



Registered Office 70 Cowcross Street, London EC1M 6EJ

phone: 020 7608 2409

email: enquiries@thegardenstrust.org www.gardenhistorysociety.org

Company number: 3163187 Registered Charity number: 1053446

Annual Report 2015

Notice of The Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that an Annual General Meeting ('Meeting') of **The Gardens Trust** will be held at 3.15 pm on Friday 2 September 2016 in the Umney Theatre, at Robinson College, University of Cambridge, CB3 9AN

Voting — Explanatory Note

Please note that current individual and joint members may vote at the Annual General Meeting, together with authorised representatives of the County/Country Gardens Trusts. Corporate members may also vote by an authorised representative or proxy.

Individual and joint members, and CGT members, will vote as two separate classes and a majority of each class will need to vote in favour of a resolution for it to pass.

Individual and joint members will find a voting card enclosed, and are requested to Register immediately prior to the Meeting.

CGT voting representatives will also be required to have a voting card in the usual way.

Proxy

Any individual, joint and corporate members who are unable to attend the Meeting in person may vote by proxy by completing the accompanying Voting Form, which should be delivered to the Secretary at the Registered Office by the time and date specified on the form.

Proxy voting for CGT voting representatives will also be dealt with in advance in the usual way.

Accounts

A full set of the Accounts of The Gardens Trust will be available at the Annual General Meeting or may be obtained by applying by post to the Honorary Secretary, at the Registered Office, and enclosing a stamped addressed A4 (large) envelope.

On the Day (timings)

Friday 2 September 2016

Members wishing to attend any part of the day are requested to register in advance if they have not already done so. Please refer to the **Conference Booking Form** previously supplied, or see Events: www.gardenhistorysociety.org

12.45 The Gardens Trust New Research Symposium, Umney Theatre3.15 The Gardens Trust Annual General Meeting, Umney Theatre

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Our cover shows Lancelot 'Capabilty' Brown's design for Wimpole's north park, image courtesy NT

AGENDA

The Annual General Meeting 2016

Welcome by Dr James Bartos, Chairman of the Board

1. Minutes To approve the Minutes of the first Annual General Meeting held on Friday 24 July 2015

2. Annual Report and Accounts

To consider the Accounts together with the Reports of the Directors and the Independent Examiners for the period 1 January 2015 to 31 December 2015

3. Independent Examiners

To appoint Averillo and Associates as Independent Examiners and to authorise the Board to fix their remuneration

4. Election of Vice Presidents

To re-elect Alan Baxter, Susan Campbell, for a period of five years

5. Election of Directors

To elect Christine Addison, Dr David Marsh, Maureen Nolan, Peter Waine

This concludes the Annual General Meeting, which will be immediately followed by

- 1. Report from The Chairman
- 2. Reports by the Chairs of Committees and of Activities
- 3. CGT Volunteer of the Year Award
- 4. Closing Remarks by Dominic Cole, President of The Gardens Trust

By order of the Board

Jeremy Garnett

Company Secretary

Dated 24 June 2016

Registered Office 70 Cowcross Street London EC1M 6EJ

Company Number: 3163187 Charity Number: 1053446

Minutes of the first Annual General Meeting of The Gardens Trust held at the University of Newcastle Conference Centre at 5pm on Friday 24 July 2015

1. Introduction

Dominic Cole welcomed all those attending the first Annual General Meeting of The Gardens Trust. He explained that until the elections which are due to take place later in the meeting he will take the role of Chairman of the meeting.

He expressed very great excitement that both parties had agreed to the merger with such overwhelming majorities. A new organisation with its high standards had enormous opportunities ahead of it and he welcomed the changes which were about to take place.

He thanked all those who had worked so hard to make this happen — members of the Transitional Committee as well as those who had spent so much time explaining the case for the merger to members throughout the country.

He then invited Jeremy Garnett, Honorary Secretary, to continue with the meeting.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from:

Vice Presidents: Ray Desmond, Sir Richard Carew-Pole, The Dowager Marchioness of Salisbury, Sir Tim Smit, Dr Christopher Thacker; Individual Members: Daniel Glass, Andrew Turvey, David Lambert, Peter Fitch, Dr Sarah Rutherford, Peter Allatt, Mary Thorp.

County Gardens Trusts (in order of county): Ros Delany, Kevin Levitt, David Brown, Joy Uings, Richard Stone, Anne Robinson, Gareth Gunning, Peter Andrea, Jeffrey Haworth, Elizabeth Cairns, Tony Herbert, Stuart Senior, Alan Taylor, Stephen Beaumont, Polly Burns, Jill Leggatt,

Minutes of the first AGM of The Gardens Trust

Jim Stockwell: also Liz Ware

The Honorary Secretary explained that voting for this meeting would be taken in two parts — for those eligible to vote — first from the County Gardens Trusts (CGTs) and then the individual Members (formerly of The Garden History Society), by a show of cards.

3. Reappointment of Hilden Park Accountants limited as Independent Examiners and authorisation of The Board to fix their remuneration

CGT votes in favour: 20. No votes against, no abstentions.

GHS votes in favour: 120. None against and

4 abstentions.

Result: Motion carried

4. The election of Dominic Cole as President of The Gardens Trust

CGT votes in favour: 22. None against, no abstentions. **GHS** votes in favour: 117. Votes against: 3, and 3 abstentions

Result: Motion Carried

5. Vice Presidents:

To confirm the following as existing Vice Presidents of GHS to continue for The Gardens Trust

Life Vice Presidents:

Ray Desmond, Sir Richard Carew-Pole, The Dowager Marchioness of Salisbury, Sir Tim Smit, KBE, and Dr Christopher Thacker.

Term Vice Presidents: those already serving until John Sales (2020), Alan Baxter (2016), Susan Campbell (2016), Peter Hayden (2016), Anne Richards (2017), Dr Hazel Conway (2018).

To elect the following as Vice Presidents of The Gardens Trust Life Vice President: Gilly Drummond

Five-year term Vice Presidents:

Robert Peel and Steffie Shields

A block vote was taken. **CGT** votes: 21 in favour; none against, no abstentions.

