



## **NOTICE OF THE SIXTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2020 AND ANNUAL REPORT 2019**

In light of the current COVID-19 measures in the UK and the ban on large gatherings, and in accordance with special legislation relating to AGMs in this period, the AGM will be run as a closed meeting.

Members will not be able to attend the AGM in person. Instead of attending the AGM members are encouraged to exercise their votes by appointing the Chairman, as their proxy to vote on their behalf, by submitting their proxy electronically or by post.

See the accompanying Proxy Voting Form for the addresses to send proxies to, which must be received by 11am on Tuesday 1st September 2020.

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## NOTICE OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that an Annual General Meeting ('Meeting') of The Gardens Trust will be held at 11am on Saturday 5th September 2020 to consider and vote on the following Resolutions.

### RESOLUTIONS

**1. Resolution 1: Minutes**

To approve the Minutes of the fifth Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 7th September 2019, in the Shulman Theatre, The Queen's College, OX1 4AW.

**2. Resolution 2: Annual Report and Accounts**

To receive the Accounts together with the Report of the Directors and the Independent Examiners for the year ended 31st December 2019.

**3. Resolution 3: Independent Examiners**

To re-appoint Averillo & Associates as Independent Examiners and to authorise the Board to fix their remuneration.

**4. Resolution 4: Re-Election of Vice Presidents**

To re-elect Robert Peel, John Sales and Steffie Shields as Vice Presidents for a further term of five years.

**5. Resolution 5: Election of Vice Presidents**

To elect Dr James Bartos and Michael Symes as Vice Presidents for a term of five years.

**6. Resolution 6: Re-Election of Directors**

To re-elect Sarah Dickinson and Lisa Watson as Directors for a further term of one year.

**7. Resolution 7: Election of Director**

To elect Christopher Blandford as a Director for a term of three years.

## VOTING — Explanatory Notes

In light of the current COVID-19 measures in the UK and the ban on large gatherings, and in accordance with special legislation relating to AGMs in this period, the AGM will be run as a closed meeting. Members will not be able to attend in person or appoint a proxy, other than the Chairman, to attend and vote on their behalf.

- Current individual and joint Members and authorised representatives of the County/Country Gardens Trusts may vote at the Annual General Meeting by authorising the Chairman to act as their 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.
- Members are urged to vote by appointing the Chairman as your proxy by completing the enclosed proxy form and delivering it as instructed on the form by 11 am on Tuesday 1st September 2020.

**Your vote is important to us and will help ensure a quorum at the Meeting.**

## Accounts

A full set of the Report of the Board of Directors and Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2019 may be obtained by applying by post to the Honorary Secretary, The Gardens Trust, 70 Cowcross Street, London EC1M 6EJ and enclosing a large A4 stamped addressed envelope.



## NOMINATIONS FOR VICE PRESIDENTS

### Re-Election of Vice Presidents

The Board is recommending that the following Vice Presidents are re-elected to serve for a further five-year term:

**Robert Peel**  
**John Sales** and  
**Steffie Shields**

### Election of Vice Presidents

The Board is recommending Dr James Bartos and Michael Symes be elected as Vice Presidents to serve for a term of five years.

**Dr James Bartos**  
**Michael Symes**

## NOMINATIONS FOR DIRECTORS OF THE BOARD

### Re-Election of Directors

Under the Gardens Trust's Articles of Association, Directors retire at the end of their term of office and, subject to the qualification below, may stand for re-election for one further term.

The Articles also provide that to create a staggered Board a certain number of the initial Directors were to be chosen by Lot to serve an initial two-year term rather than the standard three-year term. Further to the Articles, no Director may serve more than six consecutive years.

The following two Directors served an initial two-year term and have come to the end of a subsequent three-year term and are offering themselves for re-election at this AGM. However, their new term will be restricted to one year, which will complete six consecutive years of service as Directors.

**Sarah Dickinson** and  
**Lisa Watson**

### Election of Director

Dr James Bartos, who has also come to the end of a two-year term followed by a three-year term, will be standing down at this AGM. Dr Bartos has been Chairman of the Board during his five years as a Director from the inception of the Gardens Trust. It is the Board's intention to elect Peter Hughes QC, who is currently a Director, as the next Chairman at the Board meeting that follows this AGM.

There being one vacancy on the Board, the Board is recommending Christopher Blandford as a Director to fill the vacancy.

**Christopher Blandford**

By order of the Board  
**Maureen Nolan**  
Company Secretary  
Dated 23rd June 2020

Registered Office  
70 Cowcross Street  
London EC1M 6EJ  
Company Number: 03163187  
Charity Number: 1053446

## Biographical notes on those standing for Re-Election

### Vice Presidents

#### Robert Peel

A former town planner, then fruit farmer, Robert was Vice Chairman of the Garden History Society, and has served as a Vice President of the Gardens Trust since 2015, and also on its Education and Events Committee. He has been organising tours to gardens on the continent of Europe and further afield for many years, usually two a year for the Gardens Trust. When lockdown allows, he will return to part-time gardening in Argentina.

#### John Sales

John Sales VMH served as Head of Gardens for the National Trust for 25 years and retired 22 years ago. Since then he has been a Gardens Consultant and has written a memoir 'Shades of Green' (Unicorn 2018). He is a Vice-President of the RHS. John has also

served as a Vice President of the Gardens Trust (and formerly the Garden History Society) since 2004.

#### Steffie Shields

Steffie Shields MBE, BA Hons, is a professional garden photographer, writer, and historic landscape consultant. Former Cambridge tutor, recipient of various photographic awards, and regular contributor to *Lincolnshire Life* magazine, she appeared on Channel 4 TV 'Great Estates' and was a consultant for Alan Titchmarsh's More 4 TV series 'Brown at Belvoir' (2015). Steffie was an advisor to the 'Capability' Brown Tercentenary Festival (2016), and co-curator with Hal Moggridge OBE, of the London exhibition (2016): 'Lenses on a Landscape Genius — Lancelot 'Capability' Brown'. Her illustrated book 'Moving Heaven and Earth: Capability Brown's Gift of Landscape' (Unicorn Press) was a Garden Media Guild Awards

finalist for 2016 ‘Inspirational Book of the Year’.

A past Chairman of the Association of Gardens Trusts (2012–2015), and present chair, Lincolnshire Gardens Trust, Steffie has also served as a Vice President of the Gardens Trust since the merger between the GHS and AGT in 2015. She was awarded the MBE (2018) for services to conservation and heritage.

### Directors

#### **Sarah Dickinson**

Sarah Dickinson is enjoying a second career as a landscape designer and planting consultant following a career in the City as a property lawyer. She has an MSc in the Conservation of Historic Gardens and

Cultural Landscapes from Bath University and is Chair of Surrey Gardens Trust and Vice Chair of the Conservation Committee of the Gardens Trust.

#### **Lisa Watson**

Lisa Watson is Honorary Treasurer and Vice Chairman of the Gardens Trust, and Chair of its Administration and Finance Committee. She worked for the National Trust at Stowe Landscape Garden for 17 years, starting as a volunteer and then becoming Estate Secretary until she retired in 2009.

She has been Company Secretary of the London Parks & Gardens Trust and is their Treasurer and currently Interim Chair. She was Treasurer of the Association of Gardens Trust.

## Biographical notes on those standing for Election

### Vice Presidents

#### **Dr James Bartos**

Jim Bartos has served the Gardens Trust as its first Chairman for a period of five years. He holds a PhD in Garden History and was on the Council of the Garden History Society. Previously, he had a career as a corporate lawyer as a partner of an international law firm.

#### **Michael Symes**

Michael Symes was a Trustee of the Garden History Society for more than 20 years, served on its Education and Publications Committee – and latterly the Garden’s Trust’s Education and Events Committee, totalling about 40 years. Under the auspices of the GHS/GT he co-directed the annual weekend conference at Rewley House, Oxford, 2000–2018, being handed the ‘sacred torch’ from Mavis Batey, who established the weekends with Kate Tiller at the Oxford end. His main role for the GT has been on the publications side, contributing articles, notes and reviews for *Garden History* and acting as reader and editorial adviser. He has also served on the Essay Prize sub-committee for several years. In the university sphere he established the garden history programme at Birkbeck, University of London. The Certificate and Diploma courses in the 1990s were followed by the introduction of a part-time MA in 2000, and more recently he has been involved

with the MA at the Institute of Historical Research. Former students established, of their own initiative, the Birkbeck Garden History Group, now 150 strong, of which he is President.

