy near Louth was a market gardener and nurseryman who at the beginning of the 19th century introduced several new apple varieties. Brown's Nursery of Stamford Produced many new apple cultivars at the end of the 19th century – though unfortunately most are now 'lost'.

Any person who hears the name Lincolnshire and apples in the same sentence will immediately find their mind going to Newton's famous apple tree. This or its successor still grows in the garden of his family home of Woolsthorpe Manor in Woolsthorpe by Coltersworth. In fact, DNA analysis has confirmed that the apple in question was called Flower of Kent with no particular connection historically to Lincolnshire. Newton's apple cooks to a mildly acidic puree.

The main apple varieties developed in Lincolnshire are:

Allington Pippin Raised by Thomas Laxton well before 1884 (but until 1894 it was called South Lincoln Beauty). It is a cross between Cox's Orange Pippin and King of the Pippins. It is sharp when eaten early but can become aromatic later and not acidic when cooked.

Brown's Seedling was, unsurprisingly, raised by Mr Brown of Stamford in the 1860s /1870s. Yellowish/orange skin variable in size – but an excellent keeper.

Lord Burghley was raised by Mr Matheson, gardener to the Marquis of Exeter at Burghley House near Stamford. It first fruited in 1854. We can claim this as a Lincolnshire apple, though it is geographically a close call! It is, according to Pillans, best after Christmas when it has a sweet pineapple taste

Dewdley's Seedling (also known as Baron Wolseley) originated with a Mr Dedneys of Barrowby near Grantham in around 1850. According to Pillans it is a large culinary variety, in season in late autumn.

Ellison's Orange is perhaps the most widely known Lincolnshire apple. Although it is not marketed commercially it is still available and can be found in many gardens in the county. It was raised by the Reverend C. Ellison at Bracebridge, Lincoln and by Mr Wipf a gardener at nearby Hartsholme Hall around 1905. It was introduced commercially by Pennells Nursery in 1911. It is a cross between Cox's Orange Pippin and the French apple Calville Blanc. It apparently develops a distinctly aniseed flavor when fully ripe.

Herring's Pippin was apparently raised by a Mr Herring of Lincoln around 1908. A crisp firm dessert apple with spicy flavor and aroma when in season in November. It is recommended for cold heavy soils and even crops well when neglected.

Holland Pippin (also known as Kirton Pippin) is over 250 years old. First recorded in 1729, it presumably originated in Kirton near Boston. It is seemingly of more historic interest than intrinsic merit today.

Peasgood's Nonsuch was raised by a Mr Peasgood of Stamford in the 1850s from a pip grown in a garden pot by his wife. According to Craig Pillans, it is 'one of the largest and most handsome of all apples and is sweet and gently flavoured, lovely as a baked apple'.

Finally, a quintet of apples which were produced by Mr Ingall's former orchard at Grimboldy near Louth.

Doctor Clifford was produced in 1898 as a chance seedling. A large September cooker.

Ingall's Pippin was produced around 1915. a mid season dual purpose fruit. Ingall's Red dates from the 1920s. Somewhat sweeter than Ingall's Pippin.

William Ingall is not – unlike the other apples – in the National Fruit Collection and may therefore be 'lost'.

Grimoldby Golden was likewise not until recently found in the NFC but according to Pillans is a fine specimen, still to be found growing in Grimolby. He has himself recently supplied 2 trees to NFC using

graftwood from the Grimolby tree. This demonstrates the efforts being made by enthusiasts such as Craig Pillans and particularly The East of England Apples and Orchard Project to research and preserve our heritage apples.

'Lost' apples of Lincolnshire There are almost another 40 named varieties of apples documented as having originated in the county. Some of these 'lost' varieties were last recorded over 60 years ago. So, it is likely that old trees survive to this day. This includes round 28 from the Stamford area, 4 from Lincoln, 1 from the Louth area and Sleaford and a further 5 from the wider county. If any LGT members have ideas on lost varieties, the EEAOP would be glad to know of them.

There are several places in Lincolnshire where good collections of Lincolnshire apples can be found. These include:

Cross O'Cliff Orchard Local Nature Reserve, Lincoln. Old varieties mainly pears but newer plantings of heritage apples.

Church Farm , Skegness An open-air farming museum with a small orchard of local apple varieties.

Boston Woods has several Lincolnshire varieties to be seen here. Stamford Community Orchard, end of Christchurch Close, off Green Lane, Stamford. The Project was set up in around 2003.