GHS votes: 128 in favour; none against, 4 abstentions.

Result: Motion Carried

6. The election of the following Board Members

Dr James Bartos, Michael Dawson, Sarah Dickinson, Jeremy Garnett; Dr Marion Harney, Kate Harwood, Virginia Hinze, Dr Sally Jeffery, David Lambert, Tim Richardson, Dr Ian Varndell, Lisa Watson.

A block vote was taken.

CGT votes: 21 in favour; none against, no abstentions. **GHS** votes: 122 in favour; three against; 4 abstentions.

Result: Motion Carried

7. Any Other Business

There being no further business the Chairman declared the business part of the meeting closed and invited the members of the Conservation team to present their reports.

- **7.1** Before the meeting closed Steffie Shields, on behalf of the AGT and CGTs, congratulated The Garden History Society for its 50 remarkable years of garden conservation, and the Chairman for his recent OBE awarded for his services to landscape conservation. She thanked him for his contribution to the successful outcome of the day's meeting and expressed the hope that The Gardens Trust would move forward together in a stronger position and attract new members. She also thanked the conference organisers, particularly Mike Dawson and Robert Peel and their team, for all their work to make the weekend conference a great success.
- **7.2** Charles Boot thanked Kristina Taylor for gaining financial support from Northumbrian Water towards the costs of the Conference brochure.
- **7.3** Judy Riley, Chair of Scotland's Gardens and Landscape Heritage (and Chair of the former Garden History Society in Scotland) thanked the former Garden History Society Chairman and Trustees for their support and wished the newly-formed Trust every success in the future, and expressed the wish to continue to all work together for the good of historic landscapes.

7.4 Conservation Reports

At the conclusion of the formal business of the meeting, conservation reports were received from Jonathan Lovie, Principal Conservation Officer and Policy Adviser; Margie Hoffnung, Assistant Conservation

Minutes of the first AGM of The Gardens Trust

Officer; Alison Allighan for her work as Conservation Officer in Scotland and Conservation Casework Manager, England; and the Historic Landscape Projects Officers, Linden Groves and Caroline Ikin. Their reports are summarised on pp. 10–15 of **GT news**, late summer edition 2015.

Reference and Administrative Details of the Charity, its Directors and Advisors for the year ended 31 December 2015

Registered Company number:

03163187 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity number: 1053446 Registered office:

70 Cowcross Street, London EC1M 6EJ

Directors

Dominic Cole resign Programs Bartos re-early Bill Billington resign Programs Garnett elected Daniel Glass resign Programs Program

resigned 24 July 2015
re-elected 24 July 2015
resigned 24 July 2015
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re-elected 24 July 2015
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resigned 24 July 2015
resigned 24 July 2015
resigned 24 July 2015

Richard Wheeler
Katherine Harwood
Sarah Dickinson
Dr Ian Varndell
Jean Reader
Michael Dawson
Elizabeth Watson
Virginia Hinze
David Lambert

resigned 24 July 2015 elected 24 July 2015 elected 24 July 2015 elected 24 July 2015 ex-officio 24 July 2015 elected 24 July 2015 elected 24 July 2015 elected 24 July 2015 elected 24 July 2015

¹ Non Voting

Company Secretary: Jeremy Garnett Independent examiner: Peter Nellemose.

Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales Averillo & Associates, Chartered Accountants 16 South End, Croydon, Surrey CR0 1DN **Bankers: Barclays Bank plc**, Leicester LE87 2BB **CAF Bank Limited**, PO Box 289, West Malling, Kent ME19 4TA

Report of the Directors

for the year ended 31 December 2015

The Board of Directors (who are also Trustees of the Charity for the purposes of the Charities Commission) present their Annual Report together with the financial statements of The Gardens Trust (the Charity) for the year ended 31 December 2015. The Directors confirm that the Annual Report and financial statements of the Company comply with the current statutory requirements, the requirements of the Company's governing document and the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" issued in March 2005.

Structure, Governance And Management Constitution

The Company is a charitable company limited

by guarantee constituted under Articles of Association, as amended and restated by special resolution dated 24 July 2015, and is a registered charity number 1053446.

Method of election of Board of Directors

Board members are elected for a three-year term of office and are then required to retire at the next Annual General Meeting but are eligible for re-election for a further three-year term. Additionally, at the first and second Annual General Meeting following the adoption of the amended and restated Articles, one-third of Directors must step down but will be eligible for re-election for a further three-year term. The names of those who wish to offer themselves for

election or re-election to the Board are listed in the papers for the Annual General Meeting.

Policies adopted for the Induction and training of Board Members

Newly elected Board members are provided with copies of the previous Annual Report and Financial Statements, the Trust's Articles of Association, the Trust's Business Plan and Charity Commission advice on the duties of Trustees. Most Directors serve on Committees of the Trust or otherwise have responsibilities within the Trust in addition to serving as Directors.

Organisational structure

The Board has Committees responsible for Administration and Finance; Conservation; Education, Publications and Communications; Events; and Membership. The Board and the Committees generally meet quarterly, with additional ad hoc meetings as required. In 2015, the Trust employed two part-time administrators who reported to the Chair of the Administration and Finance Committee; three part-time conservation staff who reported to the Chair of the Conservation Committee; and three Historic Landscape Project Officers, who reported to the Chair of the Membership Committee.

Objectives Charitable objectives

The objects of the Charity are for the public benefit:

- to promote the study of the history of gardens and gardening, landscape gardening and horticulture in all its aspects;
- to promote the protection and conservation of historic parks gardens and designed landscapes and to promote and advise on their conservation;
- to promote the County Gardens Trusts and through them, education, appreciation and involvement of the public in matters connected with the arts and sciences of Garden Land; and
- to encourage the creation of new parks, gardens and designed landscape.

Public benefit

The Board of Directors, as Trustees, confirm that they have complied with the duty in Section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to the Charity

Commission's general guidance on public benefit.

