



a registered conservation & education charity since 1995 to conserve & raise awareness of Lincolnshire's garden heritage by assisting the protection, enjoyment & enhancement of local gardens, parks & designed landscapes

Extra-ordinary NEWSLETTER SPRING 2020

Dear Member



'Spring Cascade' Doddington Hall Garden May 2019

This year we were going to be celebrating **LGT's 25th anniversary** throughout 2020 with a wonderful programme of events... Very unfortunately due to the corona virus (you guessed it!) LGT's April 16th and June 2nd visits have been cancelled. Please note, instead of organising refunds, we hope to re-run the same visits next year when members who have already paid will be free of charge. Please check the website for updates regarding July, September and October 2020 events. If later, by some miracle, garden visits can go ahead in some form, we hope to resume. Events are a major member benefit for members, and fund other member services such as the magazine. We are relying on the LGT website to keep you all informed. Please continue to support us.

The good news is we are still going strong! **Our planning advice and research activities carry on regardless.** LGT continue to be consulted whenever planning concerns might affect historic parks and gardens on Historic England's Register of Parks and Gardens. We continue to liaise with The Gardens Trust (GT) the national over-arching charity, regarding comments made online. Increasingly, advice is also being sought for those gardens of note/ significant local interest, including public parks and community gardens, orchards and allotments. Current projects include the research group beaver away to record significant parks and gardens, including approximately sixty walled gardens, in order to publish a County Gazetteer. Read on to discover garden restorations and updates about new gardens being created including in schools and hospital grounds.

Let's give three cheers for LGT! Many of us look back over **the past 25 years**, stirred by old photos, and newsletters, we come across when clearing out drawers and shelves. We remember in gratitude all the great trustees and past chairmen, all volunteers with foresight and drive, including the late Mrs Vicky Jarvis, owner of Doddington Hall and founding chairman. An impressive and surprising array of gardens and garden projects have been supported, including in schools, some great events and keynote talks organised, still cascading in our thoughts, including hosting the 2009 AGT Annual Weekend Conference.

Remember to enter this year's **LGT Photography Competition**, newly named '**Unforgettable Gardens of Lincolnshire**' in line with the GT's countrywide theme 'Unforgettable Gardens' over the next three years. Entry forms and prizes online (see below). Winners will see their photos published in Lincolnshire Life Magazine *and* our LGT newsletter! Which is *your* favourite 'unforgettable' Lincolnshire garden?! Drop me an email. I am keen to know if there are one or two hidden gems out there that have not crossed our radar! Keep in touch. We are hoping that, God-willing, by the AGM, we can regroup and look forward to 2021. Stay safe. I wish you and your loved ones peaceful Easter blessings, sunshine in your gardens and the hope to meet up soon...

Steffie Shields, March 2020

National Trust 125 year Anniversary

You might have heard that 2020 highlights Octavia Hill's exceptional idea, and founding of the National Trust, marking 125 years of conservation care nurturing nature, and many of our unforgettable historical houses and landscapes, for the nation. Older still, and cause for local celebration, the unforgettable Italian Garden at **Belton**, first developed in 1820, has been undergoing restoration. The Orangery, home to a Norfolk Island pine, *Araucaria heterophylla*, is to be painted the original colour green as designed by Jeffrey Wyatville.

2020 marks the 500th anniversary of William Cecil (1520-1598)

The founder of the **Burghley** dynasty, Burghley House situated in Lincolnshire, (with its splendid Historic England Grade II* gardens and park formerly in Northamptonshire, now officially part of Cambridgeshire!). The estate has been running a competition encouraging children to write a 500-word "beastly boring" story! Seems a strange but engaging way to celebrate!

A book-lover and antiquarian, fascinated by the study of coats of arms and genealogy, William Cecil was born in Bourne, the son of Sir Richard Cecil, owner of the Burghley estate, attending first The King's School, Grantham, and then Stamford School. He rose to be Queen Elizabeth I's Lord High Treasurer, created 1st Baron Burghley, her most influential minister, and as she confessed, 'her Spirit'. He, in return, chose the original lay-out of the house in the shape of a capital E in honour of his queen, and bestowed all the best arts of architecture and horticulture on Burghley.

