

Annual General Meeting of the Lincolnshire Gardens Trust

Saturday November 16th 2019 at 2 pm

Bailgate Methodist Church, Bailgate, Lincoln, LN1 3AR

1. Apologies

Jean Shaftoe; Andrew Barber; Gilly Brown; Michael Casterton & Mary Rose Johnston; Lady Sally Bruce-Gardyne; Beth Dawson; Stephen Martin;

2. Chairman's Report:

Welcome – and delighted that you have been able to join us and especially to new members, and to guests, and to those photographers who have supported LGT's Annual Photography Competition.

What has happened to 2019? The year seems to have flown by!

I begin by remembering our last year's AGM & memorable visit to Lincoln's newest 'designed landscape': International Bomber Command Centre. We followed this up by donating 3 appropriately named 'Lest We Forget Roses' to the planting scheme. You will remember that landscape architect Shona Hatton also appealed for help with providing more beech trees on the approach. The good news is that **Chris Barlow** stepped up to volunteer to organise the project and thanks to the generosity of members 20 trees were bought from **Aveland Trees of Dunsby** near Bourne and planted on 4th November. A small plaque will be laid along the central walkway to mark this LGT members' donation. Thank you Chris – good job done!

We remember too the late **Nic Lance**, a member from the very early days, who has been a great supporter of LGT from the very early days, and it was a shock to hear that he died so suddenly recently at a relatively young age. He will be missed. Nic was a poet who always found plenty to interest and engage him, and time to chat – especially to garden owners and a regular attendee at events. He will long be remembered for his starring role as Tennyson at Harrington Hall during the 2009 AGT Annual Weekend Conference that LGT hosted. Our sincere condolences go to his partner Laraine Cooper.

On a happier note our former LGT chairman Andrew Barber who has been undergoing chemo treatment is improving and though still not strong, he is back to driving again.

The AGM gives me this opportunity to introduce and thank, in addition to our loyal and ever supportive LGT President Annetta Turner, Treasurer David Would and Elizabeth Bowskill, Acting Secretary and Events Co-Ordinator, (you will read in the Newsletter all that Elizabeth achieves. She is well – deserving of being nominated and a finalist in the Gardens Trust National Volunteer of the Year Award). Elizabeth continues to work hard for Wyndham Park Forum and the Queen Elizabeth Country Park and has added scything and wildflower planting to her skills! Thanks too to other trustees: Heather Slater, newsletter, Member Secretary Grace Ellis who is getting about in Lincoln now her hip replacements are settled and is beginning to bring in new members, Emma Schofield, Schools and Education...and RHS Judge: we are a rather small team but cohesive and above all friendly.

I am pleased to report that **a great deal has been achieved** again this year with two informative newsletters not least running some popular visits and events – this year in April to **Firsby Manor** thanks to LGT members Gail and David Boldy - a delightful spring afternoon: an amazing and very different visit in June to **Baumber Walled Gardens** to see the incredible restoration with some serious plant purchases made! **Hagworthingham Manor's** extensive gardens and herbaceous borders in July, complete with impromptu mechanical piano recital and Neil Timm's excellent guided tour around the family-run **Fern Nursery** in Binbrook in September. Huge thanks Elizabeth for organising today's lunch and AGM event and indeed all these marvellous and successful events throughout this year!!

We value members' support and interest in the work of the Trust

Our researchers have been beaver-ing away towards creating an LGT Gazetteer and met up three times in Lincoln including at Lincoln Archives. They have made one or two exciting and previously unrecorded finds. We have also been given copies of plans, photos and press cuttings concerning the making of the Dawber Garden in the heart of Lincoln. The aim is to publish a sister book to 'Lincolnshire Houses' – there are at least 300 gardens that we would like to include. To date we have collated over 100. Please get in touch with any images, or information of gardens in your locality that you think will help, and if you would like to join us. I do hope some of you have taken time or will take time to study an example of research, the kind of valuable information gathered, an assessment of the significance of a site, and the images and surveys collated on our information board. This in-depth research is already proving invaluable in informing our responses to planning applications.

Conservation Lincolnshire Gardens Trust is being consulted in **planning applications** more and more by local authorities. In February Beryl and I attended a 'Meet-up' organised by the Gardens Trust with five other county gardens trusts at Grantham to discuss our approach to planning applications. We continue to work closely on conservation with Alison Allighan and Margie Hoffnung, the dedicated conservation officers of the Gardens Trust. Of 20 Applications concerning parks and gardens in Lincolnshire this year, the national Garden Trust commented on our behalf in 7, LGT commented on a further 4, including 1 neutral, 1 no objection, 1 in support of Boultham Park lake restoration, and thankfully, only one where LGT raised an objection towards a high-wire right beside Skegness GRADE II Listed Pleasure Gardens.

At this point I would like to introduce a new subscription scheme for county gardens trust members who might be interested to join the National Gardens Trust, a discount for County Gardens Trust of £10 on the annual membership. Do keep an eye on the website especially for events, lectures and conferences organised by the Gardens Trust.

Education Emma Schofield has retired from Boston West School but continues to teach and advise on a freelance basis. She gave a talk to the Birmingham "Learning outside the classroom" conference. I have attended a couple of advisory workshops at South Ormsby on the park restoration and new planting etc. and ran two 'Layers of History' workshops to highlight the garden history of Aslackby Manor and South Ormsby Park.

