

Lincolnshire Gardens Trust Newsletter

March 2018

Registered Charity Number: 1050884

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► *Chairman's Letter*

A Spring welcome has seemed a long time coming this year! Here's another bumper newsletter, Gardens Trust events in-county and elsewhere, together with some superb LGT 2017 photo competition winners and ideas for further garden explorations.

This year's AGM will be at the International Bomber Command Peace Gardens, to include a guided tour by Shona Hatton, the landscape architect responsible for Lincolnshire's newest designed landscape and to mark the 100th Anniversary of the Royal Air Force. Our guest speaker, Karen Lynch, is a leading light and researcher of Yorkshire Gardens Trust.

Those of you who attended Professor Stephen Daniels' excellent AGM lecture on Humphry Repton will, I hope, be suitably inspired to celebrate Mr R's 2018 Bicentenary at Scrivelsby Court, with the kind permission of Mrs Susan Dymoke and Francis Dymoke DL. I look forward to seeing everyone there, with information about another Red Book that has only just come to light here in the county!

Once you have perused all the news at your leisure, be sure to mark up your diaries with the relevant LGT dates, thanks to Elizabeth Bowskill, who is happy to take bookings. Then do please pass the newsletter on to any friend, colleague or acquaintance who might be interested to support garden conservation and education in the county by joining the Trust – and perhaps helping with research.

Steffie Shields

The Spire -
Bomber
Command
Memorial



Meet your Council Members: Louise Jennings

Louise is Historic Environment Officer and is part of the Historic Environment Team which is in the Growth and Economy Directorate at Lincolnshire County Council.

Louise was born in Cleethorpes, on the Lincolnshire coast, and through spending her childhood visiting castles, stately homes and other archaeological sites she developed an interest in all things historic. After studying archaeology at Bournemouth and Liverpool universities she returned to Lincolnshire and took up a post with the Historic Environment Team at Lincolnshire County Council, where she has remained for the last seventeen years.

At Lincolnshire County Council she provides archaeological advice to local planning

authorities and national bodies, concerning the impact development has on the historic environment. She takes a particular interest in buildings archaeology, especially buildings such as pubs, petrol stations, pre-fabricated buildings and pill boxes – all historically important, but frequently overlooked and increasingly rare.

In recent years she has enjoyed becoming involved in projects dealing with designed landscapes and gardens.

In her spare time she enjoys travelling with her partner in her vintage caravan and making quilts. She finds inspiration for her quilts in the landscapes and gardens she encounters on her travels both in and outside of Lincolnshire.



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

Prime minister launches scheme to make school grounds greener, saying all children should experience nature first-hand

Good news about outdoors and children's well-being

As you have heard from me before, the benefits of children getting outdoors beyond the classroom is such an important part of their daily lives. To engage with and learn about the natural environment is a key life skill and an important part of children's learning, whether it be in their school grounds or visiting parks/ gardens or woodlands.

I am pleased to let you know that there has been an announcement by the Government of a 25 year environment plan, including a £10 million investment into the Nature Friendly Schools Programme, which will target children in the most disadvantaged areas. The Prime Minister outlined a pledge to get more children, particularly inner-city school children into green places. She also promised to double the number of children visiting National Parks on school trips as part of this strategy – great news!!

I am delighted to hear that there is a genuine commitment to encourage children to be closer to nature - being outside can have such a huge impact on the well-being, learning and development of every child.

Gardening can affect the soul, as well as the heart and body!

In this electronic age, children need time for meaningful family or school team connection. Time in the garden allows for team building and promotes communication skills. Planning a garden, planting the seeds and watching them grow gives every child a sense of purpose and responsibility. Making sure that the plants get enough fertilizer, water and sun fosters mindfulness. The concepts learned whilst gardening, like composting food scraps for fertilizer or using gathered rainwater, can show children a deep respect and responsibility for taking care of our planet.

Furthermore, studies show that when children have contact with soil during activities

like digging and planting, they have improved moods, better learning experiences and decreased anxiety. Most importantly, the thrill and growth of self-esteem a child gets from eating a perfect cucumber that they grew themselves is priceless! I speak from my own experience when children have grown things in our school allotments at Boston West and with my own daughter at home!

So, as we enter Spring, I am currently preparing my own veg plot and flowering seeds ready to plant and a plan for school too. This year I have a new garden helper, Mike my recently retired husband and ex-head teacher, who is willing to learn some new skills and hopefully gain the benefit that I know being outdoors will bring to his well-being, as well as the yummy crops we will enjoy after his labours! So no matter of age getting outdoors is great for everyone so get out and enjoy your own outdoor adventure this Spring!

