

Lincolnshire Gardens Trust Newsletter

November 2019

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Chairman's Letter



Trustees are sorry to have to say farewell to a valued colleague. Conservation expert, Dr Beryl Lott is moving south-west to the beautiful Tewkesbury area to be near her daughter and grandchildren. As Historic Environment Manager of Lincolnshire County Council, Beryl has liaised with and supported the conservation of both LGT and Heritage Lincolnshire for over a decade. She encouraged greater sharing of the

Heritage Environment Records (HER) information database. This has helped our research considerably, and enabled better LGT responses to local planning applications affecting historic parks and gardens on the national Register, as also noteworthy local designed landscapes. Since her recent retirement she has she has continued this important conservation work in her capacity as an LGT Trustee. Many grateful thanks, Beryl for all your advice, encouragement, loyal support and friendship over many years. We all wish you and your husband good luck with the move and a happy, active retirement – and perhaps membership of your new local gardens trust!

Our focus of late has been to recruit both new members and new trustees. We would appreciate your help. New trustee Grace Ellis has now taken over the role of Membership Secretary. However, the position of Secretary, vacant for two years, is still available, with the responsibility for arranging meetings, and taking minutes. (Please read about Elizabeth Bowskill's achievements overleaf). Let's give Elizabeth a well-earned break from this job! Besides Beryl Lott's departure, David Would is also intending to step down as Treasurer. Perhaps you might know someone who could help fill these positions? You do not have to be an expert, just someone who supports garden conservation and education within this wonderful county.

Could you spare the time to join us?

We are a very friendly, common sense committee. The modest yet significant aims of the trust are to raise the profile of the county's wealth of designed landscapes for the enjoyment and well-being of all ages. The work is interesting and extremely varied. We share the necessary jobs : admin, research, education, small grants awards and comments on planning applications, in addition to event organisation and necessary publicity through newsletter and website. Trustee meetings are only three times a year. In addition, everyone is asked to support, when they are able, various members' events (usually five garden visits and/or talks a year) plus, of course, the AGM. Please give the matter some serious thought and, if you can advise or help in any way, get in touch.

The Gardens Trust (GT), the national umbrella charity, are offering county gardens trust members a Discount Membership. There are many benefits particularly to those who love reading in-depth articles about

historic gardens and landscapes in the bi-annual edition of the Garden Journal. I do recommend also the Gardens Trust Newsletter which is brim full of news, features and information about study days, conferences and garden visits and holidays. Linden Groves will tell you more on page 5, including about the GT launching a new inspirational, theme 'Unforgettable Gardens' across the country next year.

2020 also marks the 25th Anniversary of the founding of Lincolnshire Gardens Trust.

So we are delighted, thanks to garden owners Alice and Nigel Gray, that LGT's first celebratory Spring event will be to their late 20C garden just outside Stow in West Lindsey. It was created by an 'unforgettable' founder member of LGT, the late Jenny Gray, and her husband Gordon, with advice from Louth-based landscape architect Ian Stubbs. Elizabeth has organised this and a stimulating and varied programme of 2020 events – so renew your membership and book early so as not to be disappointed. I look forward to seeing you in a garden somewhere in Lincolnshire!

Steffie Shields



Peg Sculpture by Nigel Sardeson, Queen Elizabeth Park, see page 10

To join go to www.lincolnshiregardenstrust.org.uk then click on Membership and then the link to the Membership Form

Well done Elizabeth!

Warm congratulations are due to Elizabeth Bowskill, LGT's Events Organiser and Acting Secretary. LGT Members will not be surprised that Elizabeth featured amongst those nominated for the '2019 Gilly Drummond Volunteer of the Year' Award. At the recent GT AGM in September in Oxford, Juliet Wilmott, Wiltshire GT and Judith Christie, Cambridgeshire GT, were announced as joint winners of this annual award for outstanding contributions to their respective trusts over a long period. Juliet was selected for her remarkable education and schools' initiatives and Judith for her important role in nurturing and guiding her trust.

Ask a busy person is the motto if you want to get anything done. Elizabeth, secretary of Wyndham Park Forum (WPF) since 2005, remains diligent in researching and recording the park's history, organising its website, a tree survey, regular events and communicating with local press, while also supporting the Grantham 'River Care' community group. WPF projects have included a new infant play park (2007), and raising £50, 000 towards a successful new Sensory Garden (2010). This gave the park much-needed uplift and helped considerably towards its first Green Flag award (2012), the first of seven subsequent annual Green Flags awards. Elizabeth assisted South Kesteven DC's application for grants, liaising closely with the project officer, and in writing legacy reports, resulting in a substantial £800,000 Heritage Lottery Fund award towards the park and a new visitor centre. The transformation of Wyndham Park WWI Memorial Park has regenerated many more cultural town activities, including the Gravity Fields Festival.

