



**Devon Gardens Trust
Annual General Meeting 2022
Saturday 24th September 2022
Castle Hill, Filleigh, Barnstaple, EX32 0RQ**

Dear Member,

31st August 2022

We have pleasure in inviting you and your guests to the Devon Gardens Trust AGM 2022 at 11.00 am on Saturday 24th September 2022 at Castle Hill, Filleigh. The AGM will be followed by a talk on the 'Challenges and Opportunities in the Maintenance of Historic Gardens' delivered by Andy Jasper, National Head of Gardens and Parklands for the National Trust.

Programme

From 10.30 am Arrival and registration, coffee/tea
11.00 am Welcome
11.05 am Annual General Meeting

Agenda

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the AGM 2021, held on 1st September 2021 at Poltimore House (Page 3)
3. Matters arising from the Minutes of the last AGM, not covered elsewhere on the agenda
4. Annual Report (Page 5)
5. Election of the Council of Management for 2022-23 (Page 15)
6. Any other business
(Items for inclusion to be sent to the Chair to arrive by Wednesday 14th September 2022).

After the official business, there will be a brief period for questions and informal discussion.

12.00 noon **Talk by Andy Jasper, National Head of Gardens and Parklands for the National Trust, 'Challenges and Opportunities in the Maintenance of Historic Gardens'**

12.45 pm Lunch (booking for lunch is essential - see Booking Form*)

2.00 pm Explore the gardens

If you wish to attend, the best way to book is online via the link in the latest DGT ENews. Note that there is no direct link from the DGT website because this is not a public event. A reminder link will be sent in an ENews shortly. Alternatively, please return the enclosed Booking Form with your remittance to arrive no later than Friday 16th September 2022.

No dogs please.

Enquiries EMAIL events@devongardenstrust.org.uk

* DGT members may attend the AGM without charge, but attendance at the talk, subsequent refreshments and tour is only for those who have booked.

With kind regards,

Sue Minter
Chair



**Devon Gardens Trust
Minutes of the Thirty Fourth Annual General Meeting
held on Wednesday 1st September 2021
at Poltimore House**

34.1 Present : Holly Ball, Stephanie Berry, Tom and Hilary Bigge, Divina Brown, Elizabeth Bullivant, Brian Churchward, Vivien Cloke, Shane Cormie, Charles Courtenay, Earl of Devon (Patron), Philip Darch, Peter Davies, Sally Douglas, Paul Faulkner, Clare Foster, Michael Gee, Francis Gilbert, Holly Gilbert, Clare Greener, Penny Hammond, Bob Harvey, Catherine Heath, Rosemary Howell, Suzanne Jones, Spencer Keys, Marion Kneebone, Liz Lewis, Dianne Long, Jonathan Lovie, Hugh Meller, Sue Minter (Chair), Barbara Moul, James Perriam, John Reeves, Ruth Saltmarsh, Tanya Silverton, Jean Simpson Smith, Richard Soans, Julia Tremlett., Jan Uden, Saul Walker, Beryl Whidden, Rosemary Yallop, Letitia Yetman.

34.2 Proxy votes received: Carolyn and David Keep, Michael and Anne Inman, Rosemary Meikle, Alan Henshaw, Rachel McGavin, John Watt, Susan Fryer, Robert B. Vickery, Sandra Dean, Martin Burdick, John R. E. Borron, Jeryl Andrew.

34.3 Apologies: Susan Harwood, John Watt, Rosemary Meikle, Richard and Anne Inman, Avis Judd, Penny Bayer, David Lewis, Janet Anderson, The Right Revd Robert Atwell, Bishop of Exeter, Jeryl Andrew, Sandy Howard, Ginnie Parker, Lady Arran, Suzie Allen, April Marjoram, Jim Carter.

We record members who have died recently: Gerard Noel, Margery Rowe, Christopher Pole-Carew.