Emma Schofield



Events 2018

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

Saturday March 24th
HUMPHRY REPTON (d.24 March 1818)
ANNIVERSARY WALK AT SCRIVELSBY COURT
and view one of his earliest Red Books
2pm Guided walk around the private gardens at Scrivelsby Court (by Steffie Shields) Followed by tea and cakes.
Further opportunity for those who can manage it to walk over to the Walled Gardens and the Church (approximately an additional mile round trip walking). If you wish to sit and have a picnic in the deer park then you are most welcome to do so from 1pm onwards. Car parking will be on the edge of the driveway.
Entrance under the Lion Gateway over a narrow cattle grid, then bear right slightly and follow the drive round – park on the verges.
At 2pm entrance to the garden will be via a small metal gate to the right of the second cattle grid.
Visit by kind permission of Susan Dymoke, and family.
Scrivelsby Court, Horncastle, Lincs LN9 6JA
The postcode for the Walled garden immediately opposite the Lion Gate is LN9 6JL
Members £10; Non Members £12

Wednesday April 18th
CHERRY BLOSSOM VISIT – ASHFIELD HOUSE
Lincoln Road, Branston, Lincoln, LN4 1NS
2pm visit with tea and cakes afterwards.
Ashfield House is a 10 acre garden with sweeping lawns constructed around a planting of trees and shrubs. The main feature in the spring is the collection of some 110 flowering cherries of 40 different varieties along with massed plantings of spring flowering bulbs.
3 miles south of Lincoln on B1188. From Branston off B1188 Lincoln Road on left. 1 mile from Branston Hall Hotel signed Ashfield Farms.
Members £10; Non Members £12

Please cut out and keep as a reminder of the dates throughout the year

Lincolnshire Gardens Trust Events 2018 Booking Form (Insert number of places next to amount)

ANNIVERSARY WALK AT SCRIVELSBY Saturday March 24th
Name (s) _____
_____ x £10 LGT Members _____ x £12 Non Members

CHERRY BLOSSOM VISIT Wednesday April 18th
Name (s) _____
_____ x £10 LGT Members _____ x £12 Non Members

SOUTH ORMSBY HALL Thursday June 21st
Name (s) _____
_____ x £10 LGT Members _____ x £12 Non Members

GRANTHAM HOUSE & WYNDHAM PARK Thursday September 6th
Name (s) _____
_____ x £10 LGT Members _____ x £12 Non Members

Thursday June 21st
SOUTH ORMSBY HALL LN11 8QS
Meet at 2pm for guided tour around gardens (a work in progress) and walk to the Rectory.
Park in the courtyard behind house and this is the place to meet at 2pm for the start of the guided walk.
If you wish to picnic from 1pm we have been offered the space in the Walled Kitchen Gardens (bring your own seating). Walk back out of the courtyard and over the little bridge over the stream (or round the tree if bridge is slippery) and through the door in the wall.
Access to a WC and refreshments will be provided.
A map will be provided on the website in due course.
Members £10; Non Members £12

Thursday September 6th
GRANTHAM HOUSE & WYNDHAM PARK
2pm A tour of the inside of Grantham House and a garden tour, followed by visit to multi-award winning Wyndham Park newly restored with Heritage Lottery Funding including the new Visitor Centre, with displays on the history and restoration programme.
Tea and cakes in Wyndham Park.
Car Parking in either the town centre car parks (£4 for over 4 hours) or in Wyndham Park car park (NG31 9BB)
Members £10; Non Members £12

Saturday November 17th
LGT AGM AND TALK
Guest Speaker Karen Lynch, title of talk to be confirmed.
International Bomber Command Centre, Lincoln, LN4 2RF
Turning right into the Centre is not recommended so please approach the site from Bracebridge Heath on the B1131, which is easily accessible from the A15 and the City of Lincoln.
There are two options:
1. 11am COFFEE followed by Guided Walk & Buffet Lunch followed by AGM & talk one inclusive price
Members £21; Non Members £26
2. 2pm AGM & talk only
Members £11; Non Members £13

LGT AGM AND TALK
Saturday November 17th • International Bomber Command Centre
Name (s) _____
_____ x AGM & Talk only £11 LGT Members
_____ x AGM & Talk only £13 Non Members
_____ x Buffet lunch, AGM & Talk £21 LGT Members
_____ x Buffet lunch, AGM & Talk £26 Non Members
(To include parking)