Fortunately, in 2009 Elizabeth also opted to join the LGT committee! She soon took over running events, a role that two trustees had tackled together over previous years! Over and above the considerable administration involved in researching gardens to visit, contacting owners and venues, publicising and organising events, tickets etc, she supported LGT's 'Diamond Grove' project in Grantham to celebrate the Queen Elizabeth II's Diamond Jubilee (2012) in an area of Queen Elizabeth Country Park (Grantham local country park named for the Queen Mother). The design, incorporating sixty silver birch trees, underplanted with snowdrops, with local schoolchildren helping in the planting, with an 'Elizabeth' oak (for HM The Queen) in the centre of the grove. Recently Elizabeth and John Knowles, WPF Chairman, have also set up a 'Friends of Queen Elizabeth Park' FQEP (2017). So yes, yet another hat! Elizabeth is also FQEP Secretary working closely with the Wildlife Trust besides Rivercare. Elizabeth's cheerful, loyal and hard-working cheerful volunteering has helped to bring Wyndham Park to national attention and recognition with two recent (2019) Horticulture Week awards, highly commended in Best Park Restoration and one short-listed for Best Heritage Park, all this while quietly and effectively carrying on with her LGT commitments. She has continued to apply the same dedication to LGT keeping members abreast of all these projects and keep us on our toes despite having so many balls in the air! Throughout these last busy years for LGT, including supporting the Capability Brown Tercentenary Festival, WWI centenary events and the Repton Bicentenary.

Well done Elizabeth.



Elizabeth Bowskill

LGT Schools & Education Member, Judges Schools for RHS Competition: East Midlands in Bloom

Education and gardens go hand in hand, there is so much emphasis currently on the well-being of children and the influence being in the outdoors has, that I was delighted to be asked again to be an RHS judge for East Midlands in Bloom. As a team we were treated in July 2019 to view an array of fantastic gardens in schools across the East Midlands. There were 13 entries for the Best School Garden, a mixture of new and return entries all with different levels of gardening expertise but all the children who participated had great fun telling us all about their hard work. To inspire these young people now will ensure that gardening and its associated benefits, careers, enjoyment, future of green spaces is in safe hands. It is a valuable experience for all schools whatever their speciality and age range and provides them with the recognition, encouragement and advice to keep on growing!

As well as the Best School Garden overall there were several supplementary awards: Best Fruit and Veg, Best Wildlife and Best Ornamental. For Lincolnshire Holbeach Primary Academy walked away with 'Best Ornamental' garden and it was richly deserved as they helped Holbeach in Bloom gain 'GOLD!' At the Awards Ceremony in Chesterfield, all the schools that



entered were given recognition for their green-fingered endeavours.

My message to all of our Garden Trust members who may be part any Bloom groups do tell your local schools, primary or secondary, who do work in their garden tell them about this celebration – who knows they too may receive an accolade for their efforts from the RHS in 2020.

Also as we know we are celebrating the work of Sir Joseph Banks in 2020 so another

important part of my role for the Lincolnshire Gardens Trust currently is to look out and link any events and other local groups to involve children across Lincolnshire. The history of gardens and the people involved is an important part of any child's education. Groups, including the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust and the Sir Joseph Banks Society, are planning botany workshops for schools and they have asked me for some guidance. I will keep you posted!

Emma Schofield





International Bomber Command Centre Peace Gardens

You may recall the decision at the 2018 LGT AGM to support the new significant designed landscape initiative, the foundation of 'The Spire Memorial' and Peace Gardens. Thanks to LGT member Chris Barlow, the tree donation to improve the approach has been organized with the IBCC management. LGT are donating 20 beech container-grown trees sourced and planted (4 November 2019) by Aveland Trees, Dunsby along the east boundary of the site, next to the Canwick Hill road at approx. 6 metre intervals, in keeping with the spacing of the nearby fence panel. An appropriate stone plaque will also be arranged. Many thanks are due for the donations received from LGT members to date to order and plant this stand of beech trees – about half the amount required. However, there is still time to be part of this special gesture of support for such a worthwhile and memorable addition to the county's iconic landscapes. If you would like to join in, or if you would like to remember someone special to you who was connected with Bomber Command, and have not yet sent in your donation, please send by cheque addressed to Lincolnshire Gardens Trust by post to Mrs E A Bowskill, 3 Sandcliffe Road, Grantham, NG31 8DT or through your bank or online by BACS transfer: Lincolnshire Gardens Trust Ltd; Yorkshire bank PLC; Bank Sort Code: 05-05-63 Account No. 43221180