Grantham Heroes Commemorative Orchard in Wyndham Park newly planted orchard with many Lincolnshire heritage varieties.

Alford Manor House, Doddington Hall Walled Garden, Normanby Hall Walled Garden, Grimsthorpe Estate, Easton Walled Garden, Burleigh House, Gunby Hall NT Woolsthorpe Manor NT, Belton House NT.

References:

East of England Apples and Orchards Project, *Orchard Fruits of Lincolnshire* –pamphlet 2003.

Craig Pillans. *Lincolnshire to the Core*, pamphlet produced by LCC.

Barrie Juniper and David J Mabberley, *The Extraordinary Story of the Apple*.

Pete Brown, *The Apple Orchard*.

Joan Morgan and Alison Richards, *The Book of Apples*.

Common Ground. *Orchards - a guide to local conservation*.

The East Of England Apples and Orchards Project

This voluntary, not for profit organization is based in Fakenham, Norfolk. It offers inspiration, advice and support to those interested in apples in the region. The EEAOP produces local varieties of apple trees, which can be readily purchased by the general public. They - and other suppliers such as Brogdale - are finding there is an increasing demand for heritage varieties.

Many thanks to EEAOP and to Dr Craig Pillans of Louth for allowing me to use some of their expertise and quote from their written material.

Heckington Manor: Community Archaeology Day

In late June, several members of the Lincolnshire Gardens Trust (LGT) visited Heckington Manor (Heckington) to watch an archaeological investigation into the grounds of Heckington Manor.

Charles and Sally Pinchbeck are the owners of Heckington Manor, and they had commissioned Archaeological Project Services to investigate the site as part of the Planning Proposal for the house and gardens. This event provided an opportunity to host a dig that involved the community and allowed village residents to see the manor house and grounds. The scope of the investigation ranged from using ground-penetrating radar for the geophysical exploration of the substrata of the western lawn to digging investigation pits on the southern flank of the manor house. The size of the house and grounds necessitated the investigation to support the Planning Application (which at this time of writing has been successful). The LGT was able to put forward some options for how the garden may have looked, plus a folio of old photographs offered real insight into the grounds' past

There is evidence that a house has been on this site since the Tudor period. The manor house we see today dates from around 1905 and in the 20th century has been; a family home, a children's home, a residential home for the elderly and finally, a clinic supporting recovering alcoholics. The house does not have listed status; it is recognised as a non-designated heritage asset. Unfortunately, the past few years haven't been kind to the house; theft, vandalism and anti-



social behaviour have undermined the integrity of the property. The current plan is to restore and repair the house and create a family home.

The old photographs show the garden and grounds as an integral part of the property. In addition, glasshouses and fruit trees appear on the eastern flank of the manor house. There have been rose pergolas, lily-pond and a rusticated bridge at various times; however, the western garden has been predominantly lawn. Some rock and brickwork on the northern boundary indicate a retaining wall to prevent

soil spillage onto the sunken lawn. The site has a variety of mature trees.

The geophysical survey didn't find any evidence of flower or shrub beds on the western lawn; however, medieval pottery shards and a possible Neolithic stone axe-head surfaced in the investigation pits.

All-in-all it was an exciting day, and one can only admire the commitment of Sally and Charles Pinchbeck to restoring this property.

Frazer Chapman





Celebrating a major milestone

STEFFIE SHIELDS highlights the work of Lincolnshire Gardens Trust.



THREE cheers for Lincolnshire Gardens Trust, first founded in 1995! The Covid virus pandemic, amongst other much more serious consequences, put paid to its 25th birthday celebrations. However, last month, thanks to the kind hospitality of the charity's president Annetta Turner, and her husband Simon, both passionate gardeners, a belated celebratory 25th Anniversary party was held in their elegant, mostly informal, country house garden.

Named for a grove of trees on a hill on the outskirts of Folkingham, Willowholt was originally built in 1914 for a doctor's family, and his surgery, with a lime avenue approach and stabling for his pony and trap to visit his patients. During WWII, the house was owned by an RAF officer. Over the past 50-plus years, the Turners have planted many trees including Scots pines, hedges, spring and autumn bulbs to extend, enclose and transform the gardens. They have developed

a snowdrop collection, and must surely have passed on their love of gardening to the next generation, especially with a mini garden designed for their grandchildren with their names and dates.