Achievement and Performance Review of Activities

From the Chairman

2015 was a year of both change and continuity for The Gardens Trust and its predecessor organisations, The Garden History Society and the Association of Gardens Trusts. In July, both memberships voted to merge to form the new organisation. The basis for the merger was a new set of Articles that enshrined the principle of equality between the two memberships, as each membership as a separate class has an egual voice going forward. The merger was also based on a Business Plan that stated a number of aims: to speak with a more powerful voice for the protection of parks, gardens and designed landscapes than either of the two predecessor organisations individually; to play a key garden conservation role in the planning system as a statutory consultee, supporting the local activities of the County Gardens Trusts (CGTs); to be an internationally recognised centre for the study of garden history through research and the publication of its Journal, Garden History; and to be financially sustainable over the long term.

The core logic of the merger was the delivery of responses to planning applications nationally through both a central organisation and the local, on-the-ground work of the CGTs. To this end, a joint conservation committee had already been established a couple of years earlier, consisting of both GHS and CGT members. This committee has continued as The Gardens Trust's Conservation Committee, ensuring continuity in the conservation work of the new Trust. The existing three part-time conservation officers of the GHS, Principal Conservation Officer Jonathan Lovie, Assistant Conservation Officer Margie Hoffnung and Conservation Casework Manager Alison Allighan, all continued in their roles after the merger. A case log is compiled weekly by the Trust of relevant planning applications throughout England and sent out to CGTs; there is a dialogue between the Trust and various CGTs about responses either by a CGT or in some cases the Trust or both; and responses are recorded on the Casework Log. Since the merger, the Conservation Committee has also been

developing a Planning Leaflet to be sent to chief planning officers, explaining the role of the Trust as statutory consultee and the importance of the CGTs in executing that role.

Much attention has been paid since the merger to branding and the IT development of the Trust. The Board adopted a logo for the new Gardens Trust in September. We are also developing, with the help of a website designer, a new website that will have a modern look and much greater functionality than previously. Our casework database is also being moved to a more modern platform.

We have a new Membership Committee charged with working with our CGT membership and also with continuing to develop our individual membership. Our part-time Historic Landscape Project Officers, Linden Groves and Caroline Ikin, with support from Margie Hoffnung, now report to the Chair of the Membership Committee and form a key link with the planning work of the CGTs.

We continue to support research in the field of garden history by publishing our Journal twice a year and sponsoring the annual Symposium and Essay Prize. Many CGTs have been conducting research on local 'Capability' Brown sites in connection with the 2016 tercentenary, and we have helped co-ordinate that research; we have actively liaised with the HLF-funded 'Capability' Brown Festival project and its management committee. Our active Events Committee continues to host our Winter Lecture series and other events and trips during the year. The 2016 Conference, on 'Capability' Brown, and the AGM are being co-hosted with the Cambridgeshire Gardens Trust in September.

Subsequent to the July 2015 merger, each of the five committees of the Trust were asked to review their activities in light of the merger in order to combine the resources of the two predecessor organisations in an effective manner, potentially to deliver their activities more effectively and potentially to decide that the new organisation should take new or different approaches to some of its activities. The reviews were also against the background of substantial losses having been incurred in recent years and with a view to seeking to achieve break-even financial results and long-term financial viability for the Trust, as mandated by the Trust's Business Plan. The results of the reviews will first impact the 2016 results and are

accordingly beyond the scope of this Report. They will be disclosed when available in due course through other Gardens Trust publications.

As all of the internal planning mentioned above continues to develop, we look forward to an exciting and productive first full year for The Gardens Trust in 2016.

Dr James Bartos, Chairman

Events Committee

Following the merger Robert Peel handed the Events Committee chairmanship to Virginia Hinze. The Gardens Trust extends its heartfelt thanks to Robert for the huge amount of work he has put in over many years to produce a dazzling variety of successful foreign trips, conferences and study days. His will be a hard act to follow, but fortunately he will remain a committee member. Amid our usual range of exciting events the highlight was the first **joint annual conference** of the two organisations, held in July in association with the Northumbria Gardens Trust.

Based at Newcastle University the opening visit to Seaton Delaval on Thursday was followed by a scramble over Northumberlandia, the iconic landscape by Charles Jencks raised as a palliative to the opencast mining behind it. Friday was taken up with the 5th Graduate Symposium and the three AGMs but Fiona Green, Chair of Northumbria GT, rewarded us with an introduction to the designed landscapes of the north-east. The conference dinner was held at The Biscuit Factory with Martin Roberts, a former Historic England Buildings Inspector as an engrossing guest speaker. Saturday took us south to County Durham, visiting Croxdale Hall, with its planted symbols of its C18 Catholic owners and a walled garden with design input by Lewis Kennedy. The Park's Friends guided us around the landscape of Hardwick Hall's Park, now much restored. A delightful exploration of the gardens of the 'Durham Peninsular' with Martin as our guide culminated in a reception hosted by Parks and Gardens UK and supper in the Undercroft of the Cathedral's Cloisters. Sunday was spent north of the Tyne: at Alnwick project manager, lan August, described recent developments in Alnwick's new garden but the revelation was Hulne Priory and its park, converted in the C18 into parkland, woods and pleasure grounds with advice from Lancelot 'Capability' Brown.

Our last visit was to Belsay Hall, an iconic villa in the Grecian style. Sir Charles Monck created his Quarry garden in the picturesque style, exploiting Belsay's natural landscape of deep ravines and craggy rocks with plantings of yews and pines to emphasise a sombre and awe-inspiring atmosphere. We extend our warmest thanks to the Northumbria Gardens Trust and to Robert Peel for his organisation.