John Gerard Herbal

You may be surprised to discover that Cecil's coat of arms, bearing the single-minded motto 'Cor Unum Via Una', 'One heart, one way', also appears in the **first scientific botanical book published in England** probably by way of patronage. '*Herball, or Generall Historie of Plantes*' (1597) was penned by **John Gerard (1545–1612)** with 1,484-pages listing and illustrating herbs and other plants, and their folklore. It remained a standard gardening reference for many decades. Gerard was a London botanist and herb collector, who, in 1577, had been promoted as superintendent of the gardens at Cecil's London house, and in addition those at his employer's Hertfordshire home, Theobalds, and at Burghley House. He worked there for more than 20 years. Long before 18th century royal gardeners George London and Henry Wise added their splendid lime venues, or 'Capability' Brown his reflective 'pretend river', John Gerard (1545–1612) was the man responsible for making Burghley famous as a beautiful and luxurious estate. Let's hope all will be able to visit the special exhibition planned – and revive memories of our wonderful 2016 carriage rides for the 2016 Brown Tercentenary.



Lincoln Cathedral

The Manchester-based landscape architecture and urban design practice **Landscape Projects** has been commissioned as part of the HLF-funded team to improve access to and sustainability of Lincoln Cathedral, one of the wonders of medieval architecture. With experience of developing sensitive landscape architectural designs which enhance historic sites and ensure a sustainable future, they have established a reputation for high quality public realm design, winning both European and British competitions and awards by creating memorable and inclusive places. Past projects include the Hope Street setting of Liverpool Cathedral; the Wilderness, the final phase of the redevelopment of Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral's campus, adjacent to John Moore's University Bath Riverside Park and the new RHS garden: RHS Bridgewater.



Lincoln Cathedral Close is a fine example of uniquely- English landscape. Proposals include creating level access to the West Front and opening the north side of the Cathedral to public access, following the relocation of the Minster School. The project involves extensive historical and archaeological research which has informed proposals for new access routes, gateways and garden spaces, as well as the interpretation through the landscape design of past eras of the Close. See the designs online:

1. www.landscapeprojects.co.uk/copy-of-liverpool-cathedral-
2. <https://lincolncathedral.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/Connected-Proposal-small.pdf>

Dean's Garden

Work is progressing on the Dean's Garden Lincoln, and the nearby area to be called 'The Deans Green'. The landscaping of the West Front and northside Dean's Green is part of 'Lincoln Cathedral Connected' the ambitious plan for a £16million investment in the Cathedral's Education, Activity and Community Programmes, set in a new Visitor Centre, for which in 2015 the Heritage Lottery Fund pledged £12.4million. The exciting project is to create beautiful public spaces for everyone to enjoy, including quiet, reflective gardens and vibrant areas for events and activities. Watch this space, as they say!

Queen Elizabeth II Country Park Grantham - improvement update

In March 2020 volunteers organised a Saturday working party to mow and scarify the whole area in order creating a seed bed opposite the 'Diamond Grove' (Queen's Diamond Jubilee Project, supported by LGT & Wyndham Park Forum members 2012). This first wildflower meadow in the park is being created from Pocket Parks funding sowing a seed mixture from Emorsgate seeds EM5 and EM8 including yellow rattle, a parasitic plant that weakens grass growth allowing the wildflowers chance to establish. There may not be much to see this year, but the seed bank is now there. Once established volunteers will be able to harvest seed to then develop other areas.

An **LGT Small Grant** has been awarded to QE II Grammar School Horncastle. Sadly, with corona virus closure of schools, this and other school garden projects will suffer. We hope to have more positive happenings to report next time. The intention is to encourage Students' engagement with Gardening not least as an aid to mental health.

International Bomber Command Centre update

Steffie Shields met Nicky van der Drift, the Project Director, recently. She confirmed that in addition to the beech trees, the 3 'Lest We Forget Roses' donated by LGT are now established in the rose garden situated in the Peace Gardens to the east of the Command Centre. The IBBC staff's hard work to bed in the landscape has been paid off with several rare species of bird staying on site. This has been recognised by winning two Lincolnshire Tourism awards: the Ethical, Responsible and Sustainable Tourism Award, and, for the second year running, The International Tourism Award sponsored by Visit Lincoln. Ground staff have planted 1500 tulips 'Liberation 75' donated by the Dutch government in memory of those RAF and Commonwealth bomber crews including Canadians who took part in '**Operation Manna**' to feed the people of the Netherlands. 'Liberation 75' is a bright orange tulip with crown-shaped petals, an early to mid-spring blooming, hearty flower which will be a striking reminder commemorating this year's 75th Anniversary of '**Operation Manna**'.

