

Lincolnshire Gardens Trust Newsletter

November 2016

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► *Chairman's Letter* *Three causes for celebration*

The first thing is to celebrate a birthday. The Lincolnshire Gardens Trust is 21 years old this year! Our thanks and greetings go out to all who

have supported our endeavours over the years, without whom simply we would cease to exist. An enormous 'thankyou' therefore to all our members, past and present (and yet to come!); please continue with us into the next decade where we will discover new delights and new wonders in the glories of Lincolnshire's gardens!

The second is to celebrate a great achievement, which concerns the RHS award garnered by our own Emma Schofield on behalf of the pupils at Boston West Primary School for the care and maintenance of their wonderful gardens there (if you caught their July open weekend you were fortunate indeed). Details of

this highly prestigious (and richly deserved) award can be found within the pages of this Newsletter.

Finally there is the whole truly magnificent year of celebration, mixed with erudition (and delight) that was the Brown tercentenary. For those who managed to attend one or more of our visits to the parklands of Lincolnshire which were planned or laid-out by Lancelot 'Capability' Brown, the tercentenary of whose birth fell in 2016, it was a year of splendours. We have seen them all; from the ducal glories of Belvoir to the hidden walks and grottoes of Brocklesby; from the great expanses of Burleigh and Grimsthorpe to the more homely proportions of Hainton; it has been an amazing journey into the mind of a genius of design and scale who has bequeathed us some of the most beautiful landscapes in the country. These visits were made possible by the organisational skills of some key members

of your Council and the years of research into Brown by one in particular; the visits were all vastly enriched by Steffie Shields' great knowledge and understanding of Brown and his thinking and by the ease and informality with which she was kind enough to share it as we strolled (and, in one case, were driven) through the sublime acres. Her book, 'Moving Heaven and Earth, Capability Brown's Gift of Landscape' was published this year to great acclaim – and will make an excellent Christmas present for many this December!

From the sublime (literally) to the mundane (but nonetheless essential); I must mention once more, I fear, the subject of money. Your County Gardens Trust only exists on the funds you provide so that it can carry out its work of promoting and protecting the gardens and landscapes of Lincolnshire. To enable

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Chelsea 2016 – Blooming marvellous!

Pupils from Boston West Academy were recently presented with an RHS Silver Gilt Medal and a certificate in recognition of the school's contribution to the Miracle-Gro'wers Urban School Garden at the 2016 RHS Chelsea Flower Show. The pupils, Radayah and Emilija, were taken to Chelsea by teachers, Mrs Braybrook (Deputy Headteacher) and Mrs Schofield (Assistant Headteacher + LGT Education advisor) to work for a few hours at the garden, to give out leaflets and to show visitors the horticultural work that had been carried out at school.

The pupils, as well as others from around the country, were challenged by the Miracle-Gro'wers Academy to conduct scientific growing experiments. The results were exhibited at the

garden in the Great Pavilion of the world's most prestigious flower show alongside the plants of hundreds of professional exhibitors.

These amateur, but highly skilled junior growers, grew carrot and cabbage plants, using different composts and feeding regimes. They were able to observe the differences these plant foods and composts can make to the growth of the plants.

During the day, the pupils also had the opportunity to look around the show, meet some of the exhibitors and speak with Nicki Chapman from the BBC. They talked confidently and enthusiastically about what happens at Boston West, including gardening, the school grounds and outdoor learning. A great day was had by all!



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

Capability Connections

A flurry of media interest in the Tercentenary year of the birth of Lancelot 'Capability' Brown (1716-1783), has been highlighting England's greatest landscape architect. National festival celebrations have awakened new audiences to his works the length and breadth of the country and into Wales. Few realise his connections to Lincolnshire, in particular Boston, at this time thriving as the second most important port outside London.

Brown was born into a yeoman farming family and was christened on 30 August 1716 in St Wilfrid's, Kirkharle, a hamlet on the Loraine estate in rural Northumberland where he later learnt land management. Ambition and drive led to him becoming a 'canny' businessman and celebrity polymath with charm and wit 'in spades'. He had the charisma, confidence and skills to network in the highest salons of society and equally with foremen, foresters, masons and labourers, rising to be royal Master Gardener to George III. Yet Brown remained modest, believing it was his job to turn every estate into a 'respectful place'.