Contact Details
Name: _____
Phone Number: _____
Email: _____

All cheques should be made payable to Lincolnshire Gardens Trust.
All bookings to Elizabeth Bowskill via email:
elizabeth_ab@btopenworld.com
or by post: Mrs E A Bowskill, 3 Sandcliffe Road, Grantham, NG31 8DT



New members may not be aware that both The Gardens Trust (GT) the national charity and LGT are consulted regularly on **planning developments** that might affect local historic designed landscapes, parks and gardens and conservation areas. Since last summer LGT trustees have monitored 18 planning applications and commented on 3 sites on Historic England's Register of Parks and Gardens – Rauceby Hospital, Caythorpe Court and Gunby Hall. LGT comments, informed by our own research and online information including www.parksandgardensuk.org, are also logged in the GT's Conservation Casework Log. Having recently been invited to make pre-planning comments about a new development on Skegness Esplanade, LGT trustees were delighted that the recent HE Grade II listing of the Tower and Esplanade Gardens seems to have prompted East Lindsey DC to offer £30,000 for ideas and consultations to upgrade the Esplanade. Watch this space, as they say!

An update re Revesby Abbey

Interesting new information, courtesy Dr Hugh Vaux, Kent GT, who very kindly looked through the Stanhope Papers at Kent History and Library Centre in Maidstone, to help us understand the mid-18C setting: (U1590/S1/1) Letters written as the new house was being built during 1743 and 1744, to William Banks MP (father of famous botanist Joseph Banks) at Argyll Street, London, who, at this time, introduced a menagerie in the grounds. Most letters, written on a regular basis, were by Henry Brown, his steward / agent: (Fol. 73.) 16th Nov 1743. 'We shall this day finish the planting of oaks for the ride up to the Pond from the Road. It has a very pretty Effect, and I dare say, when you see it you'l think something of the kind will best

answer in the planting in the Oval, I should have said Halfe Oval. If you think proper I wd have them go on implanting Trees in the Lawne, as long as the weather continues open. I am of opinion sixty yards Distance near enough. Its now a wonderful fine time for planting as getting the plants so plesse to send directions'.

(Fol. 98) 18th March 1744. (After heavy rain). 'I saw an advertisement in ye London PI (?) at Louth of a new invented engine for Raising water out of Mines or from Drainage of Land...said to discharge 400 hogsheads an hour'.

Fol. 101. 31st March 1744. 'But at present Revesbey in Errant(?) Fortresse of Dirt and Rubbish' because of the building.

(Fol. 103). 8th October 1744. 'We are now fenceing the new kitchen garden with Hedge and Ditch'. Example week 29th Sept - 6th Oct 1744, 40 men and 12 boys employed Monday to Saturday for total bill: £4.10s.3d.

Revesby Abbey 17th (?) September 1820 (U951 C75/21) a later letter by Edward Knatchbull to Miss Knight (relative of Jane Austen) at Godmersham Park near Canterbury describes a period of neglect. 'How melancholy this place appears ... – it is now deserted'

Recently, Branston resident Dennis Mills, a professional historical geographer engaged in research for a publication on garden bothies, kindly provided information about the Revesby Head Gardener who left his mark when the new house by Scottish architect William Burn (1789 –1870) and gardens designed by Italian-born British architect Alexander Roos (1810 – 30 June 1881) were in their heyday, 'Death of a Well-known Gardener. On Saturday morning last intelligence was received of the sudden death of Mr Alexander Blakey who for the last half-century has filled the responsible position

of head gardener at Revesby Abbey and forester on the Revesby estate. ...He was greatly respected. He was an acknowledged authority on horticulture, and as forester had probably not a superior. Under his skilful management the Revesby estate so far as trees were concerned has undergone a wonderful change for the better. he will be much missed and his death sincerely regretted by all who knew him.' Obituary, Sept 1890, Lincoln, Rutland & Stamford Mercury.

As this newsletter goes to press, interested members will be meeting at Bishop Grossteste University to discuss ways forward for an LGT Lincolnshire Parks and Gardens Gazetteer publication. JOIN US! If you are interested to contribute snippets of local garden history and oral memories about walled gardens, orchards, deer parks, water features, icehouses, boathouses, follies, eye-catchers etc. old photographs, postcards, newspaper and magazine cuttings or to undertake informal site surveys local to your homes please email: shieldssb@aol.com or beryl.lott@btopenworld.com

Historic Landscape Project (HLP) NETWORKING EVENT: Historic Landscapes Assembly, Birmingham 28th November 2017

Beryl Lott, Heather Slater and I attended the second annual Historic Landscapes Assembly at the Birmingham and Midland Institute on 28th November, along with representatives from 25 CGTs and 21 external heritage organisations. **Highlights:** GT Trustee David Lambert launched the GT's new report, '*Vulnerability Brown*', examining pressures, including from planning applications, mineral extraction, and neglect, which threaten many of the 200 or so surviving 'Capability' Brown landscapes. Dominic Cole GT President examined positive legacy aspects of the 1987 storm, a catalyst in the way in which we think about landscape management and conservation and even opened up significant funding streams for work within historic landscapes.