LGT Small Grants 2019

A £300 LGT Small Grant was awarded to Tydd St Mary Primary School towards raised beds for their Garden Renovation Project to help restore, develop and enhance grounds. These will be used in the curriculum to encourage passion in pupils to learn more about nature's flora and fauna, plants and trees besides improving their well-being, social and gardening skills. The same amount was awarded Lincolnshire Community and Voluntary Services (LCVS) scheme for the creation of a wildflower garden to bring eye-catching colour and texture to a corner of Central Park, Boston, especially with plans to involve the help of the local community including children. This covered the expenses of the children's and adult gloves (36 pairs) gardening gloves (40 pairs) respectively and gardening tools.

South Lincolnshire Blind Society (SLBS), based in Grantham, applied for an LGT Small Grant to help towards a recent initiative to develop an

allotment for SLBS members. A major provider of services for blind and partially-sighted people, and their carers, living in the Districts of North Kesteven, South Kesteven, Boston Borough and South Holland, SLBS also provides services to Professionals who wish to improve their support to visually impaired people in the community and comply with the Equality Act 20.

Last August, Mike and I attended an Open Day and met Malcolm Swinburn, recently retired as chairman, the driving-force. 'Our aim is to work with blind and partially sighted people, to provide services so that they may lead fuller, more independent lives'. These last three years, they have successfully developed an allotment into an impressive garden with three polytunnels, a 'community' wooden chalet funded by Rotary and an orchard besides flowerbeds, vegetable areas and a small pond. Every corner of the triangular 2/3 acre site owned by the Buckminster Estate in one corner of Grantham's Huntingtower Allotments was well-used and truly inspirational, with streamers, dangling from the fruit trees laden with cherries, plums, apples and pears. The garden was buzzing with members and their friends and supporters enjoying myriad blooms and sunflowers, wildflowers and huge variety of vegetables. They were delighted with the LGT Small Grant which paid for a useful tipping wheelbarrow and raised beds.

Steffie Shields



South Lincs Blind Society Small Grants Award



South Lincs Blind Society Open Day

THE GARDENS TRUST

'Unforgettable Gardens'

The Gardens Trust is working to a theme of 'Unforgettable Gardens' in 2020-22. We have been delighted by the success of our involvement in the Capability Brown Festival in 2016 and Celebrating Repton in 2018.

This was made possible by the extraordinary commitment of the County Gardens Trusts, sometimes in challenging circumstances, for which we simply cannot thank you enough.

This title is intentionally open to interpretation, but its message is that the historic parks and gardens we have all come to love are under threat of being lost, but that groups such as the Gardens Trust and County Garden Trusts are working to prevent this, and other people can help too.

We are excited by the potential to highlight research, the importance of recording sites, conservation work, threats to historic parks and gardens, and the vital role of volunteers. Unforgettable Gardens can range from those lost but still remembered, those simply too brilliant to ever be forgotten, and those under threat that must not be forgotten. The hope is to convert some of those who currently simply enjoy visiting gardens to become new volunteers, supporters and members.

I am delighted that we are already working closely with the RHS Lindley Library to collaborate on Unforgettable Gardens, and will also be writing to other organisations, suggesting that they might like to join in too. We hope to apply to the National Lottery Heritage Fund for a complementary project to help ensure that 'Unforgettable Gardens' can reach new audiences and volunteers, most probably particularly through research and recording-based training.



Historic Parks and Gardens:

A Shared Enjoyment

There is nothing better than time spent with friends in a garden, or park, in fresh air, with thriving plants, beautiful designs, and perhaps an architectural whimsy or two. That parks and gardens have survived for so many hundreds of years is no happy accident though, but rather thanks to hardworking charities such as your county's local Gardens Trust, and the national Gardens Trust, for which I work, which was formed in 2015 from a merger between the Association of Gardens Trusts and the Garden History Society.