### Director

#### **Christopher Blandford**

Chris Blandford is a landscape architect, master planner, and heritage specialist. Until 2017 he was Chairman and CEO of the award-winning CBA Studios, the landscape, planning, and heritage consultancy he founded in 1977. Working nationally and internationally he led his team and business, having a broad range of technical experience in both the conservation and development fields as well as considerable managerial and commercial experience.

Chris is a Fellow of the Landscape Institute, an ICOMOS Trustee, President of World Heritage UK, and a Vice Chairman of the South Downs National Park Design Review Panel. Over the last 30 years he has regularly advised Government and its agencies on design, cultural heritage, and environmental matters.

In 2019 he completed the first comprehensive Review of the State of the UK’s 32 UNESCO World Heritage Sites revealing to Government their potential contribution to economic regeneration. Chris lives and works in retirement in the Weald of Sussex surrounded by the extensive garden that he and his wife have created over the last 40 years.



# Draft Minutes of the Fifth Annual General Meeting of The Gardens Trust

Held on Saturday 7th September 2019 at 4.30pm in the Shulman Theatre, The Queen's College, OX1 4AW

## 1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Dr James Bartos, Chairman, welcomed the President, Vice Presidents, members of the Gardens Trust and the members and representatives of the County Gardens Trusts attending the meeting. He thanked Virginia Hinze, the Events Committee, Directors and staff for all the preparations and arrangements made for the AGM. Charles Boot was thanked for providing technical support for the meeting and Louise Cooper for overseeing the paperwork and arrangements for the meeting.

In a departure from normal procedure, reports from Committees on the Trust's activities would not be presented at the AGM; reports were provided in the Notice of the meeting and would be taken as read. Committee Chairs would provide brief updates at the meeting and answer questions from Members.

## PRELIMINARIES: Honorary Secretary

A total of 96 members of the Gardens Trust and County Gardens Trusts were present. Thirty three apologies had been received from: six Vice Presidents; two Directors; six Gardens Trust members; and sixteen County Gardens Trusts. Twenty one valid proxy forms had been received.

As provided under the Gardens Trust's Articles of Association, separate votes would be cast for each resolution by CGT representatives, followed by Individual Members. Votes would be cast using voting cards.

Members noted with sadness the names of those who had died since the previous AGM, including: Dr Christopher Thacker (Life Vice President of GHS and the GT; first editor of *Garden History*); Mrs Anne Richards (Vice President of GHS and the GT; GHS Membership Secretary for many years); Mr William (known as Bill) Pack; Miss June Bowry; Mrs Alun Jones; Mrs Minnis and Mrs Pauline Atkins.

## 2. RESOLUTION 1:

### Minutes of the previous (fourth) AGM 2018

A Resolution to approve the Minutes of the fourth AGM, held on 2nd September 2018, was proposed by David Foreman, seconded by Tamsin McMillan and, on a show of voting cards, **agreed**.

There was one abstention.

## 3. HONORARY TREASURER'S REPORT

Lisa Watson, Honorary Treasurer, presented the accounts for the year ending 31 December 2018.

A small surplus of £1,131 was achieved before investment gains or losses, compared with £1,032 in 2017. Total funds for 2018 were lower than in 2017, due to market movements on investments reflected at the year end. Investment income increased in 2018 to £14,469, compared with £14,111 in 2017. The Trust intended to continue to build up investments to generate a return which would help fund activities and protect against reduced grant funding in future. Income from events was £10,172, slightly down from £11,958 in 2017.

The cost of salaries and NI decreased in 2018 due to part of the expenditure related to the **Celebrating Repton** grant from Historic England (HE) in 2017 being included in salaries and not as a separate project. The increase in office management costs was due mostly to the engagement of the Communications Officer in 2018 and the decrease in Office support costs was due to the website development costs in 2017. As a result, total expenditure (excluding Events and one-off projects) declined by £10,447 from 2017.

Cash at the bank increased substantially to £93,005 at the year end, compared with £62,841 in 2017, due to an early payment by HE of the 2019 grant.

There were no questions and the Treasurer was thanked for her work during the year.

## 4. RESOLUTION 2:

### Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2018

The Report and Accounts for year ended 31st December 2018 were laid before members. It was noted that the Board approved the Report and Accounts at its meeting on 11 June 2019.

The Resolution to receive the Report and Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2018, together with the Reports from the Directors and Independent Examiners was proposed by Peter Waine, seconded by Sarah Fitzgerald and, on a show of voting cards, **agreed**.

## 5. RESOLUTION 3:

### Appointment of Auditors and their remuneration

A Resolution to re-appoint Averillo & Associates as

Independent Examiners and delegate authority to the Board to fix their remuneration was proposed by David Marsh, seconded by Sarah Dickinson and, on a show of voting cards, **agreed**.

#### 6. RESOLUTION 4:

##### Re-Election of Board Members

Under the Gardens Trust's Articles of Association, Directors retire at the end of each three year term at the AGM and, if eligible, may stand for re-election for a further three year term. The three Directors stepping down at this AGM and offering themselves for re-election were:

**Dr David Marsh:** The Resolution to re-elect Dr David Marsh was proposed by Marion Harney, seconded by Virginia Hinze and, on a show of voting cards, **agreed**.

**Maureen Nolan:** The Resolution to re-elect Maureen Nolan was proposed by Sally Jeffery, seconded by Peter Hughes and, on a show of voting cards, **agreed**.

**Peter Waine:** The Resolution to re-elect Peter Waine was proposed by Sarah Dickinson, seconded by David Marsh and, on a show of voting cards, **agreed**.

#### 7. RESOLUTION 5:

##### Election of Board Member

Christine Addison had decided to stand down as a Director at this AGM, which resulted in a vacancy on the Board. Christine will continue her role on the Education & Events Committee and gratitude was expressed for all her work to date. The Board recommended that Thadian Pillai be elected to fill the vacancy.

**Thadian Pillai:** The election of Thadian Pillai was proposed by James Bartos, seconded by Tim Richardson and, on a show of voting cards, **agreed**.

This concluded the voting part of The Annual General Meeting, which was immediately followed by:

#### 8. REPORTS

##### 8.1 Chairman's Report: Dr James Bartos

2018 had been an excellent year for the Gardens Trust. A small surplus had been made prior to investment gains or losses, in line with one of the important merger goals for the GT to live within its means. The Trust was also on target to breakeven in 2019.

The GT's national profile continues to grow and gain traction. As a result of the efforts of conservation staff and HLP, there has been a significant increase in the responses to planning applications from the GT and County Gardens Trusts (CGTs). *Garden History*, our journal, the Newsletter, the annual New Research Symposium and the Essay Prize continued to support

excellence in research and its dissemination. Courses in garden history are run around the country through the Grapevine initiative and David Marsh's weekly garden history blog is on the GT website. Aligned with educational activities, an annual lecture series is run in London, Bath and Birmingham. Foreign trips remain an important aspect of the events programme and three trips were fully booked.

The main work of HLP is an outreach and capacity building and networking programme, which includes Meet-Ups on site, research training days, the annual Assembly (an important national event), guidance materials and one-to-one support. In 2018 and 2019 the Trust undertook an HLF-funded programme **Sharing Repton**, which encouraged local communities to become involved in local landscapes and develop a skill set that will be used and developed over time. In 2020, a new strategic initiative will be launched called **Unforgettable Gardens**.

As part of a strategic move to arrest the decline in individual membership, a membership drive was launched to encourage CGT members to join the GT at a discounted membership rate to support our joint activities. As part of this, CGT Chairs had been sent a suite of materials about the GT and the rationale for CGT members to support the GT in addition to their local CGT.

2019 should prove another very successful and exciting year for the Gardens Trust.

##### 8.2 Administration and Finance Committee:

###### Lisa Watson

There were no questions and the report as published in the Notice was noted.

##### 8.3 Conservation Committee:

###### Marion Harney and Sarah Dickinson

An updated version of the Planning Leaflet had been published by the GT to reflect revisions to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) published by the Government in February 2019. This sets out the government's planning policies for the historic environment and reinforces the importance of including historic parks and gardens in Local Plans. The leaflet is a valuable tool in raising awareness of the Gardens Trust and its role as statutory consultee and will be circulated to large local authorities, in particular those who were not actively engaged. An interactive version of the leaflet will be available on the GT website.