Jenifer White, HE National Landscape Adviser, updated us on numerous policies and initiatives, including HE's 2017-20 Corporate Plan <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/he-corp-plan-2017-20/>, She underlined how much HE values its partnership with the Gardens Trust and County Gardens Trusts, working together to protect historic designed landscapes, who, by providing invaluable research and understanding of significances, have played a huge part in getting 14 new historic designed landscapes added to the Register of Parks and Gardens over the last year. (6 in Lincolnshire, HE Grade II: Aswarby Park, Petwood Gardens, Holywell Hall Park, Skegness Esplanade and Tower Gardens, South Ormsby Park, Elsham Park) 96 parks and

gardens are on October 2017 Heritage at Risk Register, a 15% reduction in sites, achieved partly by HE having awarded £10.5 million in grant aid to 260 projects. Karen Fitzsimon, Historic England (HE), updated us about the GT/HE Compiling the Record initiative, hoping to address the lack of 20C designed landscapes on the National Heritage List for England. Nominations for new registration from across the country will be reviewed by Historic England, with some going on to be Registered.

Beryl Lott (LGT) and Christine Addison (Northamptonshire GT) described a joint 2-year pilot research and recording project for five East Midlands CGTs, with hoped-for HLF funding, to reach and train new audiences. They will produce statements of significance of unregistered parks and gardens in the region by examining urban parks, country parks and other landscapes open to the public. (see box below)

HLP MEMBERS MEET-UPS

Friendly, informal and free one day events are open to members of any CGT and the Gardens Trust. In Cambridge this January, Heather Slater, Felix and myself were treated to useful advice on researching and publishing books (Norfolk GT); we shared our experience with planning in Lincolnshire; and Cambridgeshire GT's highlighted their varied educational schemes,

catering for all ages and levels of interest. The next Meet-up will be at The Gallery, Cowcross Street, Farringdon, London, 22nd March 2018 will include presentations on London Garden Squares Weekend; the Isle of Wight's Historic Environment Action Plan; and advice on seeking HLF funding for CGT projects. Tickets free, but with a £7 donation towards lunch and refreshments, payable on the day.

HLP TRAINING DAYS

A Public Parks Crisis Training Day, April 2018 will be held in Northampton, (date and venue TBC). Public Parks are suffering due to severe funding cuts during this period of austerity. Join us to learn how the crisis came about, how parks have been affected and what your CGT can do to help to protect your local parks. Speakers include Erika Diaz Petersen, HE Heritage at Risk Landscape Architect for the East Midlands; David Lambert, director of the Parks Agency and Gardens Trust Board Member and Katy Layton-Jones, of the University of Leicester, who provided evidence to the House of Commons Select Committee inquiry into the future of public parks and produced the GT's accompanying report, Uncertain Prospects. Tickets free for CGT/GT members, via Eventbrite, (suggested donation of £7 towards lunchtime catering) £40 for non-members (with one year's

GT membership included), payable at event registration. Reservation: tamsinmcmillan@thegardenstrust.org.

GT ONLINE RESOURCES

HLP Resource Hub, located on the GT website at <http://thegardenstrust.org/conservation/hlp-hub/> for up to date guidance by both the Gardens Trust and external heritage organisations, on all aspects of designed landscape research, conservation and education.

Website Forum

Register for the GT's online Forum: <http://thegardenstrust.org/conservation/forum/>

OTHER EVENTS open to members

Friday 27 April 2018 **STUDY DAY** at Moggerhanger Park, Bedfordshire: Repton in Bedfordshire, £50 Book online: <http://www.bedsgardenstrust.org.uk/events.php>

1st - 2nd September 2018 (11:00 to 17:00) University of Birmingham **The Gardens Trust Annual General Meeting and New Research Symposium Weekend** Costs, info and online booking will be available in spring 2018: thegardenstrust.org

East Midlands Parks and Gardens Lottery Bid

This note is to introduce an exciting project for which five County Garden Trusts in the East Midlands are working together in partnership, and for which we have been putting together a funding bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund. The initial project is for two years with the aim of being able to pursue a larger project in the future.