Not everyone realises that there is actually a local Gardens Trust for each county of England, as well the Welsh Historic Parks and Gardens Trust and a group for Scotland called Scotland's



Admiring Kenwood, London, through a framed view, as part of our Lottery-funded Sharing Repton: Historic Landscapes for All project, working with the Refugee Women's Association, Barnet Refugee Service, and Hopscotch Asian Women's Centre in Camden.

Garden and Landscape Heritage. Extraordinary groups such as yours are not just having fun but actually have a critical role in keeping local historic parks and gardens alive. To make sure that your committees and volunteers have all power to their elbow to fulfil this role, the national Gardens Trust invests heavily in supporting them, particularly with a capacity-building programme that organises networking and training opportunities to keep your group thriving.

Of course, the counties are all independent, but we believe passionately that by bringing everyone together with one voice, we make sure that proper attention is given to shared issues close to all our hearts, from the survival of public parks, to recognition for undiscovered 20th century landscapes, to a bicentenary celebration for Humphry Repton, to making sure that historic parks and gardens can be enjoyed by people from all across our diverse society. Knowledge and understanding is of course key if our fight to protect historic parks and gardens is to be successful, and we are proud to be working for this as the worldwide leader in the academic study of garden history, publishing the peer-reviewed journal Garden History, a regular newsletter, a blog and a wide range of leaflets and specialist publications.

You probably already know that your local county Gardens Trust works hard to protect the historic parks and gardens that you love by offering conservation advice and commenting on planning applications that may have a detrimental effect, but did you know that this work carries particular weight mainly because of the national Gardens Trust's position as the statutory consultee for registered parks and gardens? Just in the way that buildings can be listed, historic parks and gardens can be 'Registered' grade I, II*, II in England. The Gardens Trust is required to be consulted on planning applications affecting registered parks and gardens and this brings us over 1500 consultations each year. As part of addressing this, our dedicated conservation officers work closely to support volunteers in county Gardens Trusts like yours to make sure that the landscapes in your county are kept safe for future generations to enjoy.

And our most recent adventure? We are so proud to be working with Lottery funding

to learn how to reach new audiences – more people and from different backgrounds – so we can better share our enthusiasm. The Sharing Repton: Historic Landscapes for All project has enabled us to pilot a range of inclusive activities, from family excursions to entry-level workshops to multicultural open days and mini-research projects.

Our work is highly regarded and so we are fortunate to have been successful in achieving grants from Historic England to help with our conservation and volunteer support, and from the National Lottery Heritage Fund to share historic parks and gardens with communities as diverse as refugee groups and primary school children. However, for all our punching above our weight, we cannot survive without the financial support of our membership nor could we receive the grants we receive without significant non-grant income. Historic England grants require that we have a high percentage of other income. Individual membership income, which is our largest source of other non-grant income, is accordingly essential if we are to continue to obtain these grants and to support our core activities, including our working with and supporting County Gardens Trusts. Hence, a large and healthy individual Gardens Trust membership is essential to the survival of the Gardens Trust into the future. Survival of the Gardens Trust ensures our important national role in conservation, research, education and campaigning as well as our mutually beneficial relationship with County Gardens Trusts, involving all these activities and in particular joint efforts regarding conservation and planning, training and networking. We unite all of us interested in historic parks and gardens, so that we can speak more powerfully together than with our local voices alone.

We urgently need your help so please consider joining and supporting us, at <http://thegardenstrust.org/support-us/> We are delighted that there is now a special discounted rate of £25 for County Gardens Trust members joining the Gardens Trust (reduced from £35 single and £43 joint). We look forward to welcoming you soon!

And follow us on Twitter @thegardenstrust!

*Linden Groves,
Strategic Development Officer,
The Gardens Trust*



Breaking new ground

STEFFIE SHIELDS talks to Nikki Applewhite, co-founder of G.R.O.W. a new charity to improve hospital grounds and make a difference for Lincolnshire patients.

IN DECEMBER 2017, Emmy Shelton, working for garden designer Nikki Applewhite, came across a Twitter feed asking for local businesses to 'adopt a garden' at Grantham Hospital. As the New Year dawned, the local press spread the word. Despite ongoing administrative, budget and staffing problems facing the United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust (UHLT), volunteers were being sought to take over neglected outdoor areas around Grantham Hospital. It sounded positively worthwhile.