Despite this summer's unpredictable, ever-unreliable weather, LGT members and





guests were welcomed with warm sunshine as they entered the garden via the 'Lavender Walk', created in 1998, which leads to a rustic, wooden summerhouse. To the east side of the main lawn, a long herbaceous border, sheltered by a high hedge, overflows with a wide range of plants, all kept in check by neat brick edging. Here, splendid purple, upright bush Clematis integrifolia and vibrant red dahlias catch the eye, while peachy-pink and apricot shrub roses provide fragrance with airy, lime green Alchemilla mollis laced around their feet. To the west, raised island beds are packed with tall perennials and contrasting shrub foliage.

Members soon disappeared under clipped arches into other 'rooms' to survey the abundant vegetable gardens, inspect the fruit cages and delight in animated exotic hens. A healthy peach tree facing south, protected in a secluded walled area near the patio and wooden rose pergola, drew many admiring

comments for its beautiful, ripe fruits. Various attractive pots showed off cerise pelargoniums and royal blue agapanthus.

Thanks to a simply stunning wildflower meadow – according to Annetta, “more work and trouble than the rest of the garden put together” – a local friend, Sally Chaplin, was able to create some gorgeous arrangements for all the garden tables. While the Turners' daughters were on hand to serve teas and truly scrumptious cakes, LGT trustee Grace Ellis manned a 'Bring and Buy' garden book stall. Lady Sally Bruce-Gardyne, a founder member and past chairman was invited to cut the special 25th Anniversary cake to much applause.

Many memories stirred my mind. Looking back, I remember in gratitude the trustees and past chairmen who had the necessary foresight and drive – especially the founding chairman and owner of Doddington Hall, the late Vicky Jarvis. In 1996, the late Mary



- 1: Members and guests at the LGT celebration garden party
- 2: Ripening peaches at Willowholt
- 3: Lincolnshire Gardens Trust 25 Year Anniversary cake
- 4: LGT chairman Steffie Shields looks on as Lady Sally Bruce-Gardyne cuts the LGT celebration cake
- 5: Poster for AGM guest speaker Michael Marriott
- 6: Lady Sally Bruce-Gardyne, founder member and past LGT chairman, with Liz Mayle
- 7: Lady Sally Bruce-Gardyne and Mrs Annetta Turner, LGT president
- 8: Sally Chaplin creates some wildflower posies



GARDENING

Fry of Fulbeck Hall invited me to join the committee soon after I settled in the county, just as my husband's peripatetic career in the Royal Air Force was ending. This proved a wonderful opportunity both to meet and make friends with like-minded garden enthusiasts and, at the same time, discover the county's garden gems and local landscapes. No regrets.

Many memories stirred my mind. Looking back, I remember in gratitude the trustees and past chairmen who had the necessary foresight and drive – especially founding chairman and owner of Doddington Hall, the late Vicky Jarvis.

This garden conservation and education charity is still going strong, actively committed to encouraging all ages in the enjoyment and care of the many varied historic gardens, parks, and designed landscapes throughout Lincolnshire. Yet it has taken a pandemic to awaken many more people to the value of our green spaces in all our lives, and the many benefits for health and wellbeing.

You may not know that LGT, with its useful local knowledge, is consulted by the national organisation The Gardens Trust, whenever there are planning concerns affecting historic parks and gardens on Historic England's national Register of Parks and Gardens. Increasingly, advice is also being sought by landowners and district councils to help protect those gardens of note and local interest, including public parks, community sensory or wildflower gardens and community orchards.

Historic England has also consulted LGT for comments and new research in their recent surveys to upgrade those notable parks and gardens of national importance which were missed when the Register of Parks and Gardens was originally introduced in 1983 and revised in the early 1990s. As a result, Aswarby Hall Park, South Ormsby Hall, Norton Place, Petwood Gardens, Uffington Hall, and the latest Greatford Hall, have all been recently designated Grade II. Search the Historic England website <https://historicengland.org.uk/.../registered-parks-and-gardens> to read a detailed summary of their remarkable histories and the reasons behind their national historical, archaeological and aesthetic significance, and therefore considered worth protecting.





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The research group is continuing to record any locally significant gardens, including approximately 60 walled gardens with the aim to publish a county gazetteer. Please let us know if you have a garden of note in your village, town or local area with design features and specimen veteran trees worth recording. The plan is to highlight and share their wonderful stories and changing styles over the centuries, especially those created by celebrated designers: from London and Wise, and 'Capability' Brown with his Lincolnshire-born wife, through to Brenda Colvin and Bunny Guinness!