The 2015 Winter Lectures series opened in January with Andrew Harland's talk on Gorky Park, Moscow which, having been in decline over recent decades is now part of a programme of park regeneration in Moscow, Richard Wheeler, in 'Gardens in the Romantic Era: The Associative nature of the Reception of Gardens at the End of the 18th Century and Beginning of the 19th Century', explored how gardens of the early and mid-eighteenth century were received by the next generation using case studies of Croom, Studley Royal, Wimpole and Wrest. Three former GHS Annual Essay Prize winners contributed a lecture: In 'Therapeutic Landscapes: The role of gardens in English hospital settings since 1800' Clare Hickman described the role, appearance and use of landscapes associated with psychiatric, general and specialist medical institutions; Karen Fitzsimon's talk'Order in the Landscape: Rediscovering Preben Jakobsen' demonstrated how inspirational this award-winning landscape architect had been to a generation through his modernist approach to landscape design and his exceptional use of plants. Finally, Dr Jane Whitaker in her lecture, 'Gardens Fit for a Queen: the Elizabethan Gardens at Cowdray and Bisham', discussed her recent research into some of the principal elements, influences and purposes which informed their design.

The spring seminar on 30 April at the Linnaean Society celebrated the 50th anniversary of the GHS and presented the theme of 'Imagery for Garden History' in a series of lectures including an engaging proposal from Sir Roy Strong on 'Shakespeare as a Founding Father of Garden History', Christine Lalumia's perceptive insights into 'The Representation of Women in Gardens' and Todd Longstaffe-Gowan's 'Pursuit of Wildly-imagined Ideals of Babylonian Gardens'. The day culminated in the anniversary tea, where Dominic Cole cut the magnificent cake modelled on Sissinghurst Castle, and a private guided tour of the 'Painting'

Paradise' exhibition at The Queen's Gallery with the curator, Vanessa Remington.

We joined with the London Parks and Gardens Trust for a 'Twickenham Thames' event for the 2015 **Chelsea Fringe**. Led by those walking repositories of London's garden history, Chris Sumner and Sally Williams, we explored the length of the Thames from York House to the Terraced gardens near Richmond Bridge.

Study Days

The AGT and Dorset Gardens Trust's study day in May was held at **Wimborne St Giles**. St Giles House, previously derelict, and several of its park features have just undergone a major restoration based on the combined research of Historic England and the Shaftesbury Estate — and we were privileged to be the first group to visit. The three talks, by Suzannah Fleming, Michael Symes and Katherine Myers, described the development of this important 17th and early 18th century landscape. The house and grounds looked superb for our tour and were an outstanding winner of the 2015 Historic England's 'Angels Award'.

In September, Avon Gardens Trust contributed to the tercentenary of Lancelot Brown with a study day exploring his legacy at **Kings Weston**, near Bristol. A Vanbrugh house built for the Southwell family, the estate is being helped back from neglect by the Kings Weston Action Group founded in 2011. Speakers David Martyn and Steffie Shields set the scene for Brown's work and gave an overview of his approach to landscape while Judy Preston explored the involvement of Brown's contemporary, Thomas Wright, in Kings Weston's improvements.

The late October study day, 'Masonic Symbolism in Gardens,' was held in the Grand Connaught Rooms. The speakers demonstrated how deeply embedded Freemasonry was in all the arts and sciences of the Enlightenment. The extent to which its impact on garden design could be proven became a theme of the day: Ricky Pound presented a complex case for interpreting Chiswick House as a Private Masonic Lodge; Cathie Bryan introduced us to the Associations of Freemasonry with Ancient Egypt, while Michael Symes gave an overview of Masonic Elements in French, German and Polish Gardens. Diane Clements brought us into the 20th Century with her talk on Freemasonry in relation to the Imperial War Graves Commission and the Marquis Vanni

Torrigiani Malaspina introduced us to his family's Torrigiani Garden in the heart of Florence and to the Masonic and Political Symbolism Encoded within the Surrounding Landscape.

Study Trips Abroad

One tour in September was arranged during the year to the many and varied gardens of **Normandy**. The tour covered all aspects of French gardens and styles. Visits were arranged to the eighteenth century formal gardens at Chateau de Brecy and the Le Notre Garden at Chateau du Champ de Bataille. Other memorable gardens included the rather more intimate plantsmen's gardens at Le Vasterival, Jardins de Bellevue and Jardins d'Angelique; Le Jardin Plume with its spectacular grasses: cloud pruning and sculptured hedges at Jardin de Plantbessin and additions to historic gardens by Russell Page at Chateau Fontaine-La-Soret and Chateau de Pontrancart. Another hugely successful Robert Peel tour: only he could manage to pack in 17 gardens in six days, include a detour to the Bayeux tapestry and still leave us wanting more despite the weather! Virginia Hinze, Chair, Events Committee

Conservation Committee

In advance of the merger, the Joint Conservation Committee — as it was then called — had seen an effective collaborative partnership developing between the GHS Conservation team, the HLPOs and the CGT volunteers in tackling national planning issues and responding to an increasing number of conservation planning consultations. Post merger, this excellent work has continued apace. The new Gardens Trust Conservation Committee (CC) is comprised of expertise from across the country: Marion Harney is Chair, Sarah Dickinson, Vice Chair; other members are Chris Clarke, Gill Clarke, Chris Gallagher, Julian Gibbs, Kate Harwood, David Lambert, Judith Norris, and Liz Whittle. Our ultimate aim is to have representation from all CGTs on planning work but where currently we do not have direct representation our hard working conservation team cover these areas. The relationships developed with CGT volunteers by Margie Hoffnung, Alison Allighan, Linden Groves, and Caroline Ikin continue to manifest in an impressive and effective response rate to the enormous number of applications received. In the past year, CGTs have written 239 responses and monitored

and shared important issues and concerns in relation to the 1284 applications received. This invaluable support from the CGTs enables the conservation team to use their time and expertise on more complex cases of national importance. A recent consultation review, commissioned by Historic England, analysed the methodologies employed by amenity societies with statutory consultee duties and acknowledged that our approach to capacity building through our partnership with CGTs was a model for other societies.