So how did he meet and marry a Lincolnshire lass, Bridget Wayet, born and christened in 1719 in Boston, her mother Margaret, formerly Kelsall, her father William Wayet, a respected apothecary. The 1738 Act of Parliament calling for engineers in Lincolnshire for deepening and straightening navigable rivers for shipping and for further fen drainage, likely prompted Brown, an asthmatic, to leave Kirkharle. The following year he headed south, perhaps by boat to Boston, probably carrying letters of recommendation from the Kirkharle landowner, Sir William Loraine MP, his first patron and employer. Loraine's wife Anne was daughter of Richard Smith of Enderby, near Leicester. Loraine's mother was Elizabeth Vyner. Did he send Brown down to his Lincolnshire cousin, Sir Robert Vyner, with estates at Gautby and Topholme? He also probably suggested calling on a fellow MP, Joseph Banks II who was a like-minded improver at Revesby. Is this where Brown met the love of his life? Bridget's family used to rent a house for the summer at Tumbly on the Revesby estate. According to a later letter from his youngest son Thomas to the explorer/botanist Sir Joseph Banks, Brown was a life-long friend of the Banks family.



Belvoir Castle

As Clerk of Sewers, Banks II was paid by the Duke of Ancaster to hold tribunals and to organise Court of Sewers dinners at Grimsthorpe Castle. One substantial account, concerning works in the park, links all three men, Banks, Brown and Bertie (the Duke of Ancaster). Banks probably introduced the enterprising young Mr Brown, newly arrived in the county, to act as overseer in a lake-making project in the valley of the River West Glen on view from the castle. However, the severest of winters, 1739/40, saw Brown recommended to Lord Cobham. He journeyed across to Stowe in Buckinghamshire, taking both the Grimsthorpe carpenter and plumber, to mend a broken dam and solve drainage problems. Significantly, aged 24 years, Brown was paid more than head gardener for his engineering expertise! Since both Ancaster and Banks then died within a few months of each other, Brown was free to accept Cobham's offer of employment as Steward.

In November 1744, Banks's daughter Elizabeth eloped from Revesby to marry a neighbour, James Hawley MD, at Gray's Inn in London. One can only speculate whether this gave Bridget, tired of waiting for her sweetheart's return, the courage to set off for Stowe two weeks later. On 22 November 1744, Bridget Wayet and Lancelot Brown exchanged vows by special licence in St Mary's Church, in the heart of the fine gardens. They settled down to a stable family life with the first four of their ten children being born (only five surviving) as Brown trained himself in architecture and landscape design. In 1751, after Lord Cobham's death, Brown moved his growing family to set up a land improvement and architectural practice in Hammersmith.

Connections with Boston run deeper. Bridget's brother John later became mayor of Boston, a position known as 'Admiral of the Wash' and a commissioner for the River Witham Navigation scheme. In January 1753 a 'Mr Brown' attended, together with Nocton landowner Sir Francis Dashwood, a Lincoln meeting concerning the same scheme. In 1755, the provincial press reported two earthquakes in quick succession. The first, early on 31 July, was centred on Newark in Nottinghamshire, with damage to

villages as far as the east coast and north to the Humber. The next day, a second sizeable quake shook Stamford in Lincolnshire, with tremors reaching as far as Nottingham, Leicester and Rushden in Northamptonshire. According to the Boston Minute Book, aldermen addressed the damage: 'Resolved that the Mayor be desired to write to Mr Brown an Engineer at Hammersmith to come over and view several buildings belonging to this Corporation and to pay him five guineas [today £730] for his journey.' Wayet was confident that his brother-in-law's advice on repairs and rebuilding would be well worth the corporation's travel expenses from London. Typically, Brown found a use for considerable amounts of stone and brick rubble resulting from the earthquake, as, shortly after, the town began to raise funds for a ten-mile turnpike from Boston to Donnington.

Far from being just a gardener, Brown's professional reputation as an engineer was clearly well-established in the county. Major works at Burghley House for the 9th Earl of Exeter followed over a period of 25 years. In 1763 Brown gave the Heneage family a plan for Hainton. Likewise, a grand plan for Charles Pelham at Brocklesby led over 10 visits during the 1770's. He also returned to Grimsthorpe with more proposals and later left comprehensive plans at Belvoir Castle before his death in 1783. Brown was buried in St Peter and Paul's Fenstanton, Cambridgeshire on his manor estate. His will included land and property in Lincolnshire bequeathed to his second son, John Brown (1751-1808), to the value of £2,500 (over £360,000) I believe in Fishtoft, Osbournby and Donnington, together with £3,500 (£ ½ million today). Having joined the Navy, John fought in the American War of Independence, later rising to be Vice-Admiral. After his father's death, he married Mary, daughter of John Linton of Freiston Priory. Although 'Capability' Brown loved and was fair to all his children, John seems to have been the favourite.

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"Moving Heaven & Earth - Capability Brown's Gift of Landscape" (Unicorn Press May2016) £30

Capability Brown – Child apprentices of 2016!