Members welcomed the leaflet. The non-consultation rate was thought to be quite high and this was due to several issues, including a high



turnover of staff, the departure of consultation officers and decisions made by planning officers and administrators who were not aware of the issues. The problem was ongoing but the Trust is making progress by being in a better position to identify and target those who were not consulting.

In response to a question about legal liability for comments made by the GT, the Chairman confirmed that the Trust had taken advice and there was no legal liability for comments made on planning applications.

#### 8.4 Education and Events Committee:

##### Virginia Hinze and David Marsh

The joint Committee continued to work on a wide range of activities which generated a healthy income for the Gardens Trust.

Three more events were planned for 2019 including a visit to the Getty Library on the Wormsley estate on 24 October and a new course in association with the Garden Museum called 'An Introduction to Garden History'. The course has sold out and may be run again in 2020, possibly aimed at a different audience.

An exciting Winter lecture series is planned, including topics on Beth Chatto (to coincide with the publication of her biography), lectures on Joseph Banks and Derek Jarman, a day visit to Chevening and to Welwyn Garden City. The GT's Annual Conference will be held in North Yorkshire, in conjunction with the Yorkshire CGT, and will focus on private estates in Wensleydale and Richmond.

In response to a question about the Joseph Banks centenary, it was noted that two special lectures on Joseph Banks by Jordan Goodman were planned in both London and Bath, to celebrate the bicentenary of his death. Ideas from members on how to celebrate Gilbert White's Tercentenary in 2020 were invited.

#### 8.5 Historic Landscape Project (HLP):

##### Tamsin McMillan

Sally Bate (Vice Chair of Norfolk GT) joined Tamsin McMillan and Margie Hoffnung in May 2019 as part-time HLP Officer. Regional Meet-Ups for CGTs have been held in Newcastle, Grantham and Essex, with two more planned in Cheshire and Bristol. A two-day training session was delivered in conjunction with Yorkshire Gardens Trust and an introduction to conservation and planning was delivered at Bramham Park, which had sixty attendees, including seven planning authorities. This raised the profile of the Gardens Trust and CGTs and encouraged new planning volunteers. The next planning training session will be in the Spring in the south-east and a new one-day planning event will be launched in

London in summer 2020, with plans to repeat this on an annual basis.

The fourth annual Historic Landscapes Assembly will be held in London on 19 November at the Linnaean Society. The programme includes three events from the **Sharing Repton** project, all of which aim to help CGTs to increase their range of skills and reach out to new audiences.

**Funding:** The HLP is supported by Historic England but continues to seek additional funding from other sources. Two NLHF-funded projects have asked the Trust to provide training for new volunteers: the Land of the Fanns project in Essex and London, which will train volunteers to read historic designed landscapes and write statements of significance; and Sally Bate will teach volunteers to prepare condition surveys for landscapes at risk for the Greensand Partnership in Bedfordshire. Both projects will be a boost for local landscape conservation and provide new trained volunteers for their local CGTs. Sally Bate introduced herself and the work she is doing for the GT.

#### 8.6 Strategic Development Officer: Linden Groves

Linden highlighted progress on two of the Gardens Trust's initiatives. Events for the **Sharing Repton** project included an excursion to Wicksteed Park in September for residents of a care home specialising in dementia and a Heritage Open Day at Repton's Grovelands Park with three hundred guests. It is hoped that as an outcome of the project, others will be encouraged to organise their own events and share historic parks and gardens with others. A review of the project will take place on 28 November in Birmingham.

[www.thegardenstrust.org/event/sharing-the-adventure](http://www.thegardenstrust.org/event/sharing-the-adventure)

The Gardens Trust's next theme, **Unforgettable Gardens**, will highlight threats to historic designed landscapes, conservation and research recording and the invaluable efforts of CGTs and volunteers. Members were encouraged to join in by organising events, research and activities.

## 9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

### 9.1 Parks & Gardens Database Update

Philip White, Chief Executive of Hestercombe Gardens Trust, provided an update on the **Parks and Gardens UK Database** (P&G UK).

Its new website went live in March 2019 and the site is functioning well with a consistent growth in traffic during the year.

It is more reliable and robust, with improved visual identity, simpler data input and web editing and is mobile-responsive. The search functionality has been

improved using Google Maps' clustering and the homepage search box has been made easier to use. When the database was moved to the new system, a number of inconsistencies and errors were discovered. These were largely cleansed during the transition process and legacy data errors are corrected on a monthly basis.

Philip White advised members that he would like each CGT to appoint an editor who would check the forms, ensuring that responsibility for the content remained with the CGT.

As part of trying to make the project sustainable for the future, AdSense (a revenue tool) has been introduced and the possibility of including links to gardens open to the public in exchange for a small fee is being considered.

In due course, Parks & Gardens will write to every CGT to offer them the opportunity to piggyback their reporting, databases, image collections and planning histories onto the P&G website, with the possibility of controlled access and login for their own CGT members.

Hestercombe GT has acquired around 750 **Conservation Management Plans** and it is the long-term intention of the Hestercombe Trust to digitise and incorporate the reports into the P&G Database for the benefit of all.

A request was made for owners, consultants and individuals to donate or give permission to copy their CMP so it could be preserved for posterity.

## 9.2 Seventh Gilly Drummond Award for Volunteer of the Year 2019

Gilly Drummond introduced the Award for Volunteer of the Year. This year, changes had been made to the Judging Panel and to the criteria for the award. Steffie Shields and Patrick Eyres stood down from the Panel of Judges at the 2018 AGM and the Panel for 2019 comprised: Jenifer White (Chair); Kate Harwood and Maureen Nolan.

Nominations may now be made by members, not only of the Gardens Trust, but also CGT members as well as CGT Chairs and Committee members.

The application form was split into two parts with the first part asking for background information about the contribution made by the nominee and the second asking for information about the contribution made.

The nominees were:

**Vicky Basford** (Isle of Wight)

**Elizabeth Bowskill** (Lincolnshire);

**Judith Christie** (Cambridgeshire);

**Juliet Wilmot** (Wiltshire); and

**The Bucks GT Research and Recording Group.**

**Winners:** The Panel felt that the nominations were excellent; although it was difficult to decide on a winner, it was agreed unanimously that the award would be presented jointly to **Judith Christie** and **Juliet Wilmot**.

## 9.3 Fifteenth Mavis Batey Essay Prize 2019

David Marsh introduced the Mavis Batey Essay Prize, which was promoted widely on an international basis again this year. The Judging Panel agreed unanimously that the prize should be awarded to Susan Oldham for her essay on a speculative reconstruction of the early 18th-century garden at Appledurcombe on the Isle of Wight.

Arrangements are in hand to submit the essay formally for consideration for publication in *Garden History*. The prize was presented to Susan Oldham by Dominic Cole.

## 10. President's Closing Remarks

Dominic Cole, President of the Gardens Trust, expressed his excitement at the amount of activities and initiatives and the enthusiasm shown by all involved. He thanked the staff and volunteers of the Trust, ably led by Jim Bartos, and the contributions from all the CGTs.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed.

Note: Reports can also be found on our website: [www.thegardenstrust.org](http://www.thegardenstrust.org)





## Reference and Administrative Details

Registered Company number:  
03163187 (England and Wales)  
Registered Charity number: 1053446  
Registered Office:  
70 Cowcross Street, London EC1M 6EJ

### Directors

**Christine Addison** retired 7.9.2019  
**Dr James Bartos**  
**Simon Baynes** *ex-officio*\* retired 18.12.2019  
**Chloe Bennett** *ex-officio*\*  
**Joanna Davidson** *ex-officio*\* appointed 18.12.2019  
**Sarah Dickinson**  
**Dr Marion Harney**  
**Virginia Hinze**  
**Peter Hughes QC**  
**Dr Sally Jeffery**  
**David Lambert**  
**Dr David Marsh** re-elected 7.9.2019  
**Maureen Nolan** re-elected 7.9.2019  
**Thadian Pillai** elected 7.9.2019  
**Peter Waine** re-elected 7.9.2019  
**Elizabeth Watson**

\* *Non-Voting*

### Company Secretary

Maureen Nolan

### 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 Board of Directors

For the year ended 31st December 2019

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 2019.

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”, further details being set in the accounting policies.

## STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

### Constitution

The Company is a charitable company limited by guarantee constituted under Articles of Association, as amended by Special Resolution dated 24 July 2015, and is a Registered Charity number 1053446, Registered Company number 03163187 (England and Wales).