The Conservation Committee is an open forum through which committee members and the conservation team liaise with the HLPOs and a representative from Historic England to ensure that CGTs are given the necessary support and are afforded every opportunity to raise concerns on planning or policy. Matters arising through Regional and National CGT Forums are central to the CC's agenda and local and regional issues raised by our CGT volunteers are regularly discussed, and where appropriate, given a national voice. As with all national amenity societies, we are dependent on our volunteers who know and understand sites of historic interest in their county. To promote our cause, The Gardens Trust newsletter will have a dedicated conservation news section, edited by David Lambert, highlighting any matters of concern and focusing on national policy and events of relevance to historic parks and gardens.

The CC and the CGTs share an important role in delivering The Gardens Trust's statutory consultee requirements for all nationally designated designed landscapes. However, a lack of support at local government level is often an inhibiting factor in our ability to fulfil our statutory obligations. In order to improve this situation we are extending our collaborative approach to training and communication to produce a document for local planning officers explaining the role of The Gardens Trust and the CGTs in the planning process.

The draft LPA Planning Leaflet was circulated prior to the CGT National Forum in November 2015 and useful and constructive comments from CGTs have fed into the revised leaflet. The Planning Leaflet will be launched in the Spring and the HLPOs will continue to work with CGTs to assist with circulating it widely as an effective

collaborative tool.

The difficulties we all experience in connecting with suitably qualified local authority officers is not unique to historic landscapes and is a reflection of the wider issue of limited resource at local authority level to assist the heritage sector. The LPA leaflet represents a positive initiative to proactively engage with local planning officers and will help to facilitate better communication channels and improve responses to consultation applications impacting the historic environment.

Casework in 2015

Through our Working Together initiative we have substantially improved our response rate to planning applications affecting important landscapes, and this increase is largely due to our volunteers in the CGTs. Although we have had some notable successes we have also experienced the occasional failure. The following casework examples give a flavour of the importance of work we have undertaken in 2015.

The planning decision in November 2015 to allow a permanent glamorous camping development in the Grade I Warwick Castle grounds has raised significant concerns. The decision, endorsed by Historic England, that the economic importance of the commercial enterprise outweighed the harm to the landscape is an uncomfortable and alarming precedent. Of additional concern was the local planning officer's dismissal of Warwickshire Garden Trust's request that the application be called-in, without reference to The Gardens Trust as statutory consultee. As a consequence letters have been sent from the Chair of the Board of The Gardens Trust (with expert advice from Jonathan Lovie, Principal Conservation Officer) to the Government Office of the West Midlands and to the Chairman of Historic England seeking clarification on the issues raised.

Warwick Castle suffered another blow when a decision, on appeal, not to allow the construction of 900 homes on a site adjoining the Grade I grounds was overturned by the Secretary of State. The impact that this decision may have on national planning policy and for similar applications going forward will be closely monitored.

More encouragingly, in Kedleston, Derbyshire, objections to proposed residential development in the setting of the Grade I landscape helped the LPA to refuse consent for the scheme which

would have had a detrimental impact on the setting of the designed landscape. Although the development was considered to be of less than substantial harm this decision was nevertheless an important consideration in the overall impact of the scheme.

The conservation team also continue to support, with CGT representatives, Plymouth City Council, Historic England and the National Trust in objecting to a residential development which will impact on the setting of the Grade II* Boringdon Arch in the Saltram landscape, Devon.

Finally, in October 2015, the Principal Conservation Officer and Policy Advisor submitted evidence to the House of Lords Select Committee on National Policy for the Built Environment concluding that a robust, balanced planning system properly resourced at local government and statutory advisor level with appropriately skilled professionals, conservation officers, landscape architects and conservation architects is a better way to achieve good design and place making. Our continued collaborative responses will attempt to achieve this aspiration.

Dr Marion Harney, Chair, Conservation Committee

Education, Publications and Communications Committee

February 2015 saw another first for the Journal, **Garden History**, which published the proceedings of the Edinburgh Conference, 'The Scottish Enlightenment as Manifested in the Gardens and Squares of Edinburgh's New Town', as a virtual issue, now available for free download from The Gardens Trust website. Two general printed issues followed in May and November. In anticipation of the Lancelot 'Capability' Brown tercentenary celebrations in 2016, the summer issue focused on the English landscape garden, while the winter issue expanded its geographical reach by including articles on the gardens of ancient Mesopotamia, St Petersburg (Russia), Burma, Canton (China) and Edinburgh, as well as those in the English regions of the Lake District, Kent and Hampshire. The fundamental importance of **Garden History** in the dissemination of new research continues to be demonstrated by the worldwide submission of articles relating to garden and landscape history and conservation.

Two editions of **GHS/GT news** and of the

one-page *micro-news* were produced, keeping members up to date with events past and present, and also matters such as the merger in July with the Association of Gardens Trusts to form The Gardens Trust. The website mirrored this editorial input and after the merger a website sub-committee was convened with the remit of commissioning and creating a new website dedicated to The Gardens Trust. The committee was also engaged in establishing the name of The Gardens Trust, the logo and associated branding materials, a process which will continue into 2016. Following the merger the existing Education and Publications Committee was re-established as the Education, Publications and Communications Committee (EPC).

Organised and chaired by Patrick Eyres, the fifth **Graduate Symposium** was held on 24 July 2015 at the University of Newcastle during the combined GHS/AGT Annual Conference. This vear attendance was swelled by members of both organisations, who were as ever supportive and appreciative. The fascinating array of papers was presented by Erin McHugh and Kasie Alt, both from the U.S.A., as well as Dianne Long and Nick Chibnall, while Charles Boot once again ensured the smooth running of the PowerPoints. The main aims of the Symposium are to provide a professional forum for the presentation of new research in Garden History, to provide an opportunity for scholars to hone presentation skills, and to encourage scholars whose material has yet to be published.