The project seeks to engage and involve more people with their local historic parks and gardens across the whole of the East Midlands; as well as celebrating this rich heritage which we have across the region it will offer training on how to carry out research and survey, and also how best to protect and manage our most treasured landscapes whilst promoting conservation.

The five garden Trusts are Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Rutland, Lincolnshire, Northamptonshire and Nottinghamshire.

We are currently trying to finalise our HLF bid, which will initially be for a small pilot project to look at the issues arising from such a huge task. For the pilot we have chosen 8 sites across the region to focus on, the criteria for selection was that all should have designed landscapes, be publicly accessible and not already on the Historic England List of Registered sites. Currently the project list of sites is provisional but we have chosen the following sites to get a broad spread of site types across the region. For Nottinghamshire the proposed sites are Bestwood and Langold Parks; for Derbyshire Allestree Park; for Leicestershire Stoneywell; for Northamptonshire Billing Road Cemetery and Abington Park and for Lincolnshire we are hoping for Holbeach Cemetery and proposing to look at Mablethorpe

and Sutton on Sea Pleasure Grounds as a joint site. At this moment in time I must stress that not all these sites have been finalised and we are currently getting in touch with them. The selection encompasses landscape parks, peoples parks, designed cemeteries, and an Arts and Crafts site. It was very much the view that we should have a seaside gardens site and initially we were looking at Skegness, but unfortunately for our project (but fortunately for the future management of the park), Historic England have recently chosen Skegness to go on their List of Historic Parks and Gardens.

Our aim is to hold a series of events at each of our pilot sites including a launch, desk-based training on how to research and survey historic parks and gardens, practical hands-on 'in the field' survey and recording, and how to use the results to write useful reports for use by local authority staff, and how the planning system works. The resulting reports will be deposited in each County Historic Environment Record. We are proposing events to celebrate not only the park, but also our efforts. We are particularly eager to involve Gardens Trusts, Community and Friends Groups with our activities on each site and also to invite local historical societies, gardening clubs etc to participate as well as local communities.

We very much hope that you are keen to support the project, and look forward to many members of the Gardens Trust being involved.

The project is being put together by Chris Addison (Northamptonshire Gardens Trust) chrisaddison56@gmail.com and Beryl Lott (Lincolnshire Gardens Trust) beryl.lott@btopenworld.com



Discovering Repton

STEFFIE SHIELDS discusses the Bicentenary of Humphry Repton, the eighteenth-century landscape gardener who continues to enrich the lives of every gardener inspired by the gardens of the past.

1



"A PICTURE is worth a thousand words", so goes the early twentieth century saying. Humphry Repton (1752-1818) must have had a similar thought in mind when he chose to set up as a landscape gardener. His trade card survives in Lord Brownlow's papers in Lincolnshire Archives. He depicted himself supervising land improvements, with theodolite at hand, framed with cedar boughs, ferns and lilies. His paintbrushes, and to some degree his pen, came to be of more use than his surveying tools.

In an age of publications with black and white engravings, Repton produced refreshing watercolours. These, sandwiched amongst pages of detailed advice in neat, copperplate handwriting, were all bound in red, gold-embossed Moroccan leather, and his trade card glued inside. His unique selling point

or 'USP', long before today's garden designers' computer-generated, model 3D images and plans, were these 'Red Books'.

What was so novel then, by pulling back a painted flap on a carefully drawn sketch, often the main view from a client's house, Repton swiftly conveyed a charming, improved panorama. The landowner could envisage, at a glance, how a new curvaceous, upgraded approach drive would suit his sporty phaeton, the latest lightweight, open carriage. In similar fashion, he quickly appreciated how the removal of a foreground fence would open a pleasing oblique view of his deer park. Meanwhile, the prospect of a flower border and rose arbour revealed beyond a smart new balustrade would delight his style-conscious wife.

The son of a tax collector, Repton was born in Bury St Edmunds, schooled

in Norwich and, unusually, abroad in Holland. His first career in a Norfolk textile business was not successful. After trying his hand at journalism and various writing, including plays, his love of botany and gardening came to the rescue. It was hard to make a living, but increasingly prosperous and art-aware gentry were also emulating the nobility by commissioning picturesque 'natural landscapes', settings for their new country villas and 'sporting-boxes'. Then following the sad demise of the great landscaper 'Capability' Brown, his eldest son, Lancelot Jr, handed over all his father's office plans and papers. Repton based himself in Essex, nearer London, and took to the road offering his services to Brown's clients, and through his own social contacts including a Norfolk landowner, William Windham MP, and Sir Joseph Banks.