Three applications for Small Grants have been received: **Tyd St Mary's Primary School**: south of county –£300 raised beds for their growing project, **South Kesteven Blind Society**: £300 for raised beds/wheelbarrow/equipment for their allotment project at Huntingtower Allotments in Grantham. I attended their Open Day and was truly amazed what two volunteers have achieved for their society members, with polytunnels, vegetable and flower beds, wild-flowers and orchard, and small pond with a wooden 'clubhouse' for meetings. Thirdly, **Central Park Boston**: to create a Wildflower meadow – community planting and involvement; £300. It is unusual to have that number of grant requests and we felt they were all worthy of support and as you will hear from our treasurer, our finances have been stretched this year mainly because of these three grants. Our greatest challenge remains in raising the numbers of members to be able to function, to support garden restorations and gardening in the county, to continue to research and produce results in conservation and education terms. You all have seen that Elizabeth does enough already in organising events, and David too has served us many years. I do not want to have to act like one local county gardens trust chairman who locked the members into the hall at their AGM until someone volunteered! We need to recruit a Treasurer and a Minuting Secretary. The trustees are a small and very friendly team. The work and the commitments are important but they are neither arduous nor complex... we are all both flexible and understanding and we do have fun! Please come and talk to me about it, or do you have someone in mind or know someone with those skills who could possibly help us?

Following on from Brown and Repton Anniversary Celebrations the national theme will be **"Unforgettable Gardens"** but also here in Lincolnshire, we will be raising the profile of **'local hero' and founder RHS President Sir Joseph Banks** and supporting the Joseph Banks Society to celebrate the 200th Anniversary of his death. Sir Joseph Banks Society and the LWT

(Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust) has been awarded Heritage Lottery money to help create a herbarium - plant library <https://www.joseph-banks.org.uk/news-events/lincolnshire-plants-project/>.

On behalf of the trustees I would like to thank Louise Jennings, who took over from Dr Beryl Lott as the Lincs County Council representative on the committee. She is leaving Lincolnshire County Council for pastures new and will no longer be able to continue her role. **Ian George** will be our LCC point of contact regarding any future work/planning advice.

Lastly, Beryl Lott – we thank Beryl for her untiring support of the LGT over these last many years and, also, for staying on since her retirement. Her wise professional advice has been invaluable. We worked closely together with any planning issues of concerns affecting our local historic landscapes and gardens. She kindly shared Historic Environment information from their database which has been invaluable for our gazetteer research. We wish you good luck, and every happiness health and a long and happy retirement near your family in Tewkesbury and I am sure the local gardens trust will welcome you with open arms!

Nikki Applewhite

We are so pleased and proud to have Nikki Applewhite with us this afternoon - you will read in the latest Newsletter about her initiative (garden designer daughter of founder members Gwen and Geoffrey Grantham) She will give us a brief update about her new gardening charity to create hospital garden in Lincolnshire: GROW = www.growcharity.co.uk (Gardens Restore our Wellbeing) She has raised enough funds to design and build a small garden at Grantham Hospital outside the Stoke Unit Ward 6.

3. Treasurer's Report

David Would presented a brief summary of the accounts:

Membership is slightly up, and more donations in 2019. There was however a loss over the year of £1500.

In the secondary a/c there is £30, 453 which is earmarked for the County Gazetteer. There is a proposal to negotiate another account which will provide a greater rate of interest.

Adoption of the a/c - proposed by Mike Shields Seconded by Heather Slater

The full accounts are attached as a PDF to the Minutes.

4. Auditors

It was proposed to continue with James & Company as auditors: proposed by Nikki Applewhite
Seconded by Audrey Barclay

5. Election of Committee: New Trustee Lucienne Bennett was proposed by Steffie Shields;
Seconded by Emma Schofield

6. Minutes of Last Meeting: unanimously accepted by the meeting and signed by Steffie Shields.

7. Lincs Gardens Trust Photo Comp Jan 2020.

It was wonderful to see so many entries – over 150 images – for the Photographic Competition 2019. Caroline Bingham, editor of Lincolnshire Life helped judge the 6 **categories**.

Competition results presented by LGT President Mrs Annetta Turner

Steffie Shields then introduced the speaker: Fiona Davison: She has an extremely busy and important job as **Head of RHS Libraries & Exhibitions** - based at **Lindley Library**, finest horticultural library in the world. Her talk is entitled '*The Hidden Horticulturists*'

AGM Sat 16th Nov **Attendance list**

Jane Hawkes
Stuart Crooks
Elizabeth Bowskill
Margaret Hatfield
Anthony & Frances Collard
Sue & Chris Barlow
Jill Hodgson
Emma Schofield
Grace Ellis
Lucienne Bennett
Heather Slater
Annetta & Simon Turner
Steffie & Mike Shields
Frazer Chapman + guest
Caroline Bingham
Fiona Davison
Audrey Barclay
Maureen Geddis
Beryl Lott
Kay Jones
Jennifer Whitton
Robert Barrett - Duckett
Ruth Pearce
Maire Wightman
Frances Carr
Phillipa Fisher
Laraine Cooper
Lady Emma Monson
David Would
Len Morris
Elizabeth Morris
Marjorie Brooks
Chris Neave
Jonathan Cartwright and David Sayers
Ken Hollamby
Daniel Rollit
Julian & Julia Fane
Bridget Hankinson x 2
Felix Mayle & Elizabeth Mayle
John & Rosie Burke
Nikki Applewhite