Pupils from Bluebell Hill Primary School, Nottingham spent a morning working for 'Mr Brown' aka our own Trust Education advisor, Emma Schofield. The local NADFAS group had begun working on making links with the school in developing an allotment area in Nottingham, planning to take them on a visit to Belvoir Castle and some arts work all linked to CB300. I was approached to help them develop the children's understanding of the work done by Brown on his life and his work in the landscape. So armed with an interactive trail about the great man and his work and a pile of tea stained paper I set off very early, on a beautiful sunny morning, to reach the school in time for registration.

The children engaged enthusiastically running around in their school grounds looking for Mr Brown clues and learning many facts about the man and his work. Back in the classroom the lovely video from the CB300 website added some extra visual inspiration along with snippets of recordings from various excellent programmes that have featured the Brown landscapes, including Belvoir the place

they were to visit later in the term.

The pupils, then had to qualify as a Brown apprentice by completing their own plans, drawn on the 'old parchment' (the tea stained paper!), of a landscape including key features we had identified from the mornings work. I, the two NADFAS ladies and class teachers were delighted with the outcomes for display. The children proudly wore their special Capability Brown stickers out to play and I left the school knowing that Mr Brown would have seen the 'capabilities' of these young people and he would have been pleased that his legacy was being enjoyed by future generations.

I am pleased to say that I was also able to replicate the same lesson to the young landscape designers at Boston West, especially poignant as Mrs Brown originated from the town. If you know of any local primary schools, who during this special year of Capability Brown, maybe interested in a Lincolnshire Gardens Trust children's interactive talk please contact emma.schofield3@btinternet.com



Open School Gardens 2016!

Well we were lucky with a beautiful Sunny Sunday afternoon for our Open School Gardens Weekend. Only two schools participated this year but quality not quantity was order of the day! Both Gosberton House Special School and Boston West Academy opened their gates to family, friends and the public.

Teas, cakes and plant sales all went down well as many people popped along to enjoy the grounds development at both schools. As part of the afternoon at Boston West we also released over 100 butterflies with the children into the wild, which raised £100 for the local Butterfly Hospice.

If for next year's Open schools Garden weekend, you know of any primary schools who maybe interested please contact emma.schofield3@btinternet.com



Chairman's Letter

...continued from the front page

this important work to proceed we all need to do several things; one is to maintain our own membership of the Trust and, where we can, support its activities by joining visits, attending talks or getting involved in other activities such as the photographic competition, or research into local landscapes and gardens. Another is to persuade like-minded friends and acquaintances to join and broaden our support across the county – it is a good idea to bring along potential candidates to one of the visits or talks to help them make up their minds; we are always delighted to see new faces and, I like to think, we are not too scary and, indeed, can be quite a friendly bunch! One action that would help with the first point would be if we could all set up Standing Orders with our banks to ensure the annual subscription to the Trust is paid regularly and on time. Much time and effort is expended in pursuing overdue dues, which it would be helpful to reduce. For those of us with Standing Orders already in place, please could we all check to ensure they are set up for the correct amount.

It is my sad duty to record the deaths this year of two long-standing and loyal supporters of the Trust. Audrey Patrick and Linda Tilbury had both been members for almost as long as the Trust has existed and Linda had served on the Council where, with Margaret Hatfield, she organised visits and lectures for the Trust for a number of years. Both Linda and Audrey supported the Trust in many ways, particularly by joining in the activities organised each year for our delight and education. It now appears that Linda has continued that support even further by making a most generous pecuniary bequest to the Trust in her Will. This is a very real and tangible sign of her dedication to the cause of the Gardens Trust and of her support for our work. Over the coming months the Council will decide how to mark this signal act of generosity so that Linda's love for and dedication to the promotion and protection of the beautiful gardens and landscapes of Lincolnshire will not be forgotten.

The act of leaving a bequest to the Trust is one that conveys a message as strong as any declaration of support we can make whilst living. If this strikes a chord with you, all details necessary to make such an arrangement in the Trust's favour are to be found in this Newsletter or on the website.

The mist is lifting – a little – and tidying in the garden beckons... **Andrew Barber**

Please remember to pay your subscriptions and also update Standing Orders to the correct amount, making sure you have provided up to date contact information.
Single membership: £15



The Gardens Trust AGM and National Conference held at Robinson College, Cambridge, 1-4th Sept 2016

Although I had dutifully read Steffie Shields' accounts of the merger of The Garden History Society and the Association of Gardens Trusts, resulting in the formation of The Gardens Trust I had not clearly understood that membership of a county Trust does not either bring with it, or require, membership of the The Gardens Trust.

2016 saw my first year as a Lincs Garden Trust member and my first attendance of the conference of the national body, The Gardens Trust. This is my excuse for being very slow on the uptake!