The annual **Essay Prize** has been won by Josepha Richard from Sheffield University, for her fascinating essay Uncovering the Garden of the Richest Man on Earth in Nineteenth Century Guangzhou: Howqua's Garden in Henan China. This essay was of particular interest as very little work has been done on early nineteenth century Chinese horticulture by either Western or Eastern garden historians. The judges were particularly impressed by Richard's scholarly approach, the range of references she unearthed, and her thoughtful — and convincing — analyses of what is often mere scraps of information. Melanie Veasey of Buckingham University was also Highly Recommended for her essay The Richest Form of Outdoor Furniture: The Open Air Exhibition of Sculpture at Battersea Park, 1948. Other entries addressed such diverse subjects as monastic ruins in eighteenth century gardens, royal parks and

war memorials in the urban landscape.

The annual conference weekend at Rewley House, Oxford, held in conjunction with the Oxford University Department for Continuing Education, took place from 5 to 7 June. The theme was Gardens and the Theatre, which allowed an interdisciplinary approach and the opportunity to examine the subject from both angles, gardens in the theatre and theatrical elements in the garden. There were, accordingly, wideranging talks including the Garden in Opera, the Garden as Theatre, Bridgemannic Amphitheatres (with a visit to Cliveden that revealed a second. unsuspected amphitheatre), Brown and Garrick, and Open-air Garden Theatres. An innovation was an entertainment on the Saturday evening consisting of video extracts from dance and opera and readings from garden scenes in plays from medieval to Tom Stoppard.

Tim Richardson, Chair, Education, Publications and Communications Committee

Membership Committee

The proposal to create a Membership Committee was accepted during the merger negotiations with the objectives being to:

- · Maintain and manage a membership database.
- Identify the needs, interests and concerns of members, both individual and CGTs, and promote activity to address these.
- Seek to extend individual membership by increasing awareness of the organisation's aims and activities, and undertake promotions, membership drives or other appropriate activities.
- Assist all the activities of CGTs by promoting co-operation and the sharing of experience and information.
- Encourage, promote and assist in the formation and development of CGTs.

Membership

The Gardens Trust offers two types of membership— individual and County/Country Gardens Trusts (CGTs). At the 31 December 2015, there were 1253 individual members (compared to 1235 at 1 January 2015) and 35 CGTs (cf.35 at 1 January 2015). It is acknowledged that a proportion of individual members are also members of one or more CGTs and a survey will be undertaken during 2016 to establish what that proportion is, and how more individual members can be encouraged to join their local CGT. There

is also clearly a need to attract a new audience to the benefits of individual membership and this will be addressed in the coming months.

Historic Landscape Project (HLP)

The Membership Committee Chairman served as the Line Manager to the Historic Landscape Project Officers and continues to support their capacity building activities with the County Gardens Trusts. A key element of the HLP is to bring the CGTs together to exchange information and inspire activity at Regional Forums.

Regional CGT Forums

Five Regional Forums were held across England during 2015, and each was attended by at least one Board member. We are very grateful to the CGTs that hosted those Forums: Bedfordshire GT (East: 30 September 2015); Yorkshire GT (North: 8 October 2015), Surrey GT (Southeast: 22 October 2015), and Shropshire GT (West Midlands and Welsh Marches: 28 October 2015). The East Midlands Forum was held at the Derby Arboretum on 10 November 2015 and it was excellent to meet representatives from the fledgling Nottinghamshire GT which is in the process of re-forming. Many ideas and suggestions were raised at the Forums and have been directed to others within The Gardens Trust for consideration. The Southwest Regional Forum was held over until 2016.

> Dr Ian Varndell, Chair, Membership Committee

Scotland

At the AGM in May, Scotland's Garden and Landscape Heritage (SGLH) formally took over the role of the Scottish Group of the Garden History Society and members voted to adopt the constitution of the new organisation. We have become a fully-fledged, Scottish charity, which enables us to enter into agreements and contracts in a way that was not possible before.

Although this is a significant legal change, much continues as before. We retain our close links with The Gardens Trust and our chair is an *ex officio* member of The Gardens Trust Board.

Our website, **www.sglh.org**, is our main link with our members. It costs nothing to become a Friend and students can also join for free. Our subscriptions have been set at £25 for On-line members and £35 for Postal members. Life membership, at present, is £250.

Our lectures this year have included insights into

Scotland's Gardening Women 1800–1930 from Deborah Reid, a survey of the work of Stephen Switzer by Bill Brogden, who included a tribute to Frank Clark marking the 50th anniversary year and a wide-ranging talk from Professor Brian Evans on the subject of the Picturesque and Sublime Landscape. We also enjoyed a Garden visit to Tyninghame House with Afternoon Tea, a Garden Party at John Byrom's Garden of the Nine Muses and a visit to the gardens of Dumfries House.

Our newsletter, *The Pleasaunce*, has been re-vamped to reflect our new status and is published three times a year. Once a year we publish an edition of scholarly articles on aspects of Scottish Garden History. The first *Special Number* was Edzell Reconsidered, with artIcles by Marilyn Brown, Peter Davidson and Thomas Deckker.

On the conservation front, we employ a Conservation Consultant on a part-time basis (Alison Allighan). She prepares our planning responses, advises the Board and develops our links with Local Authorities. We have two current Recording Projects, Glorious Gardens, training volunteers in the Clyde and Avon Valley and in Falkirk. These are funded by Historic Environment Scotland (HES), HLF and the CAV Landscape Partnership. They are progressing well, managed by SGLH and run by Northlight Heritage. In addition Board members have attended consultations organised by the Scottish Government, HES and other bodies in the heritage sector.

We continue to campaign against inappropriate developments, which latterly have accumulated in particular, in the centre of Edinburgh, a World Heritage Site. Two cases stand out: a new, 'walnutwhip' shaped hotel to rise from a shopping centre at the East End of Princes Street and a second hotel development to alter and extend the old Royal High School, a famous neo-classical landmark on Calton Hill. While so far unsuccessful in the former, we are pleased to report that the Edinburgh City Council has refused permission for the latter. We are also supporting The Friends of Granton Castle Garden in their fight to fend off housing development in this medieval walled garden.

The commitment and support of the Board and Members has been very heartening. Our end of term report might read: SGLH has got off to a good start but has still to reach its full potential.

