

Annual General Meeting of the Lincolnshire Gardens Trust

Saturday November 19th November 2021 at 2 p.m

Grantham House, Castlegate, Grantham **NG31 6SS**

Minutes

1 Apologies

Elizabeth Bowskill, Ken & Lesley Hollamby, Len and Elizabeth Morris, Trisha & Chris Harding, Stephanie Lee, Liz Drake, Rosemary Edwardson, Andrew Barber, Mr & Mrs John Burke, Michael Casterton & Mary Rose Johnston, Mary Chaplin, Margaret Hatfield

2 Minutes and Report from 2021 AGM

Steffie Shields

Approved

3 Chairman's Report

Steffie Shields

Welcome everyone – especially a warm welcome to our new members and also to photographers who have participated in our annual photo competition. Not long to wait now - Prize-giving will follow immediately after this, I hope, brief and efficient AGM. Firstly, huge congratulations to a founder member and former LGT Chairman Sally Bruce-Gardyne for your 90th birthday.

Our thanks to the historic Petwood Hotel for hosting the AGM last year so smoothly and thanks to Elizabeth Bowskill, we have another excellent venue this year here at Grantham House. She apologises for not being with us this year. As a valued member of the Grantham Choral Society, their Annual Concert has clashed with our LGT AGM.

So much has happened since we met last November at this time - not least the Platinum Jubilee celebrations. Last March, as part of Her Majesty's Green Canopy appeal, we planted the Service Tree, *Sorbus torminalis*, beside the Diamond Grove in Queen Elizabeth Park which we designed especially for her Diamond Jubilee. Come September, the country mourned the sad loss of HM The Queen.

Those of you on email will all have received, and I hope read, copies of the proposed new version of the LGT Constitution. Frazer, as vice-chairman, has been an invaluable not least in helping to go through every detail of the constitution 'with a fine toothcomb' bring the 25 year-old plus constitution up to date before sending it to the Charities Commission for their information and approval. He has also been equally diligent in keeping LGT accounts in order. Many thanks, Frazer. We are also grateful that retired solicitor and former LGT trustee Frances Carr was able to advise us about proposed changes.

Elizabeth Bowskill continues to go to great lengths to research and organise our varied events all of which have been well-attended. Little Ponton Hall in April was a delight, to Anne and Bob Armstrong's Woodlands unusual plant-packed nursery in May, the council-run park and garden at Normanby Hall in June, and the tour of Burghley Walled Gardens, I believe the largest in the country, in September where we heard of great plans for future development. Walled gardens seem to be the flavour of the month. We have recently been approached by a new Friends Group for help with registration as a charity with exciting plans to restore the Dawber Garden in Lincoln.

2023 looks to be an equally engaging programme of events visiting a range of superb gardens Mere House at Sturton by Stow in April, Skellingthorpe Hall May, Aubourn Hall in June, Fydell House in Boston. In September 2023 a members visit to Harlaxton's extraordinary Walled Garden with a talk and a guided tour by the Project Director of a

major restoration with new education and visitor facilities. So we will pass on everybody's anticipation and appreciation to Elizabeth!

Often work goes on quietly behind the scenes. We continue to liaise with and support both the NGS Yellow-book scheme and the Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire. Our congratulations go to Felix Mayle LGT member who has gained an MA with Distinction in Conservation of the Historic Environment has recently been appointed as a senior Project Officer at the Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire. LGT trustees have for a third year running been invited to judge the South Kesteven Best Kept Village Competition, won this year by Ropsley, in the large villages section, and by Welby in the small village section.

A big thank you to Lucienne Bennett who never fails to monitor to the conservation planning lists that come through every Thursday sending in our responses to be recorded by the Gardens Trust conservation team who keep a constant watch on issues and who are more than delighted to have local teams monitoring and reporting back to them about not only the listed historic parks and gardens but also the local landscapes of note which might be under threat from developments. This year we have been consulted on 59 applications, thankfully requiring mostly No Comment. We commented comments in support twice, once supporting the re-installation of the Mary Ann Johnson Memorial Fountain in Ayscoughfee Gardens, and in support of Harlaxton Walled Garden Restoration although mentioning some concerns, and one voicing no objection to the felling of a couple of mature trees to allow new landscaping around the new Gallery at Grimsthorpe Castle.

