



Annual General Meeting for 2020

Under the extraordinary conditions created by the Covid 19 pandemic, the AGM scheduled for Saturday 14th November 2020 cannot take place due to the restrictions on the numbers of people gathering being limited by the Rule of Six
Instead a virtual, digital AGM is being held during November 2020.

The format is as follows:

A report from the Chairman and Treasurer, along with the accounts for 2019 – 2020
A separate form will allow you to vote on the proposals as per the usual format in an actual AGM

The results of the Photographic Competition will be available in the form of a presentation on the website: www.lincolnshiregardenstrust.org.uk

Chairman's Report

2020 has been a strange and sometimes difficult year for us all overshadowed by the Covid pandemic. This led to lockdown and cancellation of all our planned extra-special LGT events to mark a celebratory year on reaching our 25th Anniversary, including an appropriately celebratory (and popular!) September visit to a more unusual, designed landscape – a winery! The good news is that Elizabeth Bowskill has been able to re-schedule most of these marvellous events for next year. Should virus concerns and social distancing continue, we are nevertheless hopeful and determined to arrange suitably careful and organised visits with garden owners to do us all a power of good.

Considering the ongoing pandemic, this has had to be a different kind of AGM of necessity as we are unable to gather in numbers together for health and safety reasons. We have had to arrange to send you this report and all other necessary information and papers herewith, including the year's accounts which have this week been approved by the Council of Trustees on your behalf. We would appreciate your response after you have read them which we will be able to record.

We welcome several new members this year and hope to meet at one of 2021 LGT events. Annual subscriptions will remain the same throughout 2021. It goes without saying, like many other charities, we hope not to repeat a year such as 2020 with no events, and therefore no income coming in. Also concerning, the number of members has lately been declining. Our greatest challenge remains in raising the membership to support small grants for garden projects and restorations, and to produce results in conservation research and education terms to raise the awareness our special historic gardens and other remarkable gardens throughout the county. The value of gardening for health and well-being has clearly been proven this year. So I would ask you all to make a determined effort to support LGT by paying your subscriptions on time, but also

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by encouraging family and friends to join, and invite interest by passing on the Autumn LGT Newsletter once you have read it, in order to promote wider interest and recruit new members. As a fund-raising raffle at the AGM is not possible, we would welcome any small donations, but, in addition, the committee propose to hold a small raffle at each event in 2021. Remember too for those who are interested to join the over-arching national charity, The Gardens Trust (GT) there is a specially reduced rate subscription scheme for county gardens trust members. (Please see [The Gardens Trust](#) to join and for events, lectures and conferences.) There have been outstanding GT online talks during the pandemic, and these are likely to continue as life is changing considerably due to online Zoom capability etc.

Sadly, as last year, I must acknowledge the passing of three of LGT's stalwart members and loyal supporters right from the early days. Pat Firman died suddenly and pain free one April Friday morning. Pat had a great love of Lincolnshire gardens, several times accompanied on LGT garden visits by her son. In August, Sue Dymoke, who also loved all things gardening, died peacefully at home looking out to the garden she has re-created at Scrivelsby. Lastly, the same month, Geoffrey Grantham died of a sudden brain haemorrhage. A regular on many an LGT outing, we will miss his charming, lively company. Our sincere condolences were sent to the Firman, Dymoke and Grantham families.

Now I would like to take the opportunity, on behalf of all the membership, to thank our loyal LGT President Annetta Turner, who is always available to give much needed support and constant encouragement, as do likewise our team of trustees. We continue to keep in regular touch by email and telephone, and after lockdown eased, we managed one outdoor socially distanced committee meeting in September.

LGT Treasurer David Would retires from the post after 10 years of excellent, reliable service including staying on for 'extra time' while we searched for a replacement. Our grateful thanks David for keeping LGT afloat and in check. LGT accounts are in reasonably good health despite a slightly diminishing membership. I would certainly not have been able to continue as LGT Chairman without David's support. We wish David and his wife Penny all best wishes for the future.

As I write, I was hoping a member (or a member's relative or acquaintance) might be willing to volunteer a small amount of time to join LGT trustees, a cohesive, friendly and reliable team. Now at the eleventh hour, I am delighted to be able to inform members that Frazer Chapman, who since retirement has been based in Spalding, has stepped forward to volunteer. Frazer is already known to some of you. He contributed an article on carpet-bedding in the latest LGT newsletter, while members who follow the LGT Facebook page will have already seen the huge variety of garden history photographs and postcards in his collection that he has been sharing. I am sure we will all benefit from his advice and wealth of experience in the historic gardens sector. Elizabeth Bowskill, LGT Events Co-Ordinator, besides all her efforts as Acting Secretary and for LGT, works just as hard for her local community parks, the new WWII Heroes Community Orchard and Grantham Music Festival. Thank you to Elizabeth, and indeed to all the trustees: Heather Slater, for an always informative and vibrant newsletter; Lucienne Bennett for wise conservation and planning advice reference applications that come in on a regular (sometimes relentless) basis; Member Secretary Grace Ellis with all the necessary administration that involves; Emma Schofield, Schools/ Education (and RHS Judge) keeping in touch and advising local schools and liaising with the national Gardens Trust team; Ian George, Lincolnshire County Council HER Officer for advice and support.