### 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. The names of those who are due to retire and wish to stand for 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, the Risk Register, Trust policy documents, Minutes of previous Board meetings and Charity Commission advice on the duties of Trustees. All 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; and Education and Events. The Administration and Finance Committee also has responsibility for Membership. The Board and the Committees

generally meet quarterly, with additional ad-hoc meetings as required

In 2019, the Trust employed two administrators and a Strategic Development Officer, all reporting to the Chair of the Administration and Finance Committee; two conservation staff who reported to the Chair of the Conservation Committee; and three Historic Landscape Project Officers, who reported to the Vice Chair of the Conservation Committee. All staff are employed part-time.

## OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

### 1. 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.

### 2. 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

#### Chairman’s Report

2019 was again a very productive year for the Gardens Trust and one in which we expanded our activities and profile in all areas. Importantly, as in recent years, we again ‘lived within our means’, one of our main goals, again achieving a small surplus before net gains/(losses) on investments. This continues to demonstrate financial stability in the pursuit of our charitable objectives.

The conservation effort, the core of the Trust’s statutory role, continued to forge ever-closer links with the County Gardens Trusts (CGTs) in a joint

effort to respond to planning applications. The number of both GT and CGT responses to planning applications continued to show impressive increases, as detailed in the Conservation Committee report below. Our Conservation Committee and staff had a very active involvement with a number of key sites of national importance, as highlighted in their report. The Committee also updated and re-issued its Planning Leaflet that provides important guidance to local planning officers in dealing with landscapes of historic significance and with us as the statutory consultee.

The Trust continued to support excellence in research and in the dissemination of research and ideas through its journal, *Garden History*, and Newsletter and through a very active programme of research symposia, lectures, conferences and visits, some undertaken with partnering organisations, such as the Garden Museum or a partnering CGT. Lectures were held in London and Bath, three one-day visits travelled to two important landscapes and to the private Getty Library and our annual Research Symposium, showcasing new research, was again held as part of the AGM conference weekend, in Oxford. Sold-out trips visited Sicily, Australia and Scotland. **Grapevine**, our education initiative, had a particularly active year, with one-day introductory courses to garden history held at a number of venues across the country and more specialised courses held at the Institute of Historical Research in London.

Our training and outreach programme to CGTs, the Historic Landscape Project (HLP), continued its excellent work through the year with multiple CGT regional meet-ups around the country; research training days; the annual Assembly amongst the GT, CGTs and numerous other heritage organisations, which has become a key hub event for the landscape heritage sector, held this year in London; one-on-one support of CGTs; and the provision of training and guidance materials. We were also engaged to become involved in externally funded training programmes, one in Bedfordshire and one in Essex, to train local volunteers in relation to specific landscape conservation projects, demonstrating that the Gardens Trust is seen as a valued training partner.

We hosted for the second time an annual Chairs' Meet Up between the CGT Chairs and the Gardens Trust's Board, held in the pleasant environs of the Garden Museum, providing both excellent discussion and net-working.

The HLF grant-funded **Sharing Repton** project continued into its second and final year. This project involved pilot projects across the country designed to

attract new audiences to historic parks and gardens and to teach us how to reach new volunteers and supporters, as well as in the process developing learning and materials that can be repeated in the future. In 2019, our Strategic Development Officer also began putting in place our strategic theme for 2020–22, called **Unforgettable Gardens**, about which more detail is provided in her report below.

As I have written before, we have a strategic and financial imperative to increase individual membership, which had showed a steady decline, both as a Garden History Society membership and then as a Gardens Trust membership. As a first step in conducting a membership drive, we undertook an on-line membership survey in 2018 that had an excellent take-up. In 2019, we launched the first stage of a membership drive through a special offer to CGT members to also become a GT member to support the work that we do jointly. I am pleased to report that in 2019 through this and other general efforts, our individual membership did increase, and we hope this will be a permanent reversal of trend. Various targeted drives will continue in coming years.

In sum, we had a very successful year in 2019 and continued to expand our profile nationally and internationally as a centre of excellence in all areas in which we participate.

In 2020, we experienced the shock of the Coronavirus, the shutting down of events and the cancellation of our annual Conference, scheduled for early September. However, the Gardens Trust is in the fortunate position that most of our income streams remain intact, and we are not reducing staff hours or our level of activity. Most of our staff were already working from home, and our conservation effort effectively continues as before. The HLP staff together with our Strategic Development Officer have seized the opportunity to further develop online training materials, to hold virtual meetings and to continue capacity building outreach through multiple platforms, including social media. Equally, members of our Events and Education Committee will be presenting virtual **Grapevine** garden history courses and other virtual lectures and events. We believe that in the long term these methods of working will prove of lasting benefit.

Dr James Bartos, Chairman

### Administration and Finance Committee

The "Admin & Finance" group is supported by three staff members – both Louise Cooper and Teresa Forey-Harrison have continued their main responsibilities: Lou – the Gardens Trust Administrator, for organising and co-ordinating the

Governance and Administration of the Trust, and Teresa – Finance Officer and CGT Co-ordinator, for organising and co-ordinating the financial arrangements of the Trust and providing administrative support to CGT members. In addition, Linden Groves as Strategic Development Officer, helps pursue forward development, fundraising and promotions for the Trust and the Historic Landscape Project, and Communications, working across the Trust with Susannah Charlton, Communications Adviser.

The Committee creates an annual Budget for approval by the Board at the beginning of each year, together with quarterly management accounts.

In September 2019, Thadian Pillai was elected as a Director of the GT and joined the Committee.

Linden reports to Admin & Finance on her management of the Lottery-funded projects **Sharing Repton**, now coming to a close and being followed by **Unforgettable Gardens**. Updates on these are covered elsewhere. Similarly she has set up Land of the Fanns and Greensand projects as part of the Heritage Landscape Project funded by Historic England. All these projects have been very successful.

An e-Newsletter and continued website development have been among Susannah Charlton's contributions during the year.

Insurances for the Gardens Trust and CGTs continue to be reviewed as do other outsourced services, with archiving of our historic books and records in progress. Work continued to review Risks, Health and Safety, the Business Plan, Skills Audit and Assets. Services for both print and membership were also reviewed, and paid advertisements were organised to be included in the GT News.

Membership services were reviewed, and a review of the "offer" to members was begun. At the end of December 2019, total individual membership was 1,127. Total membership of County Gardens Trusts stood at 7,389; and membership of the Welsh Historic Gardens Trust – affiliated to the Gardens Trust – was 980.

We are grateful to Alan Baxter and Coombs, our landlords, for their ongoing support.

Lisa Watson, Chair

### Conservation Committee

The Gardens Trust (GT), as the statutory consultee for registered parks and gardens in England and Wales, plays a key conservation role in the heritage sector and the Conservation Committee has a remit to ensure that this work is undertaken as effectively and efficiently as possible with the resources

available. The conservation team are assisted both in performing the casework and also in supporting the work of volunteers in County Garden Trusts (CGT) who work independently and collaboratively with the GT Conservation team, Conservation Officer, Margie Hoffnung and Conservation Casework Manager, Alison Allighan responding to potentially damaging planning consultations to protect and conserve our historic landscape heritage.

Our year-on-year success has inevitably required a reassessment of the capacity of the GT Conservation team. This year we were able to increase Margie Hoffnung's GT casework capacity by one day per week to three days to enable her to respond to an increasing number of consultations. The triage methodology put in place with the Conservation Casework Manager a couple of years ago continues to maximise the GT Conservation team's response capability. An analysis of the GT and CGT responses to consultations made over the last five years shows an impressive fourfold increase from 245 in 2015/16 to 1103 in 2019/20 (These figures follow a March to March year-end). Further capacity is needed however and we are committed to increasing the GT Conservation team as income allows. A further increase in the Conservation Casework Manager's hours will be a first step in acknowledging the effectiveness and importance of this role and the methodology practiced, although this has been put on hold in response to the pandemic but remains a priority when resources allow.

The total number of consultations received for the calendar year **2019** (in bold) (2018 figures in brackets for comparison) comprising all planning applications, pre-applications, Historic England consultations, Local Plans, National Policy, Neighbourhood Plans and general correspondence for England was **1837** (1843) and for Wales **31** (41). Of these **1065** (1049) were statutory consultations for England.

Responses (to all types of consultations) were as follows: GT written responses submitted **133** (103); CGT written responses **333** (214); GT no comments submitted **435** (390); CGT no comments **169** (120), an overall increase of **243** responses compared with 2018.