Nikki and Emmy are equally passionate about gardens. Intrigued, they attended an initial meeting in February 2018, to discuss the project, together with representatives of various interested organisations, including Lincolnshire Gardens Trust (LGT) and 'Mens

Shed' Grantham, (the latter based in Dysart Park, and currently engaged in crafting bird boxes for the park.) LGT trustees supported the attractive project in principle. 'Creating a garden' would stimulate local interest. However, more than volunteer amateur gardeners' enthusiasm and donated plants etc, such a scheme would need leadership, a cohesive design, professional skill and real commitment for future maintenance. Necessary funding would be considerable.

As it happened, Nikki was facing a personal health challenge. Coincidentally, she was attending Grantham Hospital regularly to undergo radiotherapy for breast cancer. Though fulsome in praise for the doctors and nurses, her professional eye had not failed to notice the depressing state of the grounds.

1: Rosa 'The Generous Gardener' on rope swag
2: Emmy Shelton
3: Nikki Applewhite happy to see hard landscaping
4: An unusual Magnolia wilsonii in Nikki's garden



Concentrating on resolving her hospital's environmental problem might give her another focus, to see her through treatment and, she hoped, perhaps even contribute to her own healing.

By March, a second UHLT meeting assured Nikki that legislation could be sorted, and an area outside Ward 6 was chosen for the first garden development. After a site survey in April, by May, she had produced a concept plan for the garden. Wide paths suitable for wheelchairs would also enable access for bed-ridden patients to be wheeled out into fresh air and sunshine, while the garden's year-round interest would both attract wildlife and engage children.

Nikki admits to naivety. Having drawn up a practical design, she thought she could simply employ a contractor and hey presto, job done! Life is never that straightforward. With budgets so stretched that even grass mowing proves a problem, the NHS has other priorities: protocols and, understandably, health and safety. Nevertheless, considering the positive feedback, the Applewhite team wanted to roll out their concept across all Lincolnshire hospitals. They began fund-raising. Then, in August 2018, the UHLT staff member responsible for the initiative, Sharon Hurrell was promoted and moved. With communication broken down, progress came to a grinding halt.

I have had the pleasure of knowing Nikki for a long time. I marvelled at her brave determination. She reminded me that her maiden name is 'Grantham' with the confession: "I did this project out of being totally frustrated and annoyed, more than anything!" Undaunted, she went to the top. The UHLT chief executive promised to clear up any outstanding legal and health and safety

issues. By October, legislation was almost in place. In November, she was delighted to meet Tracey Pemberton, the nurse in charge of Ward 6, specialising in stroke rehabilitation and respiratory patients. Tracey suggested putting patio doors for the ward to open directly onto the garden.

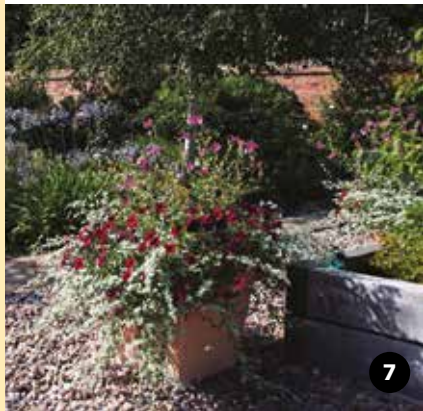
Applewhite Garden Design is a small company compared to the big machine of the NHS. In view of the encouraging support from the community, setting up a charity seemed the only way forward to facilitate the work. With little idea how to do this, besides copious form-filling, Nikki set about raising the substantial sums required. Other Olympian high hoops to jump included the Charity Commission's insistence on an initial £5,000 in the bank, and a minimum legal obligation for at least four trustees to push progress. In December 2018, G.R.O.W. was founded with a clear philosophy: Gardens Restore Our Wellbeing. By January 2019, less than a year since leaping in with both hands, they launched the new charity publicly complete with logo and website. Twitter, Facebook, and LinkedIn pages appeared, as if by magic, all linked to the essential G.R.O.W. page on Justgiving.com.

Grantham Journal gave helpful publicity. The League of Friends of Grantham Hospital donated "a huge amount of money: £9,500" to cover the cost of hard landscaping, plus a bench in memory of nurse Jean Savile. Nikki is staggered at the generosity of the townspeople who care about their hospital. By opening her own garden, together with a silent auction and a fun quiz night hosted by the Brownlow Arms at Hough on the Hill, Nikki and Emmy have raised a remarkable £16,000 thus far, giving many residents renewed hope for their hospital.

