

Lincolnshire Gardens Trust Newsletter

March 2019

Registered Charity Number: 1050884

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Chairman's Letter



Following our LGT AGM at **International Bomber Command Centre** (I.B.C.C.), three 'Lest We Forget' roses have been delivered as a donation on behalf of LGT members for the Peace Gardens. Landscape architect, Shona Hatton, who showed members round and explained the meaningful and touching

new designed landscape for Lincoln then mentioned that they had run out of finances to plant more trees on the approach to the Centre. A suggestion for a more-lasting donation of beech trees seemed appropriate and was approved by members present. Thank you to those who have already generously donated, in total £210 to date.

Having been advised that the smallest trees have the best chance of successful establishment in this exposed site, we aim to raise enough funds to plant about twenty 4-5 feet tall beech trees in 5-litre pots, each planted with a protecting spiral guard. Chris Barlow has kindly stepped in to liaise between Aveland Nursery and I.B.C.C. There are some issues regarding the right location for the trees, but planting will, we hope take place next November 2019 in time for

Remembrance Sunday. If you wish to commemorate some member of the family or a friend who served in WWII RAF Bomber Command in this way, please send cheque donations addressed to Lincolnshire Gardens Trust, c/o Acting Secretary Mrs Elizabeth Bowskill, 3 Sandcliffe Rd, Grantham NG31 8DT or simply bring an envelope for her at the first event thanks to owners David & Gill Boldy: on 11 April Firsby Manor, one of my favourite gardens including a superb narcissus collection.

A big welcome to Grace Ellis to the Board of Trustees. She is already proving invaluable in the Lincoln area, especially helping to support the LGT Gazetteer Research Group. We wish her a speedy recovery from her second hip replacement.

We send our sincere condolences to former LGT Secretary France Carr with the passing of her husband David Carr, for years a cheerful supporter of LGT events.

Members will also be sad to hear that the county's expert snowdrop collector, Cliff Curtis, has died. Cliff and Joan generously opened their garden, 21 Chapel Street, Hacconby, for the National Garden Scheme (NGS), regularly raising thousands of pounds for charity. Although no longer opening for the NGS, their daughter Sharron White, herself a gifted professional gardener, hopes to continue to care for Cliff's special collection of Galanthus.

Chairman's letter continues on page 2

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

Lincoln Dawber Garden Restoration

I mentioned in November’s Newsletter that, to assist a hoped-for garden restoration, we were looking for information about the history and original designer of Lincoln’s Dawber Garden, originally the walled garden serving the Lawn. By chance, a member in Nottingham knew how to contact Jonathan Dix, who then telephoned me. He told me how, back in the early 90’s, having completed a course in landscape architecture, and fresh out of college, he was excited to be commissioned by Lincoln City Council. He now works for Natural England, based in Bury St Edmunds. However, he is hoping to retrieve a box from his attic with all the original designs, including the theme ‘Four Corners of the Earth’, with Joseph Banks plants

to represent Lincoln, planting list etc. Before and after photos including the official opening and the visit of the Chinese delegation should prove invaluable. Watch this space!



As you make plans for a new, hopefully warmer season, don’t forget to mark your diaries with LGT garden visits and make sure to book early. Polish your camera lenses ready for this year’s LGT Photo Competition with plenty to feast your eyes and stimulate your thoughts. Meanwhile, do get in touch with newsletter editor Heather Slater if you have unearthed any more fascinating garden stories or designs.

Steffie Shields

What motivates my interest in learning outside the classroom?

In December 2018 LGT Schools Liaison Council member, Emma Schofield spoke at the National Conference for Learning Outside. An extract from that speech is reprinted below:

I spoke back in December at the LOTC conference held at the Black Country Museum in Birmingham, which was indeed a privilege and pleasure. *Children are my motivation for ‘getting out there’ as you will know from reading previous articles. I have seen first-hand the impact of outdoor learning – on children’s behaviour, emotions, social interaction and educational performance. Being outdoors in the natural world is always liberating and a great starting point for learning. I see learning outside the classroom as an exciting and essential part of school life. Too many children are spending an increasing amount of time engaging with technology, without direct human contact and so are disconnecting with the natural*

environment. I believe in giving children practical outdoor experiences and real-life learning opportunities, which lead to engaged, motivated and enthusiastic children who love learning, whilst understanding and caring for their world.