The consultations received raise diverse issues and our response, when an objection is appropriate, is often an essential part of a debate to formulate sustainable future development. On occasion we are approached directly in preplanning. For example, at Studley Royal, Yorkshire, a World Heritage Site (WHS) and Registered Grade I site the National Trust (NT) are planning to renovate and develop

the café/visitor entrance/car park at the Canal Gates end of the park. The NT has involved the GT and Yorkshire Gardens Trust (YGT), asking for our comments on their Heritage Impact Scoping Report. Both the GT and YGT are extremely concerned by this proposal and an appropriate letter of objection has been submitted. While better interpretation at Studley Royal would be an improvement, in our opinion the new building/development of additional visitor facilities at the location proposed would be contrary to the original Aislabie vision and represents a very unwelcome addition, harmful to the significance of the WHS. We are awaiting a report from ICOMOS on the proposals.

Another large and important case, still unresolved, which came to our notice in 2017, relates to Marston in Somerset. This case illustrates common issues which arise when historic landscapes are in divided ownership. A relatively new owner is sensitively restoring the house, walled garden and a large part of the park after a hundred years of neglect. The house, on high ground, looks down onto an overgrown, silted-up lake and collapsed boathouse, which forms the central eyecatcher of an untouched Gilpin landscape, nestled amongst totally unmanaged woodland. The ownership of this part of the estate remains with the previous owners. They are keen to build an intrusive holiday chalet village with reception hub and associated infrastructure around the lake and within the surrounding woodland. The documents and plans have been continually revised and altered by the applicant but remain hugely damaging to this still undeveloped rural landscape. The Conservation Officer is monitoring the substantial volume of reports to ensure that appropriate regard is given in the decision-making process to the significance of this landscape as an originally designed whole.

Finally, the London Parks & Gardens Trust (LPGT), fully supported by the GT, have taken the lead in opposing the siting of the National Holocaust Memorial in Victoria Tower Gardens (VTG). We fully support the creation of a National Holocaust Memorial but in our opinion VTG is not the right place for this enormous structure which will occupy almost 30% of the available green space. The reasons for our opposition are numerous and based on significance, setting, compliance with the local plan and NPPF. Westminster Council has also opposed the plan. The Government has unequivocally committed themselves to siting the National Holocaust Memorial in VTG in their Election Manifesto, and also the Secretary of State

has reaffirmed the Government's commitment both before and after the election. At present the enquiry is in limbo due to Covid-19. The LPGT is a rule 6 party for the planning enquiry and has sent a letter querying the lawfulness of the enquiry as the Appellant (UKHMC) is wholly owned and financed by the Government through the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG). The Inspector appointed to report to the Minister (the Department's Special Representative Lord Pickles) is employed by the Planning Inspectorate (a non-departmental public body accountable to MHCLG) on behalf of the Government, and therefore not wholly independent. This would not normally matter, but in this instance the Government is committed to allowing the development, so the outcome has been decided in advance. Whoever is appointed as decision-maker will therefore, as a Government politician, be severely conflicted, as will his appointees, if their livelihoods depend upon the Ministers goodwill. In the modern interpretation of our unwritten constitution it is accepted that a manifesto commitment is one that all members of the governing party are honour-bound to see enacted so far as circumstances allow. This is not how normal planning decisions are made. We have suggested that a way around this dilemma is for the Government to legislate that the Enquiry be conducted and decided by an impartial High Court Judge, appointed on a one-off basis. This is where the matter stands at present.

The Conservation Officer is fortunate in that she can call upon the wide and varied expertise of different members of the Conservation Committee. In addition, we work closely with other Amenity Societies and through our CGT network can get an informed local perspective in most instances. We also have been extremely fortunate in having the Head of Planning from London lawyers Travers Smith agree to help us with pro-bono legal advice. They have provided valuable assistance, particularly with sensitive wording when responding to applications, and in addition one of their copyright team guided us through the complicated jungle of copyright law, something that many CGTs are struggling with as they put together their research.

An update of the GT Planning Leaflet *The Planning System in England and the Protection of Historic Parks and Gardens: Guidance for Local Planning Authorities*, a document acclaimed as an industry leader by other amenity societies, was published in 2019 to track changes in the NPPF, renew the focus on the importance of Local Plans and highlight the importance of green infrastructure and the relevance

of knowledge encapsulated in the enduring historic landscape and to emphasise the debate surrounding climate change. The new version has also provided an opportunity to reengage with local planning authorities and the planning officers who are on the front line dealing with both planning applications which affect registered historic landscapes and the all-important local and development plans. This has been a refined approach acknowledging the excellent response rate in many authorities and providing targeted assistance where greater support is required.

Education is a key objective for the Historic Landscape Project team which has this year been reconfigured to include Dr Tamsin McMillan, who continues in her lead role as Historic Landscape Project Officer, now supported one day a week by Sally Bate as a second Historic Landscape Project Officer (HLPO). Sally has taken on the HLP outreach work previously undertaken by Margie enabling the expansion of her casework role, while continuing to assist the HLP one day a week in the provision of planning training and the vital interface with the CGT volunteers. The HLP Report highlights the work undertaken by this team. There has been a continued focus on training for volunteers who are then able to understand, appreciate and react effectively to planning consultations which have the potential to damage historic landscapes. A planning training programme at Bramham Park in Yorkshire was a huge success resulting in two new planning volunteers for the Yorkshire Gardens Trust. This is a model which will be repeated across the country and in addition annual planning training days will be held in London to give ongoing access to the excellent materials created for these programmes. These sessions are to be opened up to a wider audience of external organisations to raise our profile as a leading expert voice on heritage landscapes.

Dr Marion Harney, Chair

### Education and Events Committee

2019 was the second full working year of the new Events and Education Committee, chaired jointly by Virginia Hinze and David Marsh, and we're pleased to report that it continues to improve and widen offers to both GT and CGT members and to raise funds for vital GT conservation and campaigning work; this year we raised an unprecedented c£20k!

On the education front The Gardens Trust continued its long-standing association with Oxford University's Department for Continuing Education at Rewley House with Oliver Cox as our representative in planning their annual conference.

He took over from Michael Symes and the 2019 conference theme was both chosen by Michael and held in his honour. As was the case last year the conference was sold out.

The 2019 Mavis Batey Essay Prize was awarded to Susan Oldham, who recently obtained an MA from Leicester University. Her work is a speculative reconstruction of the early 18th-century garden at Appuldurcombe on the Isle of Wight, based on detailed archival research.

Our **Grapevine** initiative has continued very successfully. One-day introductory courses were run at Westonbirt, Writtle University College in partnership with Essex CGT, in Exeter in partnership with Devon CGT, Cambridge Botanic Garden and City Lit in London. Essex followed this up with a 6-week course delivered by Alison Moller, while Devon plan to follow suit. More specialised courses on 'Plants in Garden History' and the 'History of Botany' ran successfully (and profitably) at the Institute of Historical Research in London. Advolly Richmond and Jill Francis have continued to lead a series of well-attended courses at Winterbourne Gardens at the University of Birmingham, and planning is well underway for a year-long programme there. Discussions also took place with several other venues and organisations for future courses.

**Garden History** continued its high academic standards under the editorship of Barbara Simms, and remains *the* journal in which to be published for those dedicated to garden history scholarship. In addition to the two standard issues there was one special on-line issue on *Humphry Repton and Horticulture* which included the papers presented at a two-day conference held at the Sheffield Botanical Gardens on 20 and 21 September 2018. The Gardens Trust is grateful to the speakers who have contributed papers for this and to Historic England, whose support has made publication possible. It is available via our website.

2019 saw **GT News** grow in size to 48 pages and begin accepting a small amount of relevant advertising. This helps cover the ever-rising production and postage costs. The winter edition also saw a redesign which we hope everyone likes. Charles Boot our long-serving Editor manages to include a wide range of subjects but is always looking for items of interest.

Our monthly topical **e-news**, which keeps members up to date with GT activity, has continued under the editorship of Hannah Richards and Susannah Charlton. If you're not already receiving it then sign up via the GT website.



Our weekly blog completed its 6th year. During 2019 it received 56,000 “hits” from 26,000 visitors, and by the end of the year there were over 300 mini-essays covering many aspects of garden history. It’s easy to sign up: just go to <https://thegardenstrust.blog> and scroll to the very end of the page and enter your email to have it delivered every Saturday morning in time for breakfast.