Early on, June 1790 found Repton in Lincolnshire, accompanying Sir Peter Burrell to Louth Rectory to inspect vicar Wolley Jolland's 'curious, but much-admired Hermitage Garden'. Come July, he was consulted by Lewis Dymoke, the King's Champion, whose house at Scrivelsby had been damaged by fire. That October, Repton returned with the Scrivelsby Red Book, containing collaborative designs with William Wilkins (1751-1815), a builder/architect. Repton expert Professor Stephen Daniels describes the suggested dramatic castellated alteration as "an early essay in Gothic with the Lincoln Chapter House feel". At the

GARDENING



time, however, Dymoke wrote in pencil 'Shocking!' and stuck to his own ideas.

In 1791, on a Lincolnshire tour, Viscount Torrington recorded in his diary: 'Mr R is here employ'd to improve the grounds... The minister's house lately repair'd upon Mr R's plan, is excellently done simple and thatched yet pleasant and neat...much new paling is finish'd.' This rectory (or 'parsonage' according to Repton's plan) near the back gate is no longer extant. The Lion Lodge, sweeping drive and some park planting were probably Repton-inspired. The planned triangular lake in the vale to the south was never tackled, though St Benedict's Church was later upgraded as recommended.

'Leave a border twelve feet wide from the wall and a walk six feet wide

- 1: Oak in Scrivelsby Park west of the church, as seen in Repton proposal
- 2: Repton Anniversary logo
- 3: Humphrey Repton by Haddonstone, £399 plus VAT
- 4: Scrivelsby by Repton 'After', courtesy of Francis Dymoke





5: St Benedict's Church, Scrivelsby
6: Scrivelsby Repton Red Book cover
7: Scrivelsby Moat
8: Scrivelsby by Repton 'Before' courtesy of Francis Dymoke
9: Repton Trade Card, Normanton Red Book courtesy of Grimsthorpe and Drummond Castle Estate
10: Repton Red Book Normanton Park (unusually in monotone wash) courtesy of Grimsthorpe and Drummond Castle Estate
11: Lion Gate

– a border of Strawberries – then Gooseberries, Currants and Raspberries – then intermix filberts with Laurels, holley – Privet – Firs – Thorns – Berbery – Guiton Roses – Broom – mountainash – maples – etc, and towards the Park add hornbeam Birch Oak and Spanish chesnut.'

Such detailed planting advice for the Scrivelsby Kitchen Garden does not appear in later Red Books such as the one for Sir William Manners's Buckminster estate, near Grantham. Unfortunately, some of the original 120 have not survived, including the First Baron Yarbrough's, lost in the terrible



1898 Brocklesby Hall fire. Considerable numbers of 'before' and 'after' Repton watercolours, now found online, show how keen the artist was to demonstrate family values and perfect domestic scenes: taking walks, riding, boating, and music-playing in the flower garden.

A chance remark led me recently to a new discovery at Grimsthorpe. The Red Book for Normanton Hall, once a seat of the Earls of Ancaster, had lain in the castle library unrecorded by Repton specialists who thought it lost. I was fortunate to engage in the same picture-book experience enjoyed originally in July 1797 by Sir Gilbert Heathcote and his family. I slowly turned each precious page, here and there lifting a flap, intrigued by layers of Normanton history, and the revelation of a park landscape long since disappeared, much of it now under Rutland Water. Thomas Cundy later ornamented the rustic old Normanton Church, St Matthews, with tower and portico. The classical eye-catcher, once the Heathcote family's private chapel within the park, survives much as Repton suggested, now surrounded by a sea of water rather than lawn. He had also pictured a lake in the valley. How he would marvel at the scale of today's reservoir!

Marking the bicentenary of Humphry Repton's death, the garden ornament firm Haddonstone has commissioned a bust

by Hannah Northam, based on extant engravings, in five different colours of cast stone to suit every garden setting. No previous portrait bust exists. Marketing director Simon Scott tells me he has placed 'Capability' Brown and Repton together in their superb show garden near Northampton, open, free of charge, Monday to Friday during business hours. What a conversation piece!

Character and situation were crucial to Repton. Recognised as the inventor of the term 'landscape gardening', he defined a garden as 'a piece of ground fenced off from cattle and appropriated to the use and pleasure of man: it is, or ought to be, cultivated and enriched by art'. His 400 plus works countrywide and five books on gardening philosophy, with *Sketches and Hints on Landscape Gardening* (1794) his most admired, left a great impression on nineteenth-century gardening. In understanding, he is remembered more for the Red Books, a successful formula 'designed to appeal to the mind as well as the eye' to attract clients who found it difficult to visualise three-dimensional space. He effectively demonstrated how effectively their money could improve nature's living canvas.