So having the opportunity to speak to a conference room full of people, although daunting was enjoyable. Whilst there, I spoke of my many years involved with the Lincolnshire Garden Trust and how important it was for children to link gardening and their learning. I reminded them of the importance of the many inspirational gardeners of the past who have left such wonderful landscapes for teachers to use to enhance their teaching. It was a wonderful opportunity to share my passion and to inspire others to take the next step outdoors.

Emma Schofield



Row over wrecking of park archive

Readers may have been so preoccupied by following the Brexit/no Brexit debacle or renewing all those pesky membership subs that they missed a serious complaint made by the Gardens Trust (our national body). This issue is covered in full on the Gardens Trust website: thegardenstrust.org but the letter reprinted from The Times opposite fairly reflects the outrage felt following the National Lottery Heritage Fund’s actions.

I was so incensed I renewed my (shamefully lapsed) subscription to the Gardens Trust. £35 - but the least I could do to show solidarity!

Heather Slater

Sir, The National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) has been giving grants for the restoration of thousands of our public parks since 1996. In so doing it has miraculously challenged inner-city blight and urban dereliction. It has changed lives, and it has acquired an unrivalled hard-copy archive of these parks, their history and design, the trees that are growing in them, their ecology, and the way they are used by the public today. This archive cost £50 million to create and was a complete and unique record of 25 years of endeavour but the NLHF has just destroyed it, claiming the high costs of storage and difficulties with copyright. These claims are not robust. Offers were made before and during the shredding of the archive to take it on at little or no cost in order to preserve it. The NLHF would not say where it was stored, would not give access to it, would not detail the financial and legal opinions on which the decision was based and continued regardless with its programme of destruction. The NLHF should be asked what right it has to act against the national interest.

Dr James Bartos, Chairman, The Gardens Trust

Events 2019

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

Thursday April 11th
SPRING VISIT TO FIRSBY MANOR
Garden of LGT members David and Gill Boldy to view the daffodil display 2.00pm garden visit followed by tea and cake.
Firsby Manor, Firsby, Spilsby, Lincolnshire PE23 5QJ
Directions: 5 miles east of Spilsby. From Spilsby take the B1195 to Wainfleet all Saints. In Firsby, turn right into Fendyke Rd.
Firsby Manor is 0.8m along lane on the left.
Members £10; Non Members £12

Wednesday June 19th
BAUMBER WALLED GARDENS
Horncastle LN9 5NL
The gate will open at 1.45pm;
the tour of the gardens can begin at 2.00pm. Sorry no picnics.
Directions: The Walled Garden is located approx 1 mile west of Baumber (going towards Lincoln) off the A158.
Look for the green sign on the long straight. This marks the turning.
PLEASE NOTE: there is NO access from the B1225, your sat nav is telling fibs!
Members £10; Non Members £12

Friday July 19th
HAGWORTHINGHAM MANOR GARDENS
2.00pm garden visit followed by tea and cake.
Manor House, Manor Road, Hagworthingham, Spilsby, Lincolnshire, PE23 4LN 5 miles east of Horncastle.
South of A158 in Hagworthingham, turn into Bond Hayes Lane downhill, becomes Manor Road. Please follow signs down gravel track to parking area.
2 acre garden on south-facing slope partly terraced and well protected by established trees and shrubs. This garden has been redeveloped over 18 years with natural and formal ponds. Shrub roses, laburnum walk, hosta border, gravel bed and other areas mainly planted with hardy perennials, trees and shrubs.
Members £10; Non Members £12

Monday September 16th
THE FERN NURSERY
2.00pm: guided tour and little talk in the potting shed!
Followed by tea and cake.
Grimsby Road, Binbrook, Lincolnshire LN8 6DH
The Fern Nursery is a family run nursery in the Lincolnshire Wolds it has been grown from an enthusiasm over the last twenty years. The present owner/manager who still runs the nursery is Neil Timm. Neil began his gardening life at The Isle Of Ely College, Wisbech, and has worked in a number of gardens in Lincolnshire and beyond, including over twenty years as a landscape gardener and garden designer. The nursery grows almost all its own plants from its own stock plants which are displayed in the large garden, visitors are welcomed to take a tour and see the whole process.
Directions: Leaving the Market Square in Binbrook village, take the B1203 to Grimsby and after travelling 400 metres, we are to be found on the left hand side of the road. Binbrook is a half hour drive from the M180 and the same distance from the Lincoln ring road. For Sat-Nav our post code is LN8 6DH.
Members £10; Non Members £12