Thanks to dedicated volunteers over the last 25 years, impressive new garden projects and restorations have been supported, including in schools, allotments, orchards and hospital grounds helped by LGT's Small Grants Scheme. In 2012 LGT supported the creation of the Diamond Grove in Queen Elizabeth Park, Grantham to mark Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee. How shall we mark her Platinum Jubilee next year?

Do join us! Help renew our focus with new ideas and refresh energy levels. Help support our Grants Scheme, ongoing events, talks and garden visits, research and the annual LGT Photography Competition, thanks to the marvellous sponsorship from Lincolnshire

County Council and this magazine, for another 25 years! For competition entry details see www.lincolnshiregardenstrust.org.uk

Try your hand at something new –

You may not know that LGT, with its useful local knowledge, is consulted by the national organisation The Gardens Trust.

and enter this year's photo competition 'Unforgettable Gardens'. Closing date: Friday 29th October. Whether an amateur or a professional photographer, have fun with camera or phone and challenge your children to do the same. There are sure to be some sensational, 'unforgettable' 2021 images for the taking! Winners will see their best photos published in the January 2022 edition of *Lincolnshire Life*. Looking forward to all your wonderful entries! ■

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Steffie Shields will be giving a Zoom talk, 'Dr William Stukeley, the first garden historian?' to SHLA and LGT members on Wednesday 22nd September at 7.30pm

Photographs: Steffie Shields and Lucienne Bennett

9: Lavender Walk at Willowholt garden entrance

10: Flower arrangements decorated each table

11: Lady Sally Bruce-Gardyne
12: Marking the creation of the Lavender Walk

13: Guests were served tea and cake to celebrate 25 years of LGT

14: Trust members at the garden party

15: Garden party host Annetta Turner (centre)

16: Willowholt summerhouse
17: Simon and Annetta Turner welcome LGT members including past chairman Andrew Barber (centre)

18: Wild parsnip and Thalictrum

Events 2022

Postcodes, directions & updates will be on the website: www.lincolnshiregardenstrust.org.uk
All 2022 events are subject to change depending on government restrictions in place at the time. Restrictions may mean arrival has to be in small groups etc.
NB Pre-Booking is essential. You will be contacted personally.

April 2022

SPRING BULBS

Mere House, Stow Road, Sturton by Stow, Lincoln LN1 2BZ

Visit includes tea and homemade cakes.

Members £10; Non Members £12

This visit will be reviewed in November and confirmed as soon as possible. If a visit to this garden is not possible in April an alternative with SPRING BULBS will be considered.

Friday 27th May 2022

LATE SPRING WOODLAND GARDEN

Woodlands, Peppin Lane, Fotherby, Louth LN11 0UW

Access: Fotherby is situated 2 miles north of Louth on the A16 between Louth and Grimsby. Leave the bypass for Fotherby village and Peppin Lane is a no through road running east from the village centre. Woodlands is situated at the far end (second from the last on the right). Please park on the verge in Peppin Lane and walk approx. 350 yards.

Visit includes tea and cakes.

Members £10; Non Members £12

Monday 20th June 2022

NORMANBY HALL – GUIDED TOUR OF GARDENS

Normanby Hall Country Park, Normanby,

North Lincolnshire DN15 9HU

Further details of where to park and where to meet up will be given nearer the time to those who book.

Guided tour and cream tea included. PRE-BOOKING ESSENTIAL

Deadline for booking is 1st June 2022

Members £10; Non Members £12

Possible visit to **GREATFORD HALL**

Details still being decided on July/ August 2022

Saturday 18th September 2022

BURGHLEY HOUSE

Stamford, Lincolnshire PE9 3JY

Walled Garden – guided tour with the Head Gardener.

Provisional date; Details nearer the time as to where to meet

BOOKING ESSENTIAL - NO REFRESHMENTS included with this visit – but plenty of options for you to explore at the property

Members £10; Non Members £12

Saturday 19th November 2022

LGT AGM 2022

Platinum Jubilee Tree planting in Queen Elizabeth Park – late morning. tbc

Details of venue and speaker yet to be confirmed.

Elizabeth Bowskill

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

SUBSCRIPTIONS: Please remember to renew your subscription in January 2022 (or now!).

Members on email will receive their renewal details by email. If you have received a letter and form in this Newsletter, please return it as directed.

Subscription details can be emailed if you prefer especially if you have already have a **STANDING ORDER** set up.

Please check Standing Order amounts are correct and that you do not have two set up in error.

NEW MEMBERS: Please ensure all details are completed in full – and these can be emailed if payment is electronic.

Members of the Council of Management of the Lincolnshire Gardens Trust

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