GARDENING



5: Nikki Applewhite's garden
6: New hospital grounds outside Ward 6, Grantham
7: Nikki's varied planting
8: Gardens restore our wellbeing



In July 2019, one of the first jobs in post for ULHT's new chief executive officer, Andrew Morgan, was to secure the licence for G.R.O.W to build gardens at Grantham Hospital, and ensure their work could begin. By August, as my photos reveal, despite the searing heat followed by torrential rain, the hard landscaping was in place. This month's cooler temperatures should allow appropriate planting. Considering the miracles Nikki has worked on her new Beckingham home turf in less than three years, watch this space. Naturally Sharon Hurrell is delighted. Nikki's biggest 'buzz' has been an ecstatic Tracey Pemberton coming towards her, arms outstretched, exclaiming: "I cannot believe that this has happened. This will make so much difference to my patients."

Remember how those caring folks successfully nursed thousands of WWI and WWII wounded troops? Have we forgotten those landowners who converted great houses with gardens into sanatoriums? Everyone

then witnessed how gardens can reduce stress and lift mood for patients and loved ones alike, just as those who continue to support today's hospice movement. Simply being in a garden gently aids the immune system to function through fragrance, beauty, birdsong, insect-humming and touch. Medical scientists have now clinically proven a phenomenon of nature: greenery and flowers contribute to stress reduction, lower blood pressure and pulse rate, and help recovery from operations. Once a patient can relax, the healing process can resume – from hospital through horticulture to healing and home.

Our surroundings matter. Some years ago, when researching the origins of Wyndham WWI Memorial Park, I was surprised to discover that, in the 1920s, the town was known as 'Grantham Garden Town'. Let this be the case again! Nikki and Emmy have already surveyed the Outpatients courtyard. G.R.O.W. with the simple mantra 'Gardens Restore Our Wellbeing', aim to banish depressing grounds by helping to improve Grantham Hospital. Next they hope to provide opportunities for patients, visitors and staff to socialise, exercise and rehabilitate in a natural, healthy and tranquil environment in all the county's hospitals.

Reader – you too can make a measurable difference in the lives of others. Go online now – www.growcharity.co.uk – for an artist's impression of Grantham's Ward 6 Garden. Then click through to Justgiving.com to send your donation. Tell your families and friends to support this extra-special, local, pro-active gardening charity. Together let's celebrate and enable these two big-hearted, energetic women to turn their ambitious vision into reality. ■

Events 2020

Postcodes, directions & updates will be on the website: www.lincolnshiregardenstrust.org.uk

Tuesday 6th April 2.00pm

SPRING BULBS

Mere House, Stow Road, Sturton by Stow, Lincoln LN1 2BZ
DIRECTIONS: 1 mile from centre of Sturton village heading to Stow, house on Left. NB: Postcode will not bring you far enough out of Sturton village. Approx 1½ acres of established garden planted for the first time in 1975, redesigned in 1996. Renovated over the last 5yrs to incl new beds with drift planting but still incl the formal parterre. Spring bulbs and late summer colour are highlights. There is also a cutting garden, pleached hedges, vegetable garden and orchard. Work in progress incl a new garden project and long herbaceous border. Visit includes Tea and homemade cakes.
Members £10; Non Members £12

Tuesday 2nd June

LGT GOES TO THE SEASIDE

A morning visit to Mablethorpe Queen's Park **: gather 11.30am to wander round park: lunch independently (picnic or otherwise) then head for Marigold Cottage Sutton on Sea for a 2.00pm start (5 min drive). Marigold Cottage, Hotchin Road, Sutton-on-Sea, Lincolnshire LN12 2NP
DIRECTIONS: Turn off A52 on High St at Cornerhouse Cafe. Follow road past playing field on R. Road turns away from the dunes. House 2nd on L.
Members £10; Non Members £12
which includes homemade tea and cakes
There may be Parking charges in Mablethorpe.
** This is the address for the Park car park
24 The Blvd, Mablethorpe LN12 2AD

Wednesday 1st July

BRIGHTWATER GARDENS

Saxby, Market Rasen, Lincoln LN8 2DQ
Owner Chris Neave says: "Wildflower meadows are very topical at the moment and it is 10 years since we started creating our wildflower meadows here at Brightwater Gardens and Burial meadow. We started with fertile areas of ground and strong growing grasses however by haymaking and the addition of yellow rattle we are now well on the way to the creating some pretty good meadow areas."
The Church will also be open and Steffie Shields will say a few words about the Capability Brown connection
Members £10; Non Members £12

Why not attend the Gardens Trust National Conference next year?