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I represented LGT on Heritage Lincolnshire (HL) on the now finished 3-year 'Layers of History', 2017-2020, a Heritage Lottery funded project. Building on the success of predecessor project 'Lincolnshire Heritage at Risk', HL wanted to focus on medieval earthwork remains, parks and gardens, and military landscapes which make a significant contribution to the character of its historic landscape. 'Layers' gave volunteers the opportunity to discover, understand and investigate aspects of Lincolnshire's historic landscapes through online courses and local workshops. More details in LGT Autumn Newsletter and online <https://www.heritagelincs.org/layers>

In July 2020, one of the more pleasant tasks this year, LGT committee members were invited to assist judging South Kesteven District Council's shortlist: 12 villages and hamlets in the Best Kept Village Competition. Joint winners: Allington & Barrowby; Irnham (small village category). Despite a lack of events owing to the pandemic, there have been some achievements this year:

1. Research LGT research, despite being affected by Covid with the closure of Lincolnshire Archives., has continued thanks to increasing online evidence being uploaded, such as the Historic Environment Record, www.lincstothepast.com, Google Earth and maps. The newsletter has more details of our volunteer researchers' evidence of gardens and designers from the 16th to the 20th C in all four corners of the county to be included eventually in a County Gazetteer. In-depth research is also helpful in informing our responses to planning applications.

2. Conservation LGT continues to work closely on conservation with dedicated GT conservation officers Alison Allighan and Margie Hoffnung. Of 23 Planning Applications to date this year concerning parks and gardens in Lincolnshire, The GT commented on our behalf in 10, LGT commented on 2, including one objection re plan for construction of new Estate Yard within Grimsthorpe Park (HE Grade I) and one in general support of the construction of a new public art gallery and associated improvements to existing visitor facilities in Grimsthorpe Park. including a new visitor car park and associated landscaping. although raising a couple of concerns regarding views and landscaping. LGT have been consulted by Historic England (HE) regarding Gate Burton.

Following LGT's submission of an Application and evidence to HE for Spot Listing the Sutton on Sea Pleasure Gardens and Colonnade in East Lindsey to be included on the national Parks and Gardens Register, HE turned down the request. The gardens were created, and the 1930's colonnade restored and extended, by the celebrated Dame Sylvia Crowe, one of England's first 20C woman landscape architects, as a direct consequence and response to the 1953 Flood Disaster claiming 47 lives. Although of strong local interest for their design and relationship with Sylvia Crowe's Pleasure Gardens, HE concluded that the Colonnade does not possess special interest in the national context and should not be listed. However, thanks to the information provided by LGT in highlighting the significance of the adjacent WWI Memorial, with surrounding gardens thought to have been included in Crowe's works, HE have awarded the Sutton on Sea War Memorial and surrounding garden walls, north of the Sutton on Sea Pleasure Gardens, Grade II Listed Building Status.

3. Education Emma Schofield continues to teach and advise schools on a freelance basis. Only one application for LGT Small Grants 2020 was received: Queen Elizabeth Grammar School has been awarded £300 for gardening equipment for a Tranquillity Garden Project. However, an LGT donation, £100 was given to the WWII Heroes Community Orchard in Grantham. Besides working on behalf of the RHS, Emma is supporting the GT Historic Landscape project 'Growing

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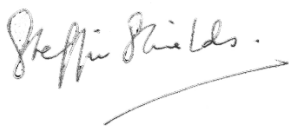
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Our Gardens Legacy'. They hope to put in for a successful Heritage Lottery Funding to encompass 6 East Midlands regions and will be in partnership 4 county garden trusts and all County Council based historic environment records.

4. Lincolnshire Gardens Trust Photographic Competition 2020. We were able to continue this competition despite competitors being restricted by lack of charity open gardens to visit due to Covid. An excellent number, 126 entries, were received in the circumstances. Prize-winners will be informed of the results, together with members, when an email PDF presentation of the winning and commended images, to be sent out soon after these AGM papers. Their prizes will be sent out by post. Results and winning photographs will be published in the January edition of Lincolnshire Life and in the Spring LGT Newsletter. Once more our grateful thanks to owner /editor Caroline Bingham who assisted in judging.

5. Newsletter. We continue to publish a paper version twice a year. Trustees believe this is an invaluable tool in attracting wider interest and helpful for recruiting new members. Remember the ongoing national GT theme is 'Unforgettable Gardens'. Please send us your thoughts and photos of your favourite Lincolnshire 'Unforgettable Garden' and we will include them in the Spring Newsletter.

I send by best wishes to you and all the members, and look forward to celebrating our 25th Anniversary - a little late - by meeting you all in 2021 in some 'Unforgettable Gardens'!



Treasurer's Report

Please note in the attached year accounts, that owing to the Covid 19 pandemic, and all this year's events being cancelled with effect from March 2020, subsequently income for events may not compare as favourably with past years. Also, the accounts will not balance out as some income will be carried over into the 2020 – 2021 year and others into 2021-2022. Unfortunately, the bottom line is we are no longer getting enough income from membership to cover the costs of the newsletter and advertising for membership, and although we have welcomed new members this year, the push for attracting new members must continue. May I wish the LGT team and all the members all the best for the coming year. What little I contributed I hope helped.

David Would

Accounts are attached as separate PDF documents

Please open the AGM Form (separate document) and vote. Your response will be automatically returned

If you have Any Other Business or wish to make a comment on the AGM reports etc please email: elizabeth_ab@btopenworld.com

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