Saturday November 16th
LGT AGM AND TALK
AGM followed by talk given by Guest Speaker Fiona Davison who will talk about her first book ‘*The Hidden Horticulturists: The Untold Story of the Men who Shaped Britain’s Gardens*’
Bailgate Methodist Church, Bailgate, Lincoln LN1 3AR
Buffet lunch will be offered from 12.30pm or join us for the AGM and Talk at 2.00pm.
1. Cost for buffet lunch and AGM Members £20; Non Members £25
2. 2pm AGM & talk only Members £10; Non Members £12

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

Lincolnshire Gardens Trust Events 2019 Booking Form (Insert number of places next to amount)

SPRING VISIT TO FIRSBY MANOR Thursday April 11th
Name (s) _____
_____ x £10 LGT Members _____ x £12 Non Members

BAUMBER WALLED GARDENS Wednesday June 19th
Name (s) _____
_____ x £10 LGT Members _____ x £12 Non Members

HAGWORTHINGHAM MANOR GARDENS Friday July 19th
Name (s) _____
_____ x £10 LGT Members _____ x £12 Non Members

THE FERN NURSERY Monday September 16th
Name (s) _____
_____ x £10 LGT Members _____ x £12 Non Members

LGT AGM AND TALK
Saturday November 16th • Bailgate Methodist Church
Name (s) _____

_____ x AGM & Talk only £10 LGT Members
_____ x AGM & Talk only £12 Non Members
_____ x Buffet lunch, AGM & Talk £20 LGT Members
_____ x Buffet lunch, AGM & Talk £25 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

Grimsthorpe Castle's Special Garden Day on 15th July 2018. Good weather, good food and good music made for a successful event. LGT representatives organised a small table-top display including information on garden designer Humphry Repton's 2018 Bicentenary and copies of his Red Book for Scrvellsby and Normanton Park, Rutland. The event attracted more than 1000 visitors. NB. With another even bigger garden event planned for Grimsthorpe on Sunday 4th August 2019, we will need volunteers to help man a stall to attract new members and to promote the work of the Trust.



Threat Detectors In February Dr Beryl Lott and I attended a Gardens Trust/County Gardens Trusts Meet-up organised by Historic Landscape Project Officer, Tamsin Westhorpe at Grantham with representatives of five East Midlands County Gardens Trusts with a key speaker, Nicole Hillier, from the Woodland Trust. Lively discussions on 'threat-detectors' proved useful, concerning conservation, planning, significance assessment and penning Statements of Significance re locally-listed gardens. More news of the East Midlands lottery-funded inter-county research project in the pipe-line to follow later this year.



Gazetteer Research Progress

Our Gazetteer researchers are making good progress with garden surveys. They have recently recorded an unusual stone or brick ha-ha in a diamond pattern at Asgarby Hall HE Grade II near Heckington. I know of only one other,



Asgarby Hall

recorded another at Grebby Hall HE Grade II, at Scremby, built in 17C, extended mid-18C, and early & late 19C. We wonder if it is something unique to Lincolnshire gardens of the late 18C early 19C? Do let us know if you know of any other. **Save the date:** LGT Gazetteer Research Group Tuesday 25 June 2019 next meeting. Volunteer researchers welcome and informal training given (Lincoln venue to be decided).



Heritage Lincolnshire's

'Layers of Landscape Project': see <https://www.heritagelincs.org/layers/courses> Members are encouraged to take advantage of the free online course offered as part of this project.

Two modules: *An Introduction to Landscape Studies*, and *Parks and Gardens* are both designed for newcomers to the subject of research and recording. Feedback has been excellent: "very useful"; "online course looks brilliant. I just started doing it, and it's packed full of information, but also really fun!". Linden Groves, GT Strategic Development Officer commented: "This is a brilliant initiative

– congrats!! ... thanks so much for your willingness to share it with others beyond Lincs. " She believes that this course dovetails well with another developed by Dr Audrey Gerber of Sheffield University that members might also be interested in following-up: see <https://www.learningwithexperts.com/gardening/courses/conservation-of-historic-gardens> .



South Ormsby's 'Vision for the Future'

Restoration plans for South Ormsby near Louth have been ongoing with detailed consultation re its significant heritage. I have attended two intensive pre-application workshops concerning the restoration of the Hall HE Grade II* altered c1752-55 by architect James Paine (1717-1789) and the restoration and sustainability of the lake and parkland, HE Grade II, with design influenced by Oxford historian, theologian and poet, Reverend Joseph Spence (1699-1768), sponsored by the Earl of Lincoln, and a friend and admirer of Alexander Pope. A 'Vision for the Future' exhibition on 14 March at the Old School invited the public to look at holistic plans for the Estate.