By the time I had appreciated that I could vote with a yellow card as a delegate from the Lincs Gardens Trust but not with a white card as I had not joined The Gardens Trust I decided to tin up £35 and rectify the situation.

I can generate quite a bit of fun with £35 so you need to work hard to convince me that the sub. is worth it.

So what DID convince me?

The detailed but succinct account of the way the two original bodies had been merged given by Dr James Bartos, (handily a very able Mergers and Acquisition Lawyer) impressed but wasn't sufficient. Similarly, the streamlining of the two



Stained glass window in Fenstanton Village Hall to commemorate Brown's Tercentenary. The piece was commissioned by The Gardens Trust, designed by children of Fenstanton and unveiled at a lunch in the Hall during the National Conference.

bodies' admin. procedures and personnel was persuasive but I resisted.

I gave in at the end of the conference following four days of simply being very impressed by the commitment and effort being put in at every level. The admin. and support officers were capable, lively and committed; the members of other county Trusts were enthusiastic and determined to protect and conserve their 'designed landscapes' and the Ph D students and lecturers supported by the Trust were working at a high level to enhance our appreciation of the cultural significance of all these wonderful designed landscapes and gardens.

Reader, I set up my Direct Debit and I encourage you to do the same.

Heather Slater

Historic Landscapes Assembly

A Historic Landscape Project Discussion and Networking Day

24th November 2016
10am-5pm
The Gallery, 70 Cowcross Street,
London, EC1M 6EJ

Golden surprise!



During an extremely busy Summer term at Boston West Academy we received, out of the blue, a phone call from Graham, an East Midlands in Bloom judge for the RHS, who hoped he could pop along to see our school



grounds as he was interested to see how we had moved on from two years ago when we entered their Bloom competition. So I filled in a quick form, and explained to Graham that there was no time to change or improve on

our gardens as we were going through an OFSTED too!

Following an informal visit by Graham to us and our friends at Gosberton House Special School Shirley, my colleague and fellow

school gardener, I and two children received an invitation to a presentation day.

In a very busy room full of keen East Midlands gardeners gathered together to celebrate their endeavours across various communities we sat and enjoyed hearing about their work. The categories involving the schools were read out and our friends from Gosberton won the best ornamental garden element, so we cheered loudly. Then to our complete surprise we were awarded the overall 'Best School Garden in the East Midlands 2016' with a score of 97% in the RHS judging. We were overwhelmed and so proud, our children went on stage to collect our certificate and plaque which now hang in our school entrance to the delight of our school community.

Both Linda and Audrey were founder members of Lincolnshire Gardens Trust and will be greatly missed.



Linda Tilbury (1934 - 2016)

A drama student at Rose Bruford College, 1951-1954, Linda taught in Denbigh, Hampshire, Littlehampton, and Chichester. She also taught at St Andrews Primary School in Malta, returning where she and her sister Clare had spent a happy early childhood before and also partly during the war, after

their father took up a Barclays Bank post there in the late 30s. In 1968, she moved to Lincoln to teach Drama at Bishop Grosseteste College as a senior lecturer and later Head of Drama. At the Theological College, Linda taught aspiring ordinands to use their voices. Appointed by the Dean and Chapter as Visitor Officer at Lincoln Cathedral till retirement in 1994, she remained as a committed and enthusiastic volunteer. Volunteering as a guide at Doddington Hall and as a Blue Badge Guide for Lincolnshire, Linda gave numerous lectures and courses for the WEA, the U3A and talks to WI groups, sharing her passion and expertise in all aspects of the Cathedral's history and architecture, her travels with Magna Carta, or The Bloomsbury group. She played a major role in bringing to public attention Duncan Grant's murals after the restoration of the Blaise Chapel.

Of course we all remember Linda fondly for her love of gardens and garden visiting, her smiling company and enthusiasm, let alone her organisational skills on the LGT Committee organising splendid events and visits, including out of county. The success of the national AGT Conference (2009) in Lincoln was largely due to her warm welcome and thoughtful hard work behind the scenes.



Audrey Alice Patrick (1929 - 2016)

Audrey, a keen gardener, actively supported trust projects and events including this year's Capability Brown visits. A member of the research team early on, she undertook in-depth research into the gardens of Coleby Hall and Wellingore Hall to be included in a gazetteer of Lincolnshire's historic parks and gardens which it is hoped LGT will publish.

Steffie Shields



Meet the LGT Council: Beryl Lott

Dr Beryl Lott serves on the Lincolnshire Gardens Trust Council to give Planning advice. As the Gardens Trust nationally and locally is a statutory consultee in planning matters relating to historic landscapes and gardens, Beryl's academic and professional background in related areas is invaluable.