Every year the National Body, The Gardens Trust, holds a national conference. This year it was in Oxford and next year it is in North Yorkshire. The format - up to three days - ensures that attendees can listen to a range of talks and lectures, take part in garden visits, socialise with gardens enthusiasts from all round the country. For me the highlight of this year's conference was the very witty after-dinner speech given

by Professor Robin Lane-Fox. Ostensibly the talk was about the creation of New College's 'Mound' (look it up!), but the real fun was in Lane - Fox's professional rivalry with other garden historians - and indeed with the fellows of his own and other colleges. It was just like finding yourself in a Tom Sharpe novel for a glorious half hour.

Heather Slater

Thursday 17th September

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF LGT – WITH SOMETHING A LITTLE DIFFERENT

Places are limited to 12.
Two sessions have been provisionally booked
Morning 10.00am (to 1.00pm)
Afternoon 3.00pm (to 6.00pm)
3 hour visit: tour, wine-tasting and Lincolnshire platter plus 10% discount on Lincolnshire wines
BOOKING ESSENTIAL: we will divide up into morning and afternoon once we get at least 12 people booked on. If you are wanting to visit with friends please indicate who that is with so I do not divide your party up.
Ovens Farm Vineyard,
Brinkhill Road, Harrington, Louth Lincolnshire LN11 8RD



Notice of death:

LGT members will be very sad to hear of the unexpected death of Nic Lance.

Nic had extensive cultural interests and he and his partner, Laraine Cooper have been enthusiastic and discerning supporters of LGT events.

He will be missed.

Queen Elizabeth Park Grantham Improved by Volunteer Group

Queen Elizabeth Park in Grantham is about 23 acres of Country Park – one of three very different parks within Grantham that are connected by the River Witham. It is the most northerly of the three parks and stretches from Harrowby Mill in the north to Belton Lane at the south, with just over half a mile of riverside walk to wander along.

This is the boundary on the east of the park and the west backs onto the large gardens of the properties on the main road (A607) into Grantham. It is a small oasis of green calm away from the traffic noise and bustle of the town. A favourite with dog walkers, joggers and cyclist (the Sustran’s route 15 runs along the riverside path), there are many little pockets of different habitats to explore. The area was once grazing land, in private ownership and is situated on the boundary between two parishes. The park is part of the River Witham flood plain – the water table in some areas of the park being quite high. The fields are therefore divided up with hedges many of which are of some age, and it means there are small pockets of space which can be identified as separate areas and which will be developed to enhance the natural ecological assets of this park.

There are extensive woodland areas: a fishing lake, a small playground with a zip line, a commemorative Diamond Grove (planted to celebrate HM Diamond Jubilee in 2012) and a vast expanse of open space. The park is a relatively recent creation to mark an earlier Royal milestone in 1980 when Queen Elizabeth the

Queen Mother celebrated her 80th birthday. To mark the occasion 80 trees were planted by school children - and most of them have survived the last 40 years.

The fishing pond and a Conservation Area including a pond were put in a few years later, and whilst the fishing pond has been managed by the Grantham Angling Association and is regularly used the Conservation Area has been sadly neglected; it is overgrown and just a wild tangle of brambles and dominant and invasive plants.

The Friends of Queen Elizabeth Park (FQEP) is a group of volunteers which was set up in 2018 to play an active part in the operation of Queen Elizabeth Park. Following on from the success that the Wyndham Park Forum has had over the last 15 years it was decided that a “friends of” group would enable different funding pots of money to be accessed and the power of volunteers would drive forward improvement projects. The FQEP works closely with South Kesteven District Council to conserve and enhance what is already a delightful informal park enjoyed by many people.

In January 2019 an application was made to the Government’s Pocket Parks Plus programme, resulting in grants of more than £21,000 from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, plus almost £9,000 match funding from South Kesteven District Council.

The grant will help develop a wildflower meadow; pay for new litter bins and seating;

welcoming and interpretation signs; an information board at the main park entrance; the development of a nature trail; new fishing platforms for the park fish pond; ecological studies; wheelchair-friendly picnic tables; and help to attract new volunteers.

Indeed some of the work has already been completed as the bins, benches and picnic table have been installed. A new small car park has been built at the Belton Lane entrance (with some internal SKDC funding enabling that work) and this will provide some much needed space for park users but will have limited opening hours to avoid too many town workers using it for free parking.