Pocket Funding Application for Grantham's Queen Elizabeth Park

More good news from Grantham since LGT members visit in September 2018: the Friends of Queen Elizabeth Park, who include LGT Acting-Secretary Elizabeth Bowskill, have successfully applied for Pocket Parks Plus funding (a programme to support communities and their partners to establish pocket parks or refurbish an existing park, or part of a park, where people can relax, exercise, socialise and play). The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government has agreed a grant of £21,177 to be paid to South Kesteven District Council to assist the restoration of this little-known country park. Queen Elizabeth Park is a semi-formal riverside parkland of 9.1 hectares beside the River Witham opposite Wyndham WWI Memorial Park.

Steffie Shields



Grebby Hall

Hospital Garden Transformation Project

Nicky Applewhite, garden designer daughter of LGT founding members Geoffrey and the late Gwen Grantham, has taken a bold initiative to launch and register a new gardening charity: G.R.O.W. (gardens restore our well-being).

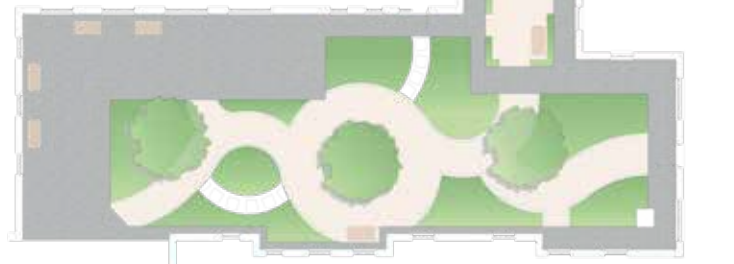
She spoke recently on BBC Radio Lincolnshire's Rod Whiting Show, relating how, following many recent visits to Lincolnshire Hospitals, she became really depressed seeing the state of the grounds. "I am a gardener and gardening is my passion...seeing these desolated patches of ground really upset me. It doesn't matter what reason takes you to a hospital, but it is always an anxious one. I talked to UHLT and they have no gardening budget, not even money to mow the lawns! So, Emmy who works with me, and I decided to set up G.R.O.W. and DO SOMETHING about it." They aim to design and build practical and tranquil garden settings for patients, visitors and staff at Lincolnshire hospitals. For more information please read the 'story so far' page: www.growcharity.co.uk

Despite problems of bureaucracy, Nikki is determined to make a difference. "At G.R.O.W. we are raising funds to promote well-being and improve mental health by providing opportunities for hospital patients to

socialise, exercise and rehabilitate in natural surroundings. We're raising £13,000 to create a garden outside Ward 6 at Grantham Hospital".

We feel sure readers will wish to support this worthwhile new charity. Do check out their website for details of how to contribute.

www.growcharity.co.uk



Before



After

2018 Lincolnshire Gardens Trust Photo Competition

Competition Results

A picture in a Lincolnshire Garden open to the public

1st: *Gardens of Surprise - Burghley House* by Michael Hopkin
See this photo on the back cover
2nd: *Trees Near Water - Normanby Hall* by Rachel Dixon
3rd: *Walled Garden - Gunby Hall* by Daniel Rollitt
Highly commended: *Pond - Baumber Walled Garden* by Gill Ogburn

In my Lincolnshire Garden

1st: *Sunflowers in Conversation* by Heather Boothroyd

Junior Category – Let's get out there!

1st: *A Delicate Delight* by Izzy Schofield
Highly commended: *Trees in Sunset* by Maddie Dixon

Garden Personality

1st: *Squirrel reaching for Sunflower Seeds* by Heather Boothroyd
Highly commended: *Beast from East* by Elizabeth Morris
Highly commended: *Little Robin in our Garden* by Rachel Dixon

Taste of Lincolnshire

1st: *Sweet Rose Petals and Marzipan - Tattershall Castle* by Julie Etherington

Plant Portrait – Sponsored by Lincolnshire Life Magazine

1st: *After the Rain* by Daniel Rollitt
Highly commended: *Daffodils in Central Park Scunthorpe* by Elizabeth Morris
Highly commended: *Dahlias* by Julie Etherington
Highly commended: *Tulip* by Josh Hedley



Sunflowers in Conversation



A Delicate Delight



Squirrel reaching for Sunflower Seeds



Sweet Rose Petals and Marzipan



After the Rain

International Bomber Command Centre

a stunning addition to the Lincolnshire landscape

On a crisp, sunny Saturday in November, the trust visited the International Bomber Command Centre (IBCC) atop of Canwick Hill for our Annual General Meeting.