Judy Riley, Chair, Scotland's Garden and Landscape Heritage

Financial review for the year ended 31 December 2015

The Gardens Trust was formed by the merger on 24 July 2015 of The Garden History Society and the Association of Gardens Trusts. The financial statements of The Gardens Trust for 2015 and the comparative 2014 year are presented under merger accounting rules as though the combined entity had been in existence for the whole of those two years and aggregate the financial statements of the two predecessor entities for those years.

Within Voluntary Income, Donations were very considerably higher in 2015 due to two legacies totalling £121,221, as compared to nil legacies in 2014. The legacies received consisted of £92,710 from Mrs. Philippa (Pippa) Rakusen to The Garden History Society and £28,511 from Colonel Richard Harington Gilbertson to the Association of Gardens Trusts. Total Donations, including the legacies, were £133,909 in 2015 as compared with £25,318 in 2014. This increase was slightly offset by lower Subscription income of £63,630 in 2015 compared to £71,827 in 2014 due principally to a decline in the number of Individual members. Voluntary Income in total was £200,604 in 2015 compared with £99,434 in 2014.

Grants receivable from Historic England were also at a higher level in 2015, £126,525 in 2015 compared with £103,377 in 2014, mainly due to additional funding for merger and related expenses. There was also an additional grant in 2015 from the J Paul Getty Jr Charitable Trust for £10,000 to support The Gardens Trust's role in the Capability Brown Festival, principally supporting additional Historic Landscape Project Officer time in the working with the County Gardens Trusts.

Net Events profit (revenue minus expense) in 2015 was £17,583 compared with £4,662 in 2014, due principally to a high level of net profit from the 2015 conference at Newcastle. Both Incoming Resources and Resources Expended for Events in 2015 were considerably higher than in 2014 due mainly to a foreign trip in 2015 that generated both higher revenues and higher expenses.

Within Resources Expended, wages and salaries increased from £136,379 in 2014 to £146,715 in

2015, partly due to overtime in relation to the merger.

Office management costs and other support costs also increased, aggregating to £82,871 in 2015 as compared with £69,022 in 2014. Other support costs in 2015 include two one-off costs: £13,364 in legal and professional fees relating principally to the merger and £15,000 for website development costs, as development of the Trust's new website was commissioned in that year.

The above factors led to Net Incoming Resources being £97,848 in 2015 compared with Net Outgoing Resources in 2014 of (£19,599). However, for the reasons discussed above, 2015 was an unusual year both in terms of one-off donations and grants and one-off merger-related costs. If one-off legacies and grants and merger-related costs and grants are stripped out, it is estimated that there was an underlying operating loss for 2015 at a comparable level to 2014 of approximately (£17,600).

Reserves and Investments

As stated in the Trust's Business Plan, one of the aims of the Trust is to "live within [its] means" and be financially sustainable over the long term. In that regard, the predecessor organisations had built up reserves, and the Trust continues to build up reserves, to provide protection against reduced grant funding and to generate a return that might be used to fund the Trust's activities. At December 31, 2015 the Trust had investments of £260,259 and cash at bank and in hand of £170,133. Since that date an additional £100,000 of cash was placed under investment. In 2014, £25,000 was withdrawn from investment to fund losses. No withdrawal was required in 2015.

Risk Management

Following Charity Commission guidance, the Board reviewed the Trust's risks and a Risk Management Statement and Risk Register were discussed and agreed. These will be monitored and reviewed annually, with actions agreed to address or mitigate significant risks.

Statement of the Board of Directors Responsibilities

Statement of the Board of Directors Responsibilities

The Board of Directors is responsible for preparing the Board of Directors' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the Board of Directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the Board of Directors is required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;

- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The Board of Directors is responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by order of the Board of Directors on 10 May 2016 and signed on its behalf by: *Dr James Bartos, Chairman*

Independent Examiner's Report to the Board of Directors of The Gardens Trust

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2015 set out on pages twelve to twenty-four of the full set of the Accounts.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's Board of Directors is responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Board of Directors considers that an audit is not required for this year (under Section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act)) and that an independent examination is required. The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

 examine the accounts under Section 145 of the 2011 Act

- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under Section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act); and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of the independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statements below.

Independent Examinire's Report

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- 1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements
- to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of Sections 394 and 395 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities

have not been met; or 2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

> Peter Nellemose Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales Averillo & Associates, Chartered Accountants 16 South End, Croydon, Surrey, CRO 1DN

> > 10 May 2016

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2015

	Unrestricted Funds f	Restricted Funds f	2015 Total Funds	2014 Total Funds
INCOMING RESOURCES	<u></u>	_	L	L
Incoming resources from generated funds				
Voluntary income	199,729	875	200,604	99,434
Activities for generating funds				
Advertising	3,950	-	3,950	5,800
Events	78,091	-	78,091	32,940
Investment income	10,158	-	10,158	10,327
Incoming resources from charitable activities		126 525	126 525	102 277
Grants recievable	- 4 555	126,525	126,525	103,377
Publications	4,555	-	4,555	4,147
Conservation advice	-	10.000	10.000	584
'Capability' Brown		_10,000	10,000	2,750
Total incoming resources	296,483	137,400	433,883	259,359
RESOURCES EXPENDED				
Costs of generating funds				
Investment management costs	2,187	-	2,187	2,207
Charitable activities				
Events	60,508	-	60,508	28,278
Wages and salaries	48,595	98,120	146,715	136,379
National insurance	2,586	3,306	5,892	4,512
Printing and distribution	25,603	-	25,603	27,095
Office management costs	32,017	8,425	40,442	35,372
Other support costs	33,854	8,575	42,429	33,650
'Capability' Brown	-	494	494	965
Governance costs	11,765	-	11,765	10,500
Total resources expended	217,115	118,920	336,035	278,958
NET INCOMING/ (OUTGOING) RESOURCES	79,368	18,480	97,848	(19,599)
Other recognised gains/losses				
Gains/losses on Investment Assets	(151)		(151)	(1,081)
Net movement in funds for the year	79,217	18,480	97,697	(20,680)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS				
Total funds brought forward	379,865	10,606	390,471	411,151
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	459,082	29,086	488,168	390,471