Another recent addition which made the regional television news was the installation of a giant PEG – 5m tall nipping a mound of green turf – another piece of sculpture by local Lincolnshire wood carver, Nigel Sardeson. This is not an original design but was commissioned by Councillor Nick Robins and has taken its place in an area close to the park entrance, so it is visible from the road and hopefully will draw people into the park. It is hoped that this will be the start of a Sculpture Trail which will wend its way through the different areas in the park. And before you ask – there is no significance to the fact that it is a PEG –although that hasn’t stopped various people from submitting their own theories on social media.

Work on the Wildflower meadows has also started. Over the course of the last year several areas have been left to grow without being cut,

partly to enable important ecological surveys to be completed in order to assess what is naturally growing in Queen Elizabeth Park. It resulted in three areas being identified as possible areas to leave “wild”, as well as more work needed on the previously assigned “Conservation Area”. One area had very few wildflowers in it but a significant variety of grasses so will be left as a grass meadow. In the field where we previously planted the Diamond Grove there is an area identified as being suitable to sow a wildflower seed mix, which will be undertaken by volunteers later this autumn. There is an area of ridge and furrow – no information on the significance of this as yet – but the ecological surveys identified this area as a potential site for planting small plug plants of wildflowers grown from seed. This is part of a project under the supervision of the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust (a major partner in the FQEP Pocket Parks Project). Seed has been collected by the LWT from sites around the county and propagated by volunteers and nurtured by Riseholme College in their greenhouses.

Project to enhance the River Witham Corridor

In addition to all this planned work by the FQEP volunteers there is another wider project just starting designed to enhance the River Witham corridor – a joint project between the Environment Agency, Sounth Kestenen District Council, North Kestenen District Council with a European Funding stream. The key element within Queen Elizabeth Park is to create a wetland area at the northerly end of the park, with a permanent wet area (the bank breached and a channel out and back into the river),



create some pools of water with capacity to flood in times of heavy rain, as well as riverside tree work to enhance the habitat long the length of the river. Whilst this is not a project the FQEP have any direct input into, they are representatives of the local community and will be consulted as part of the decision process once plans are finalised.

There will be a wide variety of opportunities for volunteers to get involved. There are plans to build on the current Bat surveys by starting the monitoring of other species within the park and once the wildlife meadow has been developed there will be further opportunities to learn the art of scything and ongoing maintenance of the wildflower meadow.

Project leaders are keen to involve and develop partnerships with a range of agencies and local organisations including the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust, the Environment Agency and Lincolnshire Rivers Trust (on river projects) as well as RiverCare, Rotary, Grantham College, Civic Society, local schools and various community groups. They hope to set up an online link to record wildlife spotted within Queen Elizabeth Park, including photos and committee members are working on improving their website and developing the social media side of things. Their ultimate aim will be to achieve Green Flag status.

Elizabeth Bowskill



Meet the LGT Team: New Membership Secretary, Grace Ellis

Grace recently became a committee member and trustee of LGT, as well as its membership secretary.

Grace was born and raised in a farming family in the Wolds' village of Tealby. As a child she was encouraged to enjoy gardening and wildlife and explore all things historical and architectural.

She spent 15 years in the health service as a nurse and health visitor in Liverpool, London, Oxford and finally Edinburgh where she married her husband Richard and brought up 2 children. She did a degree in history at Edinburgh University as a mature student and subsequently developed her interest in the built environment through the Architectural Heritage Society and other organisations.

In 1989 she first encountered the then Garden History Society and became a member of the GHS group in Scotland, serving for 7 years on their committee. After over 40 years living north of the border she and her husband returned to her native Lincolnshire – she now lives in the centre of Lincoln.

Though she has an interest in all aspects of garden history, her particular passion is for the social history of gardens and gardeners – especially head gardeners. She is also interested in walled kitchen gardens and heritage fruits – particularly those discovered or developed in Lincolnshire.

She originally met our Chairman Steffie Shields at the successful 2005 AGM of the

Grace pictured in front of
Newton's Apple Tree at Woolsthorpe Manor



Garden History Society in Lincoln and has followed Steffie's significant contributions to the cause of garden history, locally and nationally.

Grace is looking forward to learning more about the history and preservation of Lincolnshire parks and gardens but also about new developments and projects. She thinks that an important role of organisations such as the LGT is enthusing young people about gardens and parks and the environment in general.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

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