The IBCC opened to the public earlier in 2018, with the official opening ceremony taking place on April 12th. The centre and its designed landscape is the culmination of years of the blood, sweat and tears of the trustees, staff and a team of over 500 volunteers of a project started in 2013.

The IBCC team set out to build a lasting memorial to commemorate those who served, supported and ultimately gave the ultimate sacrifice to the war effort.

As well as serving as a memorial to the men and women who served, the centre also recognises the significance and importance of the contribution of Lincolnshire as a county to the wider war effort and in turn the impact the war had on the county.

On arriving at the IBCC you notice that no detail has been spared, from the linear entrance resembling an airfield (see diagram opposite), to the design of the centre itself, named after Roy

Chadwick, designer of the Lancaster Bomber and in design distinctly reflects the wing of an aircraft.

On the day of the AGM, we had the pleasure of hosting Shona Hatton, the lead designer who worked on the wide-ranging designed landscape of the IBCC. Shona personally led us on a tour of the grounds.

The IBCC landscape is made up of a number of elements; however the location of the centre is the first thing you think about. Sat atop one of the largest prominences in the City of Lincoln and abutting the South Common, the undulating nature of the earthwork mimics that of the common and offers wide-ranging views across the city and wider countryside, giving particularly pleasant views of the historic Cathedral quarter.

The detail of the design shines through each

element of the landscape, from the lime trees and plaques representing each RAF station in Lincolnshire, which when seen from above as a collective are purposely placed to geographically mark the location of those stations in the county. The plaques also provide a poignant reminder of the number of those who lost their lives from each station providing further cause for reflection on the impact of these losses on a local scale.

During the war, Bomber Command was supported by over one million men and women from over 62 nations across five continents. The IBCC provides an international memorial for these men and women through a planting arrangement for each continent incorporating species of plant from across the globe within the aptly named Peace Gardens. These, as you walk through, provide a truly tranquil and reflective setting for those wishing to connect with the wide reaching history of the people of Bomber Command.

The defining feature of the landscape comprises of the spire and the wall of names. The dramatic spire draws the eye both from

within the landscape but also from further afield, sitting 102ft high made out of weathered steel. The spire is shrouded in symbolism, being of equal height to the wingspan of a Lancaster bomber and its base being the width of a Lancaster's wing

The Wall of Names provides an area for solemn reflection, which truly brings the impact of the war to mind, recalling the global scale and impact of the war effort. There are 23 walls in total, covering nearly 58,000 individual names; it is the only place in the world where all of these losses are commemorated in a single space.

The walls have been specially laid out so as to provide a space for people to sit and reflect but the arrangement also provides special views both back across the centre and into the wider land and cityscapes.

I live nearby and, following the visit, I noticed the spire is lit up each night and against the night's sky. It is particularly eye catching and certainly worth looking for if you are travelling in or around Lincoln at night.

All in all, the visit to IBCC and its special landscape was a day I will not forget in a while.

It is a remarkable place, a living tribute to one of the most devastating and

monumental world events.

The centre and landscape strike the perfect balance of commemoration, reflection and information; both providing a space to remember but also for future generations to learn of the sacrifice made so that we can enjoy the freedoms we do today.

The location of the IBCC in the heart of the county reflects the sentiment not just of those who live in the county but those stationed here, whether from other parts of the UK, or abroad. It underlines that Lincolnshire played a significant role in the war effort and will ensure that the memories of those who took part in that effort will live on indefinitely.

The detail that has gone into the design and the planting of the landscape will mean that as the seasons change, so will the landscape and I implore those who have not visited to make the trip and those who have been before, to visit again as Spring emerges and the thousands of Lincolnshire Daffodils that have been planted begin to show.

Reflecting on my visit to the Centre and landscape, I feel, given the cultural and historical significance they convey, that the remarkable design will continue to evolve. With its eye-catching spire, this landscape will be a special place for all those who visit for a long time to come.

Felix Mayle



Geoffrey Grantham enjoying LGT visit to the Peace Garden last November. The Chadwick centre and Walls of Names visible in the background.



Aerial view of the IBCC Peace Garden Plan



Gardens of Surprise - Burghley House
by Michael Hopkin

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of the Lincolnshire Gardens Trust*

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