One of our main expenditures is the bi-annual Newsletter. We are hopeful that members will agree that editor Heather Slater has continued to deliver an extremely interesting and vibrant publication which is invaluable for explaining the work of the trust, spreading good news and stories about the county's 'unforgettable parks and gardens'- and not least for attracting new members. Our Membership Secretary Grace Ellis is so good at engaging in conversation with anyone she comes across about the work of the trust! As a result, LGT newsletters disappeared like hot cakes last March at the Society for Lincolnshire History and Archaeology conference at the Petwood Hotel. Heather has bought the latest edition today. We are also grateful that the current chairman of the Society for Lincolnshire History and Archaeology Ian George, Historic Places Manager for Lincolnshire County Council, finds the time to be one of our trustees.

The Gardens Trust, the over-arching national charity, has issued a 50th Special Edition anniversary Garden History Journal – arriving just yesterday - which would make an excellent gift for a garden history buff or student! Talk to me afterwards if interested. The Gardens Trust been active in organising many Zoom meetings and lectures available to all CGT members successfully raising much-needed funds for the charity's coffers. Do keep an eye on their website. Many online talks are reasonable in price but nevertheless of a high standard by experts in the field. The GT Annual New Research Symposium series of 20 minute talks is always worth tuning in to, delivered by new researchers from around the world. The first part of the Symposium is on 26th November with the second in December. This includes a talk on the late 19th C garden designer Sir Reginald Blomfield -a re-appraisal of his work. Blomfield was commissioned at several sites in Lincolnshire including Brocklesby, Culverthorpe Hall, Caythorpe Court and the Usher Gallery in Lincoln. The GT theme for a 3 -year, 'Unforgettable Gardens' continues to be an inspirational and rewarding project. It aims to raise awareness of our conservation and education work nationwide, not least for Publicity & Community Outreach with every conceivable digital audience. Earlier this year, LGT contributed one month by telling the unique story of Easton Walled Gardens and their restoration which was published on the 'Unforgettable Gardens' project section of the GT website with links in modern media via Email,

Facebook, Twitter, Instagram etc. Linden Groves, the GT's development officer, was delighted to see the Unforgettable Gardens theme had headlined on the cover of last January's issue of Lincolnshire Life illustrated by Danny Rollitt's superb photo of Brightwater Gardens amongst 2021's prizewinning images competition. Only this week Linden included this Lincolnshire Life cover in her talk to the Historic Parks and Gardens Assembly in London to show Lincolnshire Gardens Trust promoting the Unforgettable Gardens theme in a positive way.

An extremely busy year for me with the recent publication of my father's WWII Italian Campaign war memoir 'A Black Cat Abroad' has meant fits and starts of research for our LGT gazetteer. So I have been heartened that Sue Barlow and Audrey Barclay are continuing to beaver and write up the stories and significance of local gardens in North Kesteven and have almost completed the district. Frazer has also discovered more about sites in Holland. I hope to focus this year to bring everything together inspired by the latest publication People and Places in West Lindsey.

Emma Schofield – our liaison with Schools and RHS representative – has reported that, although outdoor space and school gardens had proved a tonic during the Covid period, but that, because of Covid and pressures to regain lost ground in the curriculum, very little has happened with school grounds or gardening projects. It is a concern that there have been no applications for LGT small grants this year, the second in a row. We hope this should pick up again next year. Emma has done two regional Zoom talks for Learning Outside the Classroom (LOT) and she was also recently invited to give a talk to the West Midlands area of Britain in Bloom. There were 11 entries from Lincolnshire schools for RHS in Bloom. We are proud of all Emma achieves while also working part-time.

Unfortunately, despite an advert for LGT trustees that went out on the GT website and in modern media, we still cannot attract a volunteer to join us, not least to take up the post as secretary. Please do come and speak to me, Frazer or any of the team here if you think you might like to join us. We always invite members to sit in on a committee meeting before deciding to commit to any volunteer role. Committee meetings are only 3 times a year plus the AGM.

Trustees remain ever grateful in these difficult times for everyone's continued support of our charity. I would ask members to remember to renew their subscriptions this weekend if possible updating the direct debits or standing orders, so that the aims of the trust continue to be fulfilled. While I think of it, why not give the newsletter, and pay a membership subscription for a family member or friend as a Christmas gift that will keep on giving! Please do not leave without taking several newsletters to pass on to family and friends – the Elizabeth Rose by David Austin on the cover is one of the raffle prizes so I hope you have bought plenty of tickets. Still time – the raffle will be drawn during refreshment.