The year’s events programme began with Sally Jeffery’s well-attended, serendipitous winter lecture series. Topics ranged from David Jacques’ pre-Christmas ‘The Elizabethan Garden Re-Imagined’ and Sally’s own ‘Hawksmoor at Castle Howard’ (which featured her new research), to an overview of John Brooke’s legacy (he died in 2018) from Barbara Simms and a wide-ranging introduction to the history of orchards in East Anglia from Tom Williamson. Professor Simon Hiscock introduced us to the Oxford Botanic Garden in anticipation of our summer conference visit. Marion Harney gave the GT’s Bath lecture on Pleasure Gardens in Bath, with an accompanying tour, but sadly Joe Hawkins’ lecture on Hagley – and a subsequent day visit – had to be cancelled due to illness; we hope to run the Hagley events at a future date. Special mention should be made of our ‘Tribute and Celebration’ to Christopher Thacker (organised at the Garden Museum), founding editor of *Garden History*, who died in September 2018.

The three remaining day events, all run at near full capacity, offered contrasting experiences: in May the National Trust’s Richard Wheeler treated us to a thrilling exploration of West Wycombe’s Dashwood family home – its 18th-century Park and stunning landscape gardens, the Dashwood Mausoleum and Hell Fire Caves; later, in July and following up on her winter lecture, Dr Sally Jeffery organised a visit to Castle Howard, focusing on Wray Wood, where her recent research on Hawksmoor revealed that he made designs for elaborate rockwork, watercourses and pedestals for some of the many statues. Lastly, in October, Claire de Carle obtained rarely-available places to visit Britain’s most impressive private library, the Getty Library. Sir Paul spent 25 years assembling one of the finest private collections of books and manuscripts in the world, moving them to the Wormsley estate (in Bucks) and commissioning a new building to house them. Our thanks go to all three organisers.

Three highly enjoyable and sold-out tours abroad contributed exceptionally-generous donations: Robert Peel’s tour to Palermo and Western Sicily in April embraced designed landscapes, gardens,

archaeology and architecture ranging from the Norman occupation of Sicily up to the 20th century; highlights included Greek temples at Segesta and Selinunte, the salt flats and the Phoenician island of Mozia with its Charioteer, a masterpiece of Classical marble statuary, and lunch at the private garden of the Whitakers, the English family who led the Marsala wine trade and paid for the initial excavations of Phoenician Mozia.

In June, Kristina Taylor, Christopher Dingwall and Robert led a tour of Picturesque Landscapes around the Clyde and the West Coast of Scotland following in the footsteps of 17th century travelers who made special journeys to view the Falls of Clyde and Cora Linn, one of its spectacular waterfalls. Visits included Chatelherault, Mount Stuart on the island of Bute, the newly restored Hermitage Park in Helensburgh and Niall Manning’s garden in Fintry with its inland water garden settings at Loch Lomond.

November’s highlight was Robert Peel’s study tour of Australia comprising new landscapes and historic sites: first, in Perth, with landscape architect and horticultural researcher Caroline Grant, then in New South Wales in and around Sydney and the Blue Mountains with Craig Burton, architect and landscape architect, horticultural and heritage consultant, who showed a wide mixture of sites, some contemporary, some historic, as well as his own creations. The tour ended in Victoria with gardens at the start of the Great Ocean Road, in the Mornington Peninsula, and in and around Melbourne, led by Trisha Dixon, author and photographer of Australian gardens and member of the National Management Committee of the Australian Garden History Society.

Our grateful thanks go to Robert and Kristina for contributing an outstanding £7,300+ to GT funds.

The GT’s annual conference weekend, in September, sold out by June, was based at The Queen’s College Oxford and allowed us to re-visit some of Mavis Batey’s work and the gardens she knew and loved so well: Christchurch and St John’s Colleges, Nuneham Courtenay and Shotover – and Oxford’s Botanic Garden. Our speakers included Toby Parker on new research in Oxford College gardens and Robin Lane Fox, Emeritus Fellow of New College on New College’s famous mount. The 2019 conference also marked the beginning of a potential relationship with a sponsor, SDS projects, introduced to us by Toby Parker. The company, led by CEO Mark Coleman, contributed £2500, enabling us to hold a small exhibition of SDS’s work in digitising archival documents, a drinks reception and assistance with

producing the brochure. Huge thanks to Mark, and the GT looks forward to further fruitful areas of mutually-beneficial co-operation with SDS.

Virginia Hinze and Dr David Marsh, Co-Chairs

### Historic Landscape Project (HLP)

Once again, the Historic Landscape Project has been supported by funding from Historic England, along with a growing income from events and externally-funded training. This has allowed us to continue supporting County Gardens Trust volunteers around the country, this year reaching 33 of the 36 CGTs via our training and networking events, or through one-to-one support.

In May we appointed a new, part-time HLP Officer, Sally Bate, to join the other HLPOs: Tamsin McMillan and Margie Hoffnung; and Strategic Development Officer, Linden Groves. Sally's understanding of CGTs, as Vice Chair and Research Group Coordinator for Norfolk Gardens Trust and, not least, joint winner of the 2018 Gilly Drummond Volunteer of the Year Award, has meant that she's been able to fit easily into the team and is already making a difference, including delivering a training package to new parks and gardens researchers in Bedfordshire.

We've been continuing to move our events around the country, to reach as many CGTs as possible. Networking events comprise regional Members' Meet Ups – discussion days at which CGTs can share news and ideas and work through issues; and an annual, national networking day, the Historic Landscapes Assembly, which brings together CGT and GT members and representatives from external landscape heritage organisations. In addition, the HLP helped to run the second annual Meet Up for CGT Chairs, held in March at the Garden Museum, Lambeth, (with a noisy backdrop of Brexit celebrations/protests!) and attended by 17 CGTs.

Our 2019 regional Meet Ups were held in Newcastle, Lincolnshire, Essex, Cheshire and Bristol, attended by 97 members, from 23 CGTs. Our Historic Landscapes Assembly continues to go from strength to strength – in November we welcomed 76 attendees, including from 19 external organisations as well as 20 CGTs, to the Linnean Society, London. We really recommend encouraging CGT volunteers to attend this information-filled discussion day, to hear the latest from CGTs and national bodies working in landscape heritage.

Having previously delivered our planning training package in Gloucestershire, this year we worked with Yorkshire Gardens Trust to deliver two days

of planning training there. At Bramham Park, we gave an introduction to conservation and planning. 60 individuals came, representing five CGTs, five other landscape heritage organisations and a rather surprising, but very welcome, seven local planning authorities. The day was a great opportunity to raise the profile of the CGTs and GT, and to encourage new planning volunteers. Part 2 was held, rather appropriately, at the Ripon Workhouse, where we knuckled down to learn how to write effective planning responses. Our next 2-part planning training will be in the south-east. In addition, to help address the very high demand for planning training, we are currently developing a new, one-day training event in London which will be open to all – volunteers and professionals alike - and will be repeated annually.

The HLP is partly supported largely by funding from Historic England but it is important that we continue to seek additional funding from other sources. We are pleased to have successfully achieved commissions/external funding to deliver HLP training for other volunteer projects, conferences, academic courses, and professional groups, resulting in an income but also around 250 additional people being trained. In particular, we were delighted to be approached by two externally-funded projects this year, who asked us to provide training for new volunteers over the autumn:

- The Greensand Country Landscape Partnership's 'Investigating Historic Landscapes' project (Bedfordshire) commissioned the HLP to train 56 new volunteers, from a range of backgrounds, to undertake Heritage at Risk surveys of parkland, including researching their history and development; and reading a landscape on the ground. Funded by Historic England, this training resulted in around seven volunteers for the ongoing project.
- The HLP element of the NHLF-funded Land of the Fanns Landscape Partnership Scheme's 'Know It, Love It' project (on the Essex/London borders), was planned by the HLP and run by an HLP-appointed external consultant. Around 28 volunteers were trained to read a landscape on the ground, use archives and conduct basic surveys. Fifteen of these are now taking part in an ongoing project to survey 55 historic features over the next year or so, and to produce statements of significance. We are delighted that volunteers from Essex GT have been so actively involved and are now in discussion with the LoF team to develop further projects and training.

Although setting up both projects required a huge input from the HLP, these are perfect working examples of how additional funding can help us to capacity build CGTs alongside other local volunteers. We are pleased to see that both projects have resulted in further funded proposals by the local CGTs, and that it looks likely that both will result in some volunteers continuing their interest with the CGTs once their volunteer projects are complete.