Beryl writes of her route onto the Council, "I was co-opted on to the Committee of the Lincolnshire Gardens Trust due to my knowledge on planning issues and my own interest in the history of garden landscapes; one of the things I hoped to be able to do was encourage more interest in historical research in Lincolnshire gardens."

Currently Beryl manages the Historic Environment Team for Lincolnshire County Council. The team has a remit to protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment of Lincolnshire. They also develop and maintain the HER (Historic Environment Record), a record of all known historic assets in the county. This covers archaeological sites, historic buildings and historic landscapes, including historic parks and gardens. The development of these records is ongoing and in recent years the HER have added landscape records such as 'Historic Landscape Characterisation'. They ran a three

year project cataloguing all the landscapes across the county and identified whether any historic landscapes still survive. Historic Parks and Gardens are included in this record and they encourage members to send in details which would add to the record anything anybody knows about the history of any historic gardens. It is an area which has not been focused on in detail in the past because the HER started life purely as an archaeological record.

Beryl's team have quite a wide professional role; as well as running a small number of heritage projects themselves they encourage and help organise community and volunteer heritage projects across the county, often working in partnership with Heritage Lincolnshire. They have just completed a very successful War Memorial recording project which attracted hundreds of volunteers, and the database of war memorials which resulted from it can be found on the LCC 'Lincs to the Past' website. An ongoing project with a number of partners is the 'Bricks and Bones' community archaeology project in Lincoln which is being managed by Sarah Grundy. As well as heritage projects the team also provide a service giving archaeological advice to some of the County's District Councils on planning

applications: "this entails scrutinising planning applications and appraising them against the information contained in the HER to determine whether there is likely to be any impact on historic assets either under or over ground. Where there is a potential for an impact we make recommendations to the planning authority who would decide whether or not to put an associated condition on any forthcoming planning consent." While in reality only 5% of planning applications attract such conditions, members must be reassured that the Historic Environment Team is working to protect the historic environment. There are teams in all County Councils undertaking similar activities and there is national concern that Council budget cuts are reducing the capacity of such teams to assist communities.

Beryl is due to retire in 2017 and the nature of Beryl's professional activities could encourage readers to hope that in retirement she might find more time to help to stimulate voluntary activity in the recording and conservation of our historic designed landscapes and gardens.



Wyndham Park

by Elizabeth Bowskill

They say if you need something doing you should ask a busy woman and that is just what Steffie did when she asked me to join the LGT committee 5 years ago. I had first met Steffie back in 2005 when she was invited to look into the history of Wyndham Park, Grantham. Little did either of us know how much she would inspire me to take her research further and how much a part of my weekly routine Wyndham Park has become. Back in 2005 I was working at South Kesteven District Council in Leisure and Cultural Services – (the “Park’s department” if you like) and I was asked to go along to an inaugural meeting to take notes for what was to develop into the Wyndham Park Forum – and 11 years later I am still the Secretary and doing a lot more than simply taking the minutes!

The Wyndham Park Forum is a group of volunteers and representatives of various park user groups which works in close partnership with SKDC to ensure improvements are made and standards maintained within the park. The initial aim was to achieve a Green Flag Award for Wyndham Park and in July 2016 we secured our 5th successive Green Flag Award. This is one of only three Green Flag Awards in the whole of the county (the others being Hartsholme Country Park and Lincoln Arboretum). The Green Flag Award scheme is part of the Keep Britain Tidy group and recognises and rewards the very best green spaces and is the benchmark national standard for parks and green spaces in the UK.

In addition to our Green Flag, the Wyndham Park Forum and SKDC were delighted to have received grant funding of £818,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) and the Big Lottery Fund in July 2016 to finalise major plans to

refurbish the park’s grounds and buildings.

The project will now aim to restore the park to its former glory as a First World War memorial open space. A development funding grant of £92,500 was awarded in 2014 to help progress the plans to apply for the full grant and the full allocation of funding will enable new and improved features and buildings based around the park’s heritage.

So what of that heritage?

Wyndham Park is one of three parks in Grantham linked by the Riverside Walk which follows the River Witham through town and has been described by a Green Flag Award judge as a part of string of pearls along the river.

Wyndham Park has long been an area for public use, although it has only been called Wyndham Park since 1922.