In 2012 the Red Book for Moggenhanger Park, Bedfordshire sold at Christie's, New York Auctions for the equivalent of almost £82,500! Those kept on-site, proudly displayed, now more likely in a glass cabinet than on a study table, continue to stimulate discussion as how best to conserve 'sense of place' in gardens, how to recreate and manage parkland settings, and



whether to frame similar views. If, after 200 years, a tad faded, they still have the power to communicate ways of looking at landscape. Will we ever tire of such child-like pleasures: perusing pastoral and painterly 'gardenesque' scenes in the English countryside by simply lifting a fairy-tale flap for the surprise 'reveal'? ■

Photographs: Steffie Shields

Saturday 24th March: Lincolnshire Gardens Trust 'Celebrating Humphry Repton Anniversary' at Scrivelsby Court, Near Horncastle LN9 6JA. 2pm. Garden Tour with Steffie Shields. Refreshments and opportunity to view Repton's 1790 Scrivelsby Red Book, courtesy of Mrs Susan Dymoke. Members £10, Non-members £12. Booking essential www.lincolnshiregardentrust.org.uk For countryside Bicentenary events and opportunities to inspect some surviving Red Books see also www.thegardenstrust.org



Skegness Tower and Esplanade Garden Given Historic England Listing



A Mid C20th Lincolnshire Garden is Recognised

LGT trustees were delighted that the recent HE Grade II listing of the Tower and Esplanade Gardens in Skegness seems to have prompted East Lindsey DC to offer £30,000 for ideas and consultations to upgrade the Esplanade.

Here follows a short précis of the resort gardens’ history to explain their national significance.

In 1868, with agriculture declining, civil Engineers Clarke and Pickwell drew up a plan for a new town around the village of Skegness on land mostly owned by the Earl of Scarbrough. The 1873 coming of the railways helped the development. In 1877 the sea wall was built of limestone blocks bought by rail from the Earl’s Roche Abbey quarry. The engineering firm went on to design and construct the 1/3 mile pier, opened in 1881 by the Duke of Edinburgh. In 1882 20,000 visited over the August Bank Holiday. The next five years saw the development of fine Pleasure Gardens with a Bandstand, Pavilion and an indoor swimming bath, created from a site which had been used for storing coal landed by ships locally from Tyneside. Skegness grew into a popular seaside resort. Sea air had been recognised as having a recuperative influence long before John Hassall created his famous 1908 Jolly Fisherman poster for Skegness. At the end of the 19C, convalescent homes and hotels were being erected. The clock-tower (1899- by Edmund Winter of Liverpool) marked Queen Victoria’s Diamond Jubilee. Following the end of the First World War, the Earl of Scarbrough offered to sell the whole foreshore to Skegness Urban District Council; the deal was completed

in 1922. The council’s engineer, surveyor and architect Rowland Jenkins (1877-1952), in office from 1912-1952, went on to dedicate much of his career to create the beach, parades, Pleasure Gardens (now the Tower Gardens), Marine Gardens and the Sands Pavilion.

The late 19C and early 20C, Tower Gardens and Skegness Esplanade are situated on the sea front and are divided into three main compartments based around the Grand Parade, North Parade and South Parade. Much remains of the original plan and a second remarkable 20C phase, with new features including bowling greens, tennis courts, a bathing pool, a boating lake, the Suncastle Solarium, a waterway, beach walks, a ruined castle marking the northern boundary and an expanse of rose gardens. Jenkins transformed the foreshore into a huge pleasure park by the sea, sometimes incorporating ideas he bought back from walking tours of Italy and elsewhere on the continent. The principal buildings of the Esplanade gardens were the Embassy Ballroom (1929) and the open-air swimming pool and Orchestral Piazza - an open space with a domed bandstand. The new Embassy Theatre Complex (2000) was built on the footprint of the original ballroom. South of the boating lake, opened in 1924, and transforming what, until then, had been sand dunes, small bridges, rock formations, seating terraces and shelters formed of ferrous concrete, continue to create a rustic feel, reminiscent of Jenkins’ Axenstrasse design. Some bridges have been replaced and paths widened to make them more accessible in the 21C. A key feature included the popular Fairy Dell, a paddling pool with a central 19C fountain, moved from the marine gardens in the

early 20C. The esplanade is now separated from the beach by sand dunes and a marine walk, late 20C.