The HLP has continued to support and promote Gardens Trust campaigns which aim to bring historic designed landscapes to new audiences. We have carried on working with the GT's successful, NLHF-funded **Sharing Repton: Landscapes for All** project, to explore and develop ways for CGTs to learn skills to engage wider audiences to support their work. We have given particular support to the delivery of a social media workshop and a repeat of the introduction to a conservation workshop pilot, delivered to residents of Barn Hill, London. It is hugely important that we all get better at reaching new volunteers for conservation and research work, and the HLP is keen to find ways to facilitate this.

We're excited to be working with the Strategic Development Officer to develop the GT's next theme for 2020-22 of **Unforgettable Gardens: Save our Heritage**. This collaborative project will help to amplify the HLP's conservation and volunteering messages and take them to new audiences.

We encourage all members of CGTs to come to our events, in the hope that they may be inspired to take a more active volunteering role to support their committee, local landscape heritage and community.

The HLP has worked hard over 2019 to help the Gardens Trust and County Gardens Trusts develop mutually beneficial partnerships and make their voices heard in national debate. We've been developing partnerships with the Woodland Trust, Ancient Tree Forum, Parks and Gardens UK; and discussing training partnerships with Learning with Experts and the Landscape Institute. We've helped to facilitate productive resolutions to a national debate on the archiving of Conservation Management Plans and planned initiatives for 2020-21 to help build links between CGTs and the HE online database, OASIS.

It's been a busy and varied year and, with the growth of our HLP team, we look forward to further extending our reach in 2020.

Tamsin McMillan,  
Historic Landscape Project Officer

## Strategic Development

In line with our strategic drive to increase our individual membership, we are working proactively to raise our profile and build membership from a broad base. In September 2019 we began this work by launching a new membership rate with a suite of publicity materials aimed at those who are currently members of County Gardens Trusts, to encourage them to join the GT additionally at a lower rate. This and other efforts have been successful in reversing the trend of decline in membership. We look forward to further developing our membership in future years. In 2019 we also published a refreshed membership leaflet with a new, more inclusive and welcoming cover image, and messaging.

Our Lottery-funded **Sharing Repton** project has been a crucial part of this important journey towards being a more inclusive organisation. In 2019 we completed the set of five pilot activities devised to find ways to engage with new and more diverse people – a garden history social event, a facilitated excursion, a public open day, a research and recording project, and an introductory conservation workshop. We were delighted to have worked with a huge range of people, from refugee groups, multicultural community centres, care homes, local councils, and people living close to historic parks, as well, of course, as some fantastic County Gardens Trust volunteers. All the materials from this project are now available online via <http://thegardenstrust.org/campaigns/sharing-repton/>, and we look forward to supporting County Gardens Trusts as well as ourselves to get better at involving a broader range of supporters.

In 2019 we also began to set in place our strategic theme for 2020-22, which will be called **Unforgettable Gardens** and designed to highlight messages of how much we value historic parks and gardens, the threats facing them, how they can be protected, and how people could and should get involved as volunteers. It is intended as a collaborative theme so we hope that sites, organisations and County Gardens Trusts across the country will get involved, and we have purposely chosen a broad title so that it will be relatively achievable for collaborators to adjust pre-existing plans or interests to fit with this theme. Details at <http://thegardenstrust.org/campaigns/unforgettable-gardens-saving-our-garden-heritage/>

Linden Groves,  
Strategic Development Officer



# FINANCIAL REVIEW

For the year ended 31st December 2019

In 2019, the Gardens Trust again achieved a small surplus before investment gains/(losses), which amounted to £1,645. This was the third year in a row that the Gardens Trust showed a small surplus for the year, demonstrating that we are 'living within our means'. We measure this before investment gains/(losses) that are affected by market movements reflected at year-end and beyond the control of the Trust.

With respect to income, Subscriptions and donations were almost exactly flat, £65,306 in 2019 compared with £65,266 in 2018. Our main statutory and capacity building grants from Historic England declined by £12,746 to £94,639 in 2019 from £107,385 in 2018 principally due to a lower level of Localism grant that supports our Historic Landscape Project capacity building. We had special project grants from Historic England of £6,680 in 2019, which included £4,180 for an on-line Repton journal, matched by a corresponding amount of expense of £4,261. Also in 2019 we received the second part of a Heritage Lottery Fund grant of £47,866 to support our **Sharing Repton** project, with again a corresponding amount of expense. Publications income, consisting of sales of back issues, income from JSTOR and royalties, declined by £922 to £4,670 from £5,592 in 2018. Investment income declined slightly by £813 to £13,656 from £14,469 in 2018.

Events income and expense rise and fall together, depending on the nature and quantity of events during the year, with the exception that our education project, **Grapevine**, is shown net in Events income. **Grapevine**, which is a relatively new project, achieved net income of £4,100 in 2019 compared with £500 in 2018. Excluding **Grapevine**, net Events income (revenues minus expense) increased to £16,558 in 2019 from £9,672 in 2018. Within the £16,558 of 2019 net Events income, £5,368 was derived from our annual Conference, including £2,500 in sponsorship from SDS Enterprise Services, a digitisation service. The remaining £11,190 was derived from all other events, including lectures and trips.

Within Expenditure, Wages and salaries increased by £2,070 to £119,311 from £117,241 in 2018 due to taking on an additional part-time member of the HLP staff in March 2019. National Insurance increased by £2,399 to £9,091 in 2019 from £6,692 in 2018 due to increased staff hours and a higher percentage of pension contributions.

Printing and distribution increased by £2,482 to £22,475 in 2019 from £19,993 due to increased packaging cost for 'green' packaging and increased printing

and mailing costs due to an increase in **GT News** pages. Office management costs increased by £2,986 to £20,100 in 2019 from £17,114 in 2018, principally due to increased IT expenses and increased hours for our Communications Adviser. Office support costs, on the other hand, decreased by £3,444 in 2019 to £10,444 from £13,888 in 2018, principally due to legal expenditures incurred in 2018 relating to GDPR and lower postage and stationery and Trustees' travel costs in 2019.

In 2019, total Income of £288,034 exceeded total expenditure of £286,389, giving rise to net income before gains and losses on investments of £1,645.

On the Balance Sheet, Investments increased by £39,244 to £427,432 at year-end 2019 compared with £388,188 at year-end 2018, due to a sharp decline in market values at the end of the 2018 year combined with a substantial increase in market values in 2019 as well as re-invested income. It is the intention of the Gardens Trust to continue to build up investments to generate a return to be used to help fund the Gardens Trust's activities and to protect against reduced grant funding. Cash at bank decreased by £35,958 to £57,047 at year-end 2019 from £93,005 at year-end 2018. Cash at the end of 2018 was unusually high due to an early payment by Historic England of grant amounts. Creditors falling due in one year showed a decrease of £12,247 to £78,345 at year-end 2019 from £90,592 at year-end 2018, again reflecting early payments for 2019 made in 2018 by Historic England.

Total Funds increased to £497,706 at year-end 2019 from £461,657 at year-end 2018, reflecting Net Income after gains on investments in 2019 of £36,049.

## Risk Management

Following Charity Commission guidance, the Board has adopted a Risk Management Statement and agreed a Risk Register. This is monitored and reviewed annually and actions agreed to manage significant risks. The Board confirms that it has agreed actions to address or mitigate the identified significant risks.

## Statement of the Board of Directors' Responsibilities

The trustees (who are also the directors of The Gardens Trust for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting

Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees 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 trustees are required to

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charity SORP;
- make judgements 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 trustees are 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 23 June 2020 and signed on its behalf by:

Dr James Bartos, Chairman

## Independent Examiner's Report

### To the Trustees of The Gardens Trust

#### Independent examiner's report to the trustees of The Gardens Trust ('the Company')

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 December 2019.

#### Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

#### Independent examiner's statement

Since your charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a listed body. I can confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a registered member of Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities (applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)).