The earliest reference to the land is in 1615 when some land and Mills were assigned “*for the common utility & public good of the Town & the Corporation of Grantham & the Burgesses of the same ...buildings, barns, stables, orchards, garden land, meadow, feeding pastures, common way, waters, water courses, whirlpools, rivulets, pools, Fisheries, Fishing Pond, Tolls etc.*”

Throughout the seventeenth, eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, the Town Corporation continued to lease the mills, while the surrounding common land was used for cattle-grazing and popular fairs. The area was called Belton Fields and then became known as Slate Mill Recreation Ground named after the Mill which stood over the bridge on the river. The Mill, one of several flour mills in the town, burned down in a disastrous fire during the

night of Thursday 14th April 1892 (Maundy Thursday). The biggest change to the area came in 1886 when it was decided to divert the flow of the River Witham to create a public Bathing Place. The estimated cost of the work was £265.19 and the work was carried out by the unemployed, and completed in time for a public opening by the Town Mayor in July of the same year.

The Swimming Baths proved to be a popular addition to the facilities on offer and despite being open air and unheated was in regular daily use between May and September. There were annual Aquatic Sports events held with prizes being given by local businesses and individuals (barometers, clocks, handkerchiefs, umbrellas and such like).

During the Great War the army camp at Belton Park extended beyond the boundaries of Belton Park itself, into the Harrowby Parish boundaries and the top edge of what is now Wyndham Park. With the establishment of the Machine Gun Corps, in October 1915 more space was required for the camp and troops were stationed as far south of Belton as the Wyndham Park area. The soldiers would march down the hill and along Belton Lane towards the Lion Gates at Belton Park for training every morning, returning to the accommodation huts in the evening. A picture postcard of the Swimming Baths, posted during WWI indicates that the soldiers used the baths on a regular basis – at which time the general public were unable to use them.

The Grantham Borough Minute book and the Grantham Journal archives are a great starting point for research and an addictive read. For instance in February 23rd 1920 under the heading: *Recreation Grounds – Slate Mill the following item is minuted:*

The attention of the Military Authorities has been directed to the use made by them of the Slate Mill Recreation Ground for purposes of parade and training and also to the fact that officers and others constantly ride across the ground on bicycles &c. for the purposes of obtaining direct access to Harrowby Camp and the Officer Commanding has issued an order for these practices to stop.

After the Great War Grantham Town received War Trophies – as did many other boroughs in the country and in 1919 took delivery of a tank which was placed in the Slate Mill Recreation Ground just before the layout of the new park was begun. The Town War Memorial Committee considered several very worthy schemes to remember the fallen of the Great War and the final decision was to create a memorial park: *a suitable memorial should be erected to the memory of the dead and provision made for the living, particularly the*



Wyndham Park circa 1926 with Paddling Pool in the foreground and a view of St Wulfram’s Church spire

children – the men and women of the future.

At a subsequent meeting it is clear that the area around the Slate Mill Recreation Ground was owned by many different people and acquiring these parcels of land allowed Wyndham Park to become the size it is today. After further discussion it was decided to aim high and ask the public for £5000, towards the cost of improving the hospital and laying out the recreation ground. And so the plans to create a public park as a fitting memorial to the fallen of the Great War were set in motion.

The funds received a substantial boost by a donation given by the Dowager Lady Leconfield, widow of the late Lord Leconfield of Petworth House Sussex. She made the gift in memory of her son, the Hon. Lt William Reginald Wyndham, a captain in the Life Guards who was killed in action on 6th November 1914. His connection to the town of Grantham is that he rented a property in the town and spent his winters riding with the local hunts and contributing to local worthy causes. Lady Leconfield asked that the park be named after him and from 1922 it was referred to as Wyndham Park in official documents. However the park itself was not completed until 1924 – largely due to the area having been flooded in August 1922 when the River Witham burst its banks, and resulted in a new bridge being built and the embankments of the river strengthened.

The opening ceremony of Wyndham Park took place on 24th July 1924 with Lady Leconfield and other family members present. There was a parade, bands playing, school children in attendance and speeches made. The Grantham Journal has a full page article with pictures and a detailed description of the new park – flower beds, rose arbours, new paths etc all laid out, a paddling pool, and play equipment.

Other additions were made to the park in due course – most notably the arched entrance which acts as a further memorial –

remembering the soldiers of the Machine Gun Corps who marched to Belton Park. It stands on the junction of the footpaths they used. That was built and opened in 1935. In 1930 the entrance to the swimming baths was improved and the black and white pavilion built. This building housed a memorial plaque which in later years was vandalised, removed but rescued from a skip and hangs restored outside the Mayor’s Parlour.

The Swimming Baths sadly went out of use in 1971 and after a brief period when the area was turned into a Skate Park, the baths were turned into a Model Boating Lake. This is one of the features which will be restored under the Heritage Lottery funding.