Members may remember, as part of the Jubilee celebrations, a sculpture by Thomas Heatherwick's, a giant 'Tree of Trees' installation outside Buckingham Palace unveiled on 2nd June as a tribute to Her Majesty 70 years to the day after her coronation. 'The Tree of Trees' was to highlight an incredible community campaign that's already planted more than a million saplings and celebrate a moment of national togetherness. We all know we need more trees and nature in Britain's towns and cities. Our job as designers and all the other people who make and manage cities is to apply our creative energy and imagination to the task of making that happen." I am delighted to tell you Mr Toby Dennis, the Lord Lieutenant of Lincolnshire, has decided that of the four saplings gifted to community groups in the county, one should be presented to Lincolnshire Gardens Trust and so celebrating our work helping to conserve and renew parks and gardens. We hope to plant this sapling next March beside the Diamond Grove in Queen Elizabeth Park, a park dedicated to her mother and marking her 80th birthday. With this excellent news and

much to look forward to in 2023 I hand over to Frazer for his Treasurer's Report.

- 4 Treasurer's Report** Frazer Chapman
The Accounts having been presented to members prior to the meeting, Frazer Chapman summarised the details – report is at the end of the Minutes
Proposal: To raise LGT Single Membership to £20 & Family/Joint Membership to £30
Proposed by Frazer Chapman
Seconded by Lucienne Bennet
Accepted by majority
- 5 Adoption of Accounts** Frazer Chapman
Proposed by Lady Sally Bruce-Gardyne
Seconded Grace Ellis
Accepted by majority
- 6 Election of Auditors James & Co , Boston** Frazer Chapman
Proposed by Heather Slater
Seconded by Lucienne Bennett
Accepted by majority
- 7 Proposal: To amend and update the LGT Constitution (attached)**
Proposed by Emma Schofield
Seconded by Lucienne Bennett
Accepted by majority
- 8 Election of Committee by 3 -year rotation: Lucienne Bennett**
Proposed by Audrey Barclay
Seconded by Heather Slater
Accepted by majority
- 9 Presentation of the LGT Photographic Competition prizes:**
Steffie Shields, Annetta Turner
- 10 GUEST SPEAKER: Caroline Holmes**
'The Memphis that predates Elvis – Egyptian Plants and Gardens'

Afternoon Tea

Statement of financial activities for year ending 31st August 2022
Information taken from Report and Accounts (prepared by James and Co Accountants)

Lincolnshire Gardens Trust Limited

Statement of Financial Activities Including
Income & Expenditure Account
For The Year Ended 31st August 2022

	<u>2022</u> £	<u>2021</u> £
Incoming Resources		
Membership subscriptions	1,863.00	1,596.00
Visit income / events	830.00	174.00
Donations	-	-
Interest received	127.00	440.00
Gift aid	-	-
	2,820.00	2,210.00
Total Resources Expended		
Events & meetings	1,402.00	328.00
Printing & stationery	1,472.00	1,169.00
Postage	144.00	188.00
Insurance	417.00	402.00
Travel	108.00	-
Jubilee expenses	165.00	-
Website costs & advertising	158.00	133.00
Accountancy	276.00	276.00
Other expenses	419.00	87.00
Bank charges	76.00	-
	4,637.00	2,583.00
Excess of Income over expenditure	- 1,817.00	- 373.00
Total Funds of the Charity		
Accumulated surplus brought forward	29,602.00	29,975.00
Surplus / (deficit) for the year	- 1,817.00	- 373.00
	27,785.00	29,602.00

Continuing Operations

Income and excess of expenditure over income derives wholly from continuing operations

Total Recognised Gains & Losses

The company has no recognised gains or losses other than the excesses for income over expenditure for the above two financial periods.

Members present at the AGM

Caroline Holmes
Caroline Bingham
John & Maxime Constable
Emma Schofield
Lucienne Bennett plus one
Steffie & Mike Shields
Frazer Chapman
Annetta & Simon Turner
Heather Slater
Grace Eliis
John & Nicky Howe
Christine Metcalf
Audrey Barclay
Sue & Chris Barlow
Maureen Geddis
Karen Schuldt
Frances & Anthony Collard
Sally Bruce -Gardyne
Maire Wightman