34.4 Minutes of the 33rd Annual General Meeting held by Zoom on Wednesday 21st October 2020

A copy of the Minutes had been sent to all members in advance of the meeting. The Minutes were proposed as an accurate record of the 2020 AGM by Liz Lewis, seconded by Clare Greener and approved by the meeting nem. con. The Chair of the Council of Management then signed a copy as an accurate record of the proceedings.

34.5 Matters arising from the Minutes. There were none.

34.6 Annual Report and Accounts

The Annual Report including details of the Trust's activities for the year to the end of March 2021 had been circulated with the AGM papers.

It was noted that the Trust's reserves had increased. This was due in part to the receipt of the final part of a legacy from John Wilson (deposited in the restricted Wilson Conservation Fund) and also due to gains on investments. The majority of the Trust's unrestricted reserves have been designated for conservation and education grants and activities, with revised grant criteria having been agreed and published on the website. The membership were encouraged to be our 'eyes and ears' for deserving cases who could be directed to the website. Income from normal activities and expenditure was less than in previous years because of the Covid pandemic.

It was noted that there was sometimes a delay between the award of a grant and its payment, especially if Lottery procedures were involved. For example, the grant for the Stover rock garden, made two to three years ago, had only just been paid on completion of the rockery clearance.

The acceptance of the Annual Report was Proposed by Ruth Saltmarsh and Seconded by Richard Soans. The acceptance of the Accounts was Proposed by John Reeves and Seconded by Beryl Whidden. Both were approved nem.con.

34.7 Appointment of Accountants

The appointment of Bush and Co as Accountants for the year 2021/22 was Proposed by Stephanie Berry and Seconded by Dianne Long and approved nem. con.

34.8 Election of the Council of Management for 2021/22

A copy of the Election of the Council of Management paper had been sent to all members in advance of the meeting, setting out the requirements of the Constitution. Members were encouraged to send in Proxy voting forms if they could not attend in person. Twelve forms had been received (10 individual and 2 joint members) totalling 14 plus one form which could not be identified. All voted 'for' for each resolution. During the year the Council had comprised ten trustees out of a maximum of 20. Debbie Hye and Sarah Connibear had resigned during the year. Marion Kneebone was retiring at the AGM. Shane Cormie is eligible for a further three-year term and had indicated his willingness to serve. He was Proposed by Penny Hammond, Seconded by Peter Davies and approved nem.con. There were two nominations for the Council of Management: Stephanie Berry as Treasurer and Saul Walker. Stephanie Berry was Proposed by Ruth Saltmarsh, Seconded by Dianne Long and approved nem. con. Saul Walker was Proposed by Beryl Whiddon and Seconded by Francis Gilbert and approved nem. con. Both were welcomed to the Council of Management. Council would be looking to recruit to the Council of Management and, if appropriate, would co-opt (as per the Constitution) individuals during the forthcoming year, who might then be proposed as trustees at the AGM in 2022.

34.9 Other business

The Chair had received a note from Lady Arran, retiring Patron, which was read to the meeting. She wished the Trust well and encouraged members to participate in the Queen's Green Canopy project for 2022, which is the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. This is a tree-planting scheme as part of the national attempt to combat climate change

The Trust's new Patron, the Earl of Devon, said how pleased he was to be able to support the DGT with its wide level of expertise and how important it was, in a period of necessarily increased housebuilding adding to our existing towns and villages, to ensure that this happened in such a way as to preserve the historic landscape.

The Chair invited all who had volunteered for the Trust in the last 12 months, particularly the research and recording volunteers, the Council of Management, Committee chairs and any interested in becoming more involved to a Garden Party later in September.

On opening the meeting for questions and discussion the following matters were raised:

*Would garden visits in person resume in 2022?

It was confirmed that in person visits would be planned for 2022, but a mix of in person and online lectures would be held during the winter months. Several events were already planned for this autumn: a visit to The Agroforestry Trust, a lecture by April Marjoram and one by the Chair on the Palm House at Kew (linking to that at Bicton). There was also a possible visit to the Percy Cane/ Tissane Garden at Sharpham which had received a grant from the Trust during the year.