Nicky van der Drift also shared this special story: **The 'Squadron Apple'** courtesy of Lady Ursie Cholmeley, Easton Walled Gardens.

'In 2002, right at the beginning of the restoration of Easton Walled Gardens, the phone rang. It was Doug Champion, a neighbour from Colsterworth and a keen amateur tree grower asking if I would like any trees. Of course, I said Yes. Despite being in his 90s, he helped me plant an oak and a walnut. Then, one day, Doug arrived with a small apple tree he had grown from a pip. We planted it together and waited.

The first fruits soon came and much to our surprise they were good. Large, firm, yellow-green apples festooned the tree in October and November. It looked like this new variety was a keeper. Each year, the tree continued to grow and produce fine, healthy crops. What should we call it? Doug was proud to have been a RAF engineer and my grandfather had been in 12 Squadron during WW2 and flown Lancasters and Wellingtons from sites across Lincolnshire. After two years of flying missions, his flight navigator



NB The Centre is closed due to Covid 19. However, until govt advice recommends closure, the Memorial & Peace Gardens will be open Thurs- Sat 9.00 – 17.00 to allow you to pay your respects.

recorded in his logbook: 'Pilots' 21st birthday.' He met my grandmother while she was serving in the WAAF and they were married for over 50 years.

Meanwhile in Lincoln, Tony Worth was co-ordinating an international drive to commemorate those in Bomber Command who had fallen. At an inaugural fundraising event surrounded by a Lancaster, veterans and young airmen and women, it seemed obvious to me that we should honour those who had risked and given so much. After some discussion, we called it 'The Squadron Apple.'

But we only had one tree. Apple varieties have to be cloned to keep them true which means taking a small piece of wood ('the scion') from the parent tree and grafting it on to a new rootstock. The first year produced rather scrappy results (none of the gardening team at Easton had ever tried to propagate trees like this before but in 2018 we made some good clean unions and began to keep a small stock of these trees for RAF commemorations. The newly finished International Bomber Command Centre found out about our offer and on 30 January 2020 we delivered three trees to site manager, Roger Williams. The trees have been planted in the grounds. Eventually they hope to make crumbles for visitors to the restaurant using their own apples.'

Heroes Orchard Planted in Grantham

More good news - South Kesteven District Council (SKDC) has signed a 50-year-lease on the land, near Wyndham Park, to enable the creation of a community orchard. Last week the planting of the '**Heroes Orchard**' went ahead in Sedgewick Meadows, Grantham, adjacent to Wyndham Park, to commemorate 75 years anniversary of end of WWII, thanks to SKDC, the Wyndham Park Forum team and marvellous £12,150 funding raised via CrowdfundSK's initiative. Elizabeth Bowskill reports: "It was satisfying to see the first trees go into the orchard. The fundraising was an intense period of a few months – anxiously waiting for the total to go up. In contrast the fencer went on site on Tuesday last week – and in 4 days we had all the initial construction in place. Thank you to everyone who came along on Sunday and Thursday to plant trees." Chris Shaw, Lead Ranger at Belton said; "Planting this orchard is a great example of community and partnership working. We are looking forward to see it bear fruit, quite literally." Two American acer trees will symbolise the American contribution to WWII. Heritage variety trees have been supplied by the East of England Apples and Orchards Project. The first tree planted, a 'Maid of Kent', is the same variety as Isaac Newton's tree. STOP PRESS. Lady Ursie reported that another 'Squadron Apple' went into the new Heroes commemorative orchard in Grantham last week ...

Lastly, **G.R.O.W. charity**, <https://www.growcharity.co.uk/> – even if the official opening of the first Grantham Hospital Ward 6 Garden, by Mr Toby Dennis Lord Lieutenant is planned for May 2020, is now in doubt but all the bulbs are beginning to flower – and is perfectly timed, thanks to Nikki Applewhite's foresight, determination, and generous local support, to offer respite and hope to patients, staff and families through difficult times, and especially the dreadful pandemic.



The youngest person to wield a spade 3-year-old Finley Gilbert with his parents Lindsey & Jonathan Gilbert

**Keep well everyone, stay safe.
Nature will help us come through this.**

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