Jenkins never lost sight of the special importance of the clock tower in the overall scheme of the foreshore. When the pier was finally lost to the sea in 1984, it became the town’s most notable landmark.

Recently LGT was invited to make pre-planning comments about a new development on Skegness Esplanade, an area which includes the significant stretch of waterway for boating through the gardens. Among a small group of trees and, now rather tired shrubs, a couple of attractive broom-like trees, *Genista aetnensis*, were noted that are occasionally seen in private London gardens, but are uncommon in Lincolnshire. This ‘Mount Etna broom’, from Sardinia and Sicily where it grows at altitudes of between 900 to 1800 metres, on old volcanic lava on the slopes of Mount Etna, has willowy or rush-like foliage. In winter its bright green branchlets can give an evergreen effect. Clouds of yellow blossom are a real feature in the summer flowering season. Planting advice and ideas were given to the developers including a list of recommended trees, shrubs and flowers suitable for this coastal site, suggesting evergreen trees to act as eye-catchers and help screen the Lifeboat Station wall. Watch this space, as they say.

The principal source for the above account, The Historic England online register has more information on this and other gardens. For further information see: <https://www.historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1443891>

2017 Lincolnshire Gardens Trust Photo Competition

Winners from 117 entries

A Picture Taken in a Lincolnshire Garden open at least once in 2017

1st £50 Daniel Rollit of Cherry Willingham “Gunby Hall Archway”

2nd £25 Irving Gyte of Waltham “Hackthorn Hall”

3rd £10 Rachel Dixon of Winterton “Scawby Gardens” see over



Junior Category - up to 16 years of age ‘Lets get out there!’

Winner Maddie Dixon (aged 8 years) of Winterton “Fungus” (4 entries from one person!)

A Garden Personality

Winner £15 Elisabeth Morris of Scunthorpe “Fledgling”

In my Lincolnshire Garden

Winner £15 Gill Ogburn of Tattershall Bridge “Feeding Finch”

Taste of Lincolnshire

Winner £15 Gill Ogburn of Tattershall Bridge “Sprouts”

Plant Portrait - A year’s subscription to Lincolnshire Life presented by Caroline Bingham

Winner Danny Rollit of Cherry Willingham “Alliums” taken at Baumber Walled Garden

Highly Commended

Gill Ogburn of Tattershall Bridge “Clematis”

Elisabeth Morris of Scunthorpe “Peony” and “Iris “ taken at Doddington Hall

The Sir Joseph Banks Society is holding the following events which may be of interest to LGT members:

Friday May 18 at 7.30pm **Annual Lecture** at Boston Guild Hall, South Street PE21 6HT – speaker Richard Barley, Director of Horticulture at Kew Gardens. The topic will be Sir Joseph Banks and Kew Gardens (admission charge). For further details please contact Lady Sally Bruce-Gardyne on sallybg@gmail.com

The Society will be hosting its annual **GARDEN PARTY** with refreshments of tea and cake at the Sir Joseph Banks Centre, Bridge Street, Horncastle on Sunday 8 July at 2.30pm. There will be an admission charge of £2.50 (by ticket only) and we hope you will make a donation on the day for our ongoing funding for Vanuatu’s Cyclone Disaster Fund.

Vanuatu is situated on the Banks Islands in the South Pacific and the Society maintains a deep interest and connection with the Islanders and the climate threats they face.

There will also be an opportunity to browse and shop in the Sir Joseph Banks Centre and of course, see the Sir Joseph Banks commemorative garden. The garden contains 70 species that were found during Banks’ voyage on the Endeavour or by plant hunters he sponsored on his return.

To obtain your tickets or for further details please email Christine.chapman@joseph-banks.org.uk



Scawby Gardens
by Rachel Dixon

Members of the Council of Management of the Lincolnshire Gardens Trust

President:	Mrs Annetta Turner		annetta.turner@googlemail.com
Chairman:	Mrs Steffie Shields	01400 230880	shieldssb@aol.com
Research:	Dr Beryl Lott		beryl.lott@btopenworld.com
Secretary:	Position Vacant		
Treasurer:	Mr David Would	01472 840702	davidwould@hotmail.com
Newsletter:	Mrs Heather Slater		mrsheatherslater@googlemail.com
LCC, Planning:	Ms Louise Jennings	01522 554823	louise.jennings@lincolnshire.gov.uk
Schools Liaison:	Mrs Emma Schofield	01526 861231	emma.schofield3@btinternet.com
Events:	Mrs Elizabeth Bowskill	07840 240854 (mob)	elizabeth_ab@btopenworld.com
Membership:	Position Vacant		