*What was the progress on Oldway?

The Chair of Conservation confirmed that the Oldway Trust had been formed and had been confirmed as Torbay Council's lead partner for the restoration of Oldway Mansion and landscape; it was understood that an application to the NHLF was planned for autumn 2021. There was a very active gardens volunteer group. The Conservation Committee was shortly to hold a meeting at Oldway; the Trust was encouraging an urgent commissioning of a Conservation Management Plan (CMP) which would help to steer the volunteers work as well as more substantial restoration. A CMP would be eligible for a grant from the Trust's Wilson Conservation Fund.

The Annual General Meeting closed at 14.55pm.

Signed by Chair.....

Date:



**Devon Gardens Trust
Annual Report
2021-2022**

Championing Devon's garden heritage

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www.devongardenstrust.org.uk

Legal and Administrative Information Year Ended 31 March 2022

Chair	Susan Minter (appointed 23rd July 2019)
Vice Chair	Vacant
Treasurer	Stephanie Berry (appointed 28 April 2021)
Membership Secretary	Elizabeth Lewis (appointed 1 March 2020)

The Council of Management

(in addition to those named above)

Mrs Jeryl Andrew (appointed 21 October 2020)
Mr Shane Cormie (appointed 8 September 2018)
Mrs Barbara Moul (appointed 9 July 2016)
Mrs Virginia Parker (appointed 25 July 2017)
Mr Jeremy Pearson (appointed 25 July 2017)
Mr Ian Smith (appointed 9 July 2016)
Mr Saul Walker (appointed 1 September 2021)

Officers of the Trust

Patron	The Earl of Devon
President	Mr Michael Hickson VMH
Vice-Presidents	Mrs Janet Anderson Dr Eric Durrance Mr Peter Hunt Mr Steven Pugsley Mrs Joy Williams MBE Ex officio Lord Bishop of Exeter (Rt Revd Robert Attwell)
Company Secretary	Vacant
Directors	Jeryl Andrew, Dianne Long (to 28 April 2021), Sue Minter
Conservation Officer	Jonathan Lovie
Newsletter Editor	Dianne Long

Registered Company Number 2277427

Registered Charity Number 800540

Registered Office and Correspondence Address

Exeter Community Centre
17 St David's Hill
Exeter
EX4 3RG

Accountants

Bush & Co Limited
Chartered Accountants
2 Barnfield Crescent
Exeter
EX1 1QT

Bankers

National Westminster Bank Plc
18 St Thomas Centre
Cowick Street
Exeter
EX4 1DE

Investment Brokers and Custodians

Brewin Dolphin Ltd
Vantage Point
Woodwater Park, Pynes Hill
Exeter
EX2 5FD

Devon Gardens Trust

Report of the Directors and the Council of Management for the Year Ended 31 March 2022

The Directors of the Council of Management present their report, together with the financial statements of the Trust for the year ended 31 March 2022. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's governing documents, the small company regime Section 419(2) of the Companies Act 2006 and the recommendation of the Statement of Recommended Practice 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' SORP (FRS102).

Objectives

The Trust is a company limited by guarantee and governed by a Memorandum and Articles of Association. The Trust is also a registered Charity.

The principal activities of the Trust are to:

- Promote the education of the public on matters concerned with the arts and sciences of garden land;
- Preserve, enhance and re-create for the education and enjoyment of the public, whatever garden land may exist, or have existed, in and around the county of Devon.

In fulfilling this purpose, the Trustees have complied with the duty in Section 1(5) of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the guidance published by the Charities Commission on public benefit.

The Directors and Council of Management

The members of the Council of Management and the Directors are shown on page 6. They are Trustees for the purposes of the Charities Act and are proposed from the body of the Membership and elected formally at the AGM. Barbara Moul and Ian Smith are not eligible for re-election having served two three-year terms as Trustees. Virginia Parker is resigning at this meeting having served for five years. We thank all three for the contributions that they have made to the work of the Trust.