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report 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  
CR0 1DN

Date: 23 June 2020



# Statement of Financial Activities

for the year ended 31st December 2019

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2019 Total Funds £	2018 Total Funds £
<b>Income and endowments from</b>				
Subscriptions and donations	65,306	-	65,306	65,266
<b>Charitable activities</b>				
Grants receivable				
Historic England	-	94,639	94,639	107,385
Historic England Projects	-	6,680	6,680	16,960
Heritage Lottery Fund - Repton	-	47,866	47,866	37,693
Publications	4,670	-	4,670	5,592
<b>Other trading activities</b>				
Advertising	1,724	-	1,724	225
Events	53,493	-	53,493	21,590
Investment income	13,656	-	13,656	14,469
<b>Total</b>	<u>138,849</u>	<u>149,185</u>	<u>288,034</u>	<u>269,180</u>
<b>Expenditure On</b>				
Raising funds	3,810	-	3,810	3,495
<b>Charitable activities</b>				
Events	32,835	-	32,835	11,418
Wages and salaries	35,020	84,291	119,311	117,241
National insurance	2,668	6,423	9,091	6,692
Printing and distribution	22,475	-	22,475	19,993
Membership	8,904	-	8,904	8,899
Office management costs	20,100	-	20,100	17,114
Other support costs	7,881	2,563	10,444	13,888
Historic England	-	7,955	7,955	14,656
Historic England Projects	-	4,261	4,261	16,960
Heritage Lottery Fund - Repton	-	47,203	47,203	37,693
<b>Total</b>	<u>133,693</u>	<u>152,696</u>	<u>286,389</u>	<u>268,049</u>
<b>Net income / (expenditure) before gains and losses</b>	5,156	(3,511)	1,645	1,131
Net gains/(losses) on investments	<u>34,404</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>34,404</u>	<u>(20,629)</u>
<b>Net Income/(expenditure)</b>	39,560	(3,511)	36,049	(19,498)
<b>Reconciliation of Funds</b>				
Total funds brought forward	<u>456,575</u>	<u>5,082</u>	<u>461,657</u>	<u>481,155</u>
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	<u>496,135</u>	<u>1,571</u>	<u>497,706</u>	<u>461,657</u>

## CONTINUING OPERATIONS

All income and expenditure has arisen from continuing activities.





# Balance Sheet

at 31st December 2019

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2019 Total Funds £	2018 Total Funds £
<b>Fixed Assets</b>				
Tangible assets	63,715	-	63,715	63,775
Investments	<u>427,432</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>427,432</u>	<u>388,188</u>
	491,147	-	491,147	451,963
<b>Current Assets</b>				
Debtors	28,137	-	28,137	7,771
Cash at bank and in hand	<u>55,476</u>	<u>1,571</u>	<u>57,047</u>	<u>93,005</u>
	83,613	1,571	85,184	100,776
<b>Creditors</b>				
Amounts falling due within one year	<u>(78,345)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(78,345)</u>	<u>(90,592)</u>
<b>Net Current Assets</b>	<u>5,268</u>	<u>1,571</u>	<u>6,839</u>	<u>10,184</u>
<b>Total Assets less Current Liabilities</b>	496,415	1,571	497,986	462,147
<b>Creditors</b>				
Amounts falling due after more than one year	<u>(280)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(280)</u>	<u>(490)</u>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<u>496,135</u>	<u>1,571</u>	<u>497,706</u>	<u>461,657</u>
<b>Funds</b>				
Unrestricted			496,135	456,575
Restricted Funds			<u>1,571</u>	<u>5,082</u>
<b>Total Funds</b>			<u>497,706</u>	<u>461,657</u>

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 December 2019.

The members have not required the charitable company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2019 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The Directors acknowledge their responsibilities for:

- ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to charitable companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors on 23 June 2020 and were signed on its behalf by:

Dr James Bartos, Chairman



# Detailed Statement of Financial Activities

for the year ended 31st December 2019

	2019	2018
	£	£
<b>INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS</b>		
<b>Subscriptions and donations</b>		
Donations	2,120	2,598
Subscriptions	61,433	61,228
CGT Insurance Surplus	<u>1,753</u>	<u>1,440</u>
	<u>65,306</u>	<u>65,266</u>
<b>Other Trading Activities</b>		
Advertising	1,724	225
Contributions from member's events etc.	<u>53,493</u>	<u>21,590</u>
	<u>55,217</u>	<u>21,815</u>
<b>Investment income</b>		
Dividends from investments	13,475	14,038
Interest receivable on liquid investments	<u>181</u>	<u>431</u>
	<u>13,656</u>	<u>14,469</u>
<b>Charitable activities</b>		
Publications	4,670	5,592
Grants receivable	<u>149,185</u>	<u>162,038</u>
	<u>153,855</u>	<u>167,630</u>
<b>Total incoming resources</b>	<u>288,034</u>	<u>269,180</u>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
<b>Investment management costs</b>		
Investment management fees	3,810	3,495
<b>Charitable activities</b>		
Wages and salaries	119,311	117,241
National insurance	9,091	6,692
Events	32,835	11,418
Printing and distribution	22,475	19,993
Membership	8,904	8,899
Historic England Projects	12,216	31,616
Historic Lottery Fund - Repton	<u>47,203</u>	<u>37,693</u>
	<u>252,035</u>	<u>233,552</u>
<b>Support Costs</b>		
Management	<u>20,100</u>	<u>17,114</u>
	<u>20,100</u>	<u>17,114</u>

*(continues opposite)*

## Detailed Statement of Financial Activities (cont'd)

for the year ended 31st December 2019

	2019	2018
	£	£
<b>Other</b>		
Conservation, travel and subsistence	2,830	2,039
Office and Trustees' travel and subsistence	1,007	2,186
Postage and stationery	2,585	3,644
Legal fees	-	1,763
Bookkeeping	362	636
Independent Examiner	3,600	3,600
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	60	20
	<u>10,444</u>	<u>13,888</u>
<b>Total resources expended</b>	<u>286,389</u>	<u>268,049</u>
<b>Net income before gains and losses</b>	<u>1,645</u>	<u>1,131</u>
<b>Realised and unrealised gains and losses</b>		
Net realised gains/(losses) on fixed asset investments	(311)	1,155
Unrealised gains/losses on revaluations of fixed assets investments	<u>34,715</u>	<u>(21,784)</u>
<b>Net (expenditure) / income</b>	<u><u>39,049</u></u>	<u><u>(19,498)</u></u>



# The Gardens Trust Annual Conference New Research Symposium and AGM 2021

**in and around Richmond and Wensleydale, North Yorkshire**  
Mid-day, Friday 3 September  
to Sunday 5 September 2021

This year's Conference in North Yorkshire has been postponed due to the current uncertainty. Arrangements for the AGM 2020 are contained in this booklet and those for the on-line only New Research Symposium 2020 are in the Summer edition of the newsletter, also in this mailing.

Given the huge amount of organisation undertaken to set up this year's event it is with some relief, and many thanks to all involved, that we are able, at least provisionally, to make a similar offering for next year, when we hope you will be able to join us, "same time, same place".

So as a reminder to add the date to your diary, here is an outline of the programme, again. We are now aiming to meet up in the Yorkshire Dales at the beginning of September next year (2021), in partnership with Val Hepworth and the Yorkshire County Gardens Trust, centring on Wensleydale and the picturesque Georgian town of Richmond. All our visits are to privately-owned and run historic listed or registered estates. We will have access to many areas not normally open to the public.

## **Outline programme** **Friday 3 September**

Arrive at hotel mid-day, lunch available. Afternoon excursions, by coach, to Richmond. Two alternative visits are offered:

- A. Tour of **Temple Grounds** and its *Picturesque* landscape.
- B. Tour of Richmond's **Georgian Theatre**, followed by **Millgate**



A view of the recreated gardens from the ramparts of Bolton Castle.

## **House plantsman's garden tour.**

Return to hotels for bar and dinner and lecture on the inspiration behind the designed landscapes of North Yorkshire.

## **Saturday 4 September**

Morning visit to **Aske Hall**, with elements by Kent and Brown, lunch at the hotel followed by the **New Research Symposium 2021** and **AGM**. Conference Dinner at **The Station**, housed in Richmond's Victorian Railway Station.

## **Sunday 5 September**

Morning visit to **Constable Burton**, lunchtime visit to **Bolton Castle** and final afternoon visit to **Bolton Hall**. Return to Hotel.

The full Conference programme plus a request for any dietary requirements and CGT affiliations will be sent to delegates nearer

the time. We will be based at the Holiday Inn just off the A1(M)/A66 at Scotch Corner (DL10 6NR) which has been attractively refurbished and updated (with efficient double glazing) and offers ample conference facilities and on-site parking. Darlington station is 20 minutes away by frequent local express bus or taxi to the hotel.

Final confirmation of the event and full details and prices will appear in next year's spring issue of **GT News** and, of course, on the website. We hope to be able to hold prices as advertised for 2020, see **GT News** issue 12. Booking will probably close in early August 2021.

Contact Virginia Hinze:  
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or: 01273 844 819  
with any queries.