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2015 Total	2014 Total
	Funds	Funds	Funds	Funds
FIVED ACCETS	£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS Tangible assets	64,657		64,657	65,502
Tangible assets Investments	260,259	-	260,259	260,090
livestilients	200,239	<u>_</u>	200,239	200,090
	324,916	-	324,916	325,592
CURRENT ASSETS				
Debtors	22,009	28,016	50,025	32,106
Cash at bank and in hand	<u>161,403</u>	8,730	<u>170,133</u>	67,523
	183,412	36,746	220,158	99,629
CREDITORS				
Amounts falling due within one year	(48,126)	_(7,660)	(55,786)	(33,420)
NET CURRENT ASSETS	135,286	29,086	164,372	66,209
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES	460 202	20.006	400 200	201 001
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CORRENT LIABILITIES	460,202	29,086	489,288	391,801
CREDITORS				
Amounts falling due after more than one year	ar (1,120)	-	_(1,120)	(1,330)
,				
NET ASSETS	459,082	29,086	488,168	390,471
FUNDS				
Unrestricted			459,082	379,865
Restricted Funds			_29,086	10,606
TOTAL FUNDS			<u>488,168</u>	390,471

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities

for the year ended 31 December 2015

	2015	2014	
INCOMING RESOURCES	£	£	
Voluntary income			
Donations	133,909	25,318	
Sunscriptions	63,630	71,827	
CGT Insurance surplus	3,065	2,289	
	200,604	99,434	
Activities for generating funds Advertising	3,950	5,680	
Contributions from members' events etc.	78,091	33,060	
	82,041	38,740	
Investment income			
Dividends from investments	9,746	10,094	
Interest recievable on liquid investments	412	233	
	10,158	10,327	
Incoming resources from charitable activities Publications	4 555	4 1 4 7	
Conservation advice	4,555 -	4,147 584	
Grants receivable	136,525	_106,127	
	141,080	110,858	
Total incoming resources	433,883	259,359	
RESOURCES EXPENDED			
Investment management costs			
Investment management fees	2,187	2,207	
Charitable activities			
Wages and salaries National Insurance	146,715	136,379 4,512	
Events	5,892 60,508	4,512 28,278	
Printing and distribution	25,603	27,095	
'Capability' Brown	494	965	
Governance costs	239,212	197,229	
Bookkeeping costs	8,165	6,900	
Independent Examiner's remuneration	3,600	3,600	
	11,765	10,500	
Support costs			
Mangement	26.600	22.054	
Office costs Project fees	36,600 3,842	32,054 3,318	
1.10,000.1000	40,442	35,372	
Other			
Conservation, travel, and subsistence	3,649	2,315	
Office and Trustees' travel and subsistence Conservation office costs (incl. IT)	4,645 2,754	4,350 12,925	
Postage and stationery	1,397	1,055	
Legal fees	13,364	6,813	
Transfer to the GHSS Conservation Trust Website development	775 15 000	4,366	
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	15,000 845	1,826	
	42,429	33,650	
Total resources expended	336,035	278,958	
Net income/(expenditure) before gains and losses	97,848	(19,599)	
Realised and recognised gains and losses	2.70.0	(,,== ,,	
Realised gains/(losses) on investments	2,945	(8,965)	
Recognised gains/(losses) on revaluations of investments	_(3,096)	7,884	
Net income/(expenditure)	97,697	(20,680)	

Nominations for Election

Biographical notes on the proposed Board Members

Christine Addison

Christine Addison is a founder member of the Northamptonshire Gardens Trust with a background in the development of post medieval and modern aspects of the archaeological record for Northamptonshire, particularly in the areas of historic parks and gardens and industrial archaeology. She has participated in English Heritage's Landscapes at Risk Survey and has provided input towards land management planning for Natural England's grant-aided stewardship schemes.

David Marsh

Dr David Marsh is a garden historian, lecturer and writer. He obtained a PhD in Garden History from Birkbeck College in 2005. He is co-convener of the History of Gardens and Designed Landscapes seminar at Institute of Historical Research, London University, 2011-to date and is currently involved in setting up a national programme for garden history education in conjunction with a number of other interest groups. David is a member of the Education. Publications and Communications Committee. and Registrar of Research for The Gardens Trust.

Maureen Nolan

Maureen Nolan is a Chartered Secretary with over 30 years' experience in governance and company secretarial work. She has a BSc in Mathematics and Biophysics and an MSc in Information Science. She has worked for a range of organisations in the public, private and charitable sectors, including Transport for London, ICSA and Age Concern England. Maureen is presently Company Secretary and Trustee of the London Parks and Gardens Trust (LPGT) and Company Secretary of the Gas Safe Charity.

Peter Waine

Peter Waine has a business background having been on both PLC and private company boards. He has been visiting professor at Warwick and Cass Business schools. He was Chairman of the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) from 2008-2014 and has also been Chairman of the Tree Council and of the National Fruit Collection at Brogdale. He is a former trustee of the Royal Opera House and an author of a number of business books and books on the English countryside.

Robinson College campus map







How to find us

By foot / bicycle

From Market Square in the town centre, go past Great St Mary's, heading towards Senate House. Follow Senate House Passage, then right onto Trinity Lane, then left 30 yards later onto Garret Hostel Lane. Cross Queens Road and continue the path running past the University Library. Arrive Grange Road.

By Public Transport

The College is 10 minutes by taxi from the train or bus stations.

The U4 Citibus runs from Brooklands Avenue runs to the College every 20 minutes.

By foot / bicycle ---

By U4 bus route ---



Robinson College Grange Rd Cambridge CB3 9AN

Porters' Lodge Tel. +44 (0)1223 339 100 Fax. +44 (0)1223 351 794 porters@robinson.cam.ac.uk

Conference Office
Tel. +44 (0)1223 332 859
Fax. +44 (0)1223 315 094
conference@robinson.cam.ac.uk