In 2008 the Wyndham Park Forum raised funds to hang a replica plaque back in the pavilion. This was the second project under taken as we had previously secured finding from WREN and local sponsors to create a playground for under 8’s. In July 2010 work was completed on a new Sensory Garden (designed by Tim Kemp) and centred on an old Horse Chestnut tree planted as a conker by the son of the Park Superintendent at the time (the late Ron Howlett). However the tree turned out to be diseased and instead it was turned into a sculpture by Nigel Sardeson – called Isaac’s apple, it is a hand holding an apple. This in turn has suffered from fungal growth as it was still rooted in the ground, and has just been restored – cut down at the wrist so to speak, dried out and returned to the Sensory Garden on 14th October.

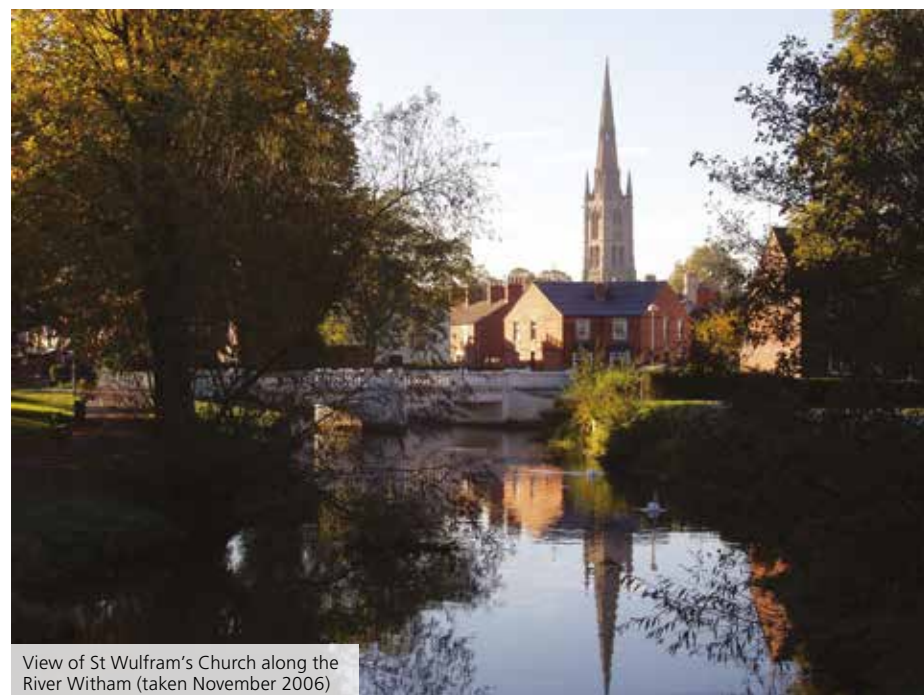
The Heritage Lottery funded project aims to restore Wyndham Park to the some of its former glory. The historic buildings will be restored and a new visitor centre created providing community space and information about the park’s history. The next couple of years will see this transformation happen and then the park will be ready to be enjoyed for another 100 years!

Planned events for 2017

All dates subject to confirmation

More details in the New Year – please keep an eye on the website and in emails.

1. April after Easter (probably 20th) Sedgebrook Manor, near Grantham. Garden visit (daffodils and other spring flowers), tea & cakes.
2. Madingley and Fenstanton – as planned in 2016 but by private car / car share Details to be confirmed depending on interest from members.
3. July 10th Harpswell Farm Garden followed by Archaeological site visit (dig in progress).
4. September: Revesby Abbey – tour of neglected grounds – with a tempting glimpse at the past splendour of the gardens. Refreshments possibly at local village pub.
5. AGM: Saturday 18th November 2017 venue to be confirmed speaker to be confirmed.



View of St Wulfram’s Church along the River Witham (taken November 2006)

Study Tour of Gardens of the North East of Scotland

From Friday 30 June to Thursday 6 July 2017

Based at the Park Inn Radisson hotel in the centre of Aberdeen, the study tour encompasses a variety of historical gardens, through the last four centuries, as well as new creations.

Some are very private gardens created in old spaces and others designed for public show. Bill Brogden, a founder member of the GHS and NTS garden advisor will be our guest guide on this tour.

Please contact Kristina Taylor: wowkristina@hotmail.com for more details, and/or see The Gardens Trust website.

Highlights from the Annals of Lincolnshire Gardens Trust

...all in all, well over 120 events, lectures, small exhibitions & garden visits and at least four successful planning enquiries/appeals!

- ▶ **1995 Limited Company Registered**
10 November, Memorandum & Articles of Conservation, Research and Education Charity in the county, affiliated to the national Association of Gardens Trusts (AGT). Victoria Jarvis, Chairman of the Council of Management, President Sir Kenneth Carlisle KCVO. Lincolnshire County Council a corporate member.
- ▶ **1996 Annual Photographic Competition**
organised by Gwen Grantham sponsored by Lincolnshire County Council and Lincolnshire Life magazine. Shervie Price newsletter editor (from 1995 to 2015!) with pen & ink drawings by Gwen Grantham. Donation of Medlar Tree in support of restoration of **Cross O Cliff Orchard**, in Lincoln, a site open to the community and supported by volunteers including LGT member Margaret Hatfield.
- ▶ **1998** Andrew Barber, National Trust representative joins the committee.
- ▶ **1999** Support for Heritage Lottery Fund bid by Lincoln City Council with £2.2 million for restoration of **Lincoln Arboretum** and **Temple Gardens**. LGT members supported Old Sub-Deanery Garden restoration, Lincoln Cathedral. English Heritage Contemporary Heritage Garden, **Bishop's Palace, Lincoln**, a competition won by Mark Anthony Walker, with LGT involved in judging. Opening September 2001 by HRH Duke of Gloucester.
- ▶ **2002** LGT Consultation re **North Kesteven Local Plan** and Rauceby Asylum landscape, Sleaford.
- ▶ **2000** **Grand Millennium Plant Fair** in aid of Lincolnshire Old Churches Trust held at Scrivelsby Court organised by LGT Chairman Lady Sally Bruce-Gardyne, Gwen Grantham and Mary Fry.
- ▶ **May 2001** LGT donated a five-barred gate to **Boston West Primary School**, a failing school, that thanks to years of hard work & investment by headmaster Mike Schofield and Emma Schofield, (who became LGT and AGT education officer) that in 2016, including its Hive Eco centre and Garden of Inspiration, RHS voted it best school grounds in East Midlands.
- ▶ **2003** LGT supported restoration of **Fulbeck Victorian Kitchen Garden** with donation and research (LGT Study Day 2004).
- ▶ **2004** Donation to **Easton Walled Gardens** for trees. Lincolnshire School of Agriculture, Riseholme, part of Lincoln University, becomes a corporate member. Donation to British Garden In Hanover Square New York in memory of British victims of 2001 terrorist attack on World Trade Centre, known as 9/11.
- ▶ **2005** **School Grounds Competition** launched, organised by Sandra Sardeson Best Kept Garden Competition for Order of St John Care Trust launched, judged by LGT committee members. Dr Beryl Lott, Conservation Officer for Lincolnshire CC co-opted on committee.
- ▶ **2006** LGT hosted an AGT Study Day at **Grimsthorpe Castle**. Consultation re Clare Lodge, Market Rasen.
- ▶ **2007** Mrs Annetta Turner becomes LGT President. Writer Anna Pavord Guest Speaker at AGM.
- ▶ **2009** LGT hosted **AGT Annual Weekend Conference 'Come into the Garden Maud'** in Lincoln, Keynote speaker John Harris.
- ▶ **2010** June opening of Joseph Banks Garden in Horncastle, a Joseph Banks Society project supported by LGT Vice-Chairman Gwen Grantham; LGT also supported **Wyndham Park Sensory Garden Project** in Grantham and **Alford Manor House** garden project. Donation of a tree to **Boston Old Cemetery**.
- ▶ **2011** LGT supported **Heritage Lincolnshire's 'Heritage at Risk' Project**. LGT Objection to Wind Farm near Guanock House, Sutton St Edmunds. Small Grant to **Cairn Garden, Kirkby On Bain Primary School**.
- ▶ **2012** June Queen's **Diamond Jubilee Garden Party** at Harrington Hall. Closer working of LGT with Garden History Society (GHS) for conservation and planning. Donation of a tree to new **Diamond Grove, Queen Elizabeth Park**, Grantham. Small Grant to Easton Walled Gardens to plant heritage fruit trees.
- ▶ **2013** LGT visit to Highgrove, HRH Prince Charles's garden in Gloucestershire. 2014 **LGT School Open Gardens Weekend** launched. LGT supported garden restoration at **Petwood House Hotel**, Woodhall Spa. Objection to Wind Farm near **Norton Place**, Caenby Corner. LGT Small Grant to **Grantham College**: a project for small market garden and sensory garden.
- ▶ **2015** Merger of the AGT and the GHS into one national charity The Gardens Trust. LGT supports Heritage Lincolnshire **'Layers of Landscape' Project**. Objection to Wind Farms near Well Vale and Hough on the Hill.
- ▶ **2016** Year of Special LGT events, including LGT Summer Picnic at **Hainton Hall** and visits to five Brown sites, as part of national Capability Brown Tercentenary Festival celebrations funded by Heritage Lottery Fund grant.

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