Main Activities and Achievements during the year

This year we are trying out a new style for this Report with a summary of the main activities of the Trust during the year included here along with the legal and administrative reporting requirements and the accounts. Full details of the Trust's activities are included as an Appendix written by the named Chairs of Committees in their own words, reflecting the fact that we are an organisation of volunteers who each 'own' an area of activity and deliver upon it.

In many ways one of the most important areas of activity is the response to planning applications which affect the designed landscapes of Devon. This is a statutory responsibility delegated by the Gardens Trust to each county gardens trust. We are fortunate to be able to employ a Conservation Officer for this purpose and the details of the consultations involved are covered in the report by Dianne Long, Chair of the Conservation Committee (p.11).

In 2021-22 we were able to resume garden visits in person (rather than talks by Zoom) following the easing of the restrictions imposed by the Covid pandemic. This was welcomed by all as the social aspects of the organisation are important to many members. Details are given by Shane Cormie who chairs Events. (p.12) The booking system via Eventbrite continues to be a real boon. Shane has launched an Instagram account for the Trust which has proved popular. This has augmented our publicity, as has the new membership leaflet which gives full details our work. We are keen to increase awareness of our grant-giving programme and the criteria are now clearly stated on our website.

I was pleased when a past Chair, Clare Greener, took over as interim Chair of the Research and Recording Committee in September 2021 and went straight into organising a programme of training talks via Zoom as well as some outside visits. Details are given on page 13. We look forward to a joint DGT/Devon History Society Symposium on Vegetable, Fruit and Flower cultivation in the 1920s on September 10th.

There is less to report from Ian Smith, Chair of Education, Life-long Learning and Continuing Professional Development (p.13) as COVID stopped work with schools and changes to funding eligibility of horticultural courses negated the need for bursaries. However, the future looks bright with a grant for traineeships through the Work and Retrain as a Gardener Scheme (WRAGS) potentially replacing bursaries at colleges, and we hope soon finally to have the first meeting of the Professional Gardeners' Network, its launch much delayed by COVID.

Membership is ably managed by Liz Lewis and increasing the number of members is a priority for 2022/23. Membership numbers as of April 2022 were 287 (289 in 2021) of whom 121 were Life members (87 individual Life and 34 Joint Life) and 4 were Bursary students. There was a total of 30 new members. There were five resignations due to members no longer being able to participate in Trust activities or moving home, including Mary Nesbit who has been a DGT supporter since 1991. It is with sadness that we report the death of Christopher Bond.

I would like to thank Trustees and all other volunteers who have supported our work this year.

Sue Minter
Chair

Financial Report

As of 31 March 2022, the Trust's reserves amounted to £357,964 (2021: £357,857) of which £132,240 are Restricted Funds (Wilson Conservation Fund). The Restricted Funds originate from the John Wilson legacy designated to be used for the restoration and conservation of important Devon gardens with priority to be given to the restoration of Oldway Mansion, Paignton's original landscape designed by Achille Duchêne. The balance of Unrestricted Funds is to be used for the normal activities of the Trust.

The abbreviated financial statement, produced for circulation to members, is included on the following page. The activities for the year generated a net surplus of £107 (2021: surplus of £81,970) which included investment gains of £16,895 (2021: gain of £79,492). In this financial year the Trust awarded grants totaling £11,400 to Sharpham Trust, Stover Park and Dartington Hall Trust. This represents an increase of £10,400 in grants committed compared to 2021. Net expenditure was otherwise in line with 2021, adjusting for the £8,450 balance of the Wilson legacy received in 2021. There was no expenditure against the Wilson Conservation Fund this year.

The Trust's expenditure on charitable activities has exceeded its income in many years and this is likely to continue. To ensure that DGT has the financial stability to fulfil its objectives and to respond to any unforeseen challenges the Trust maintains a level of reserves of twice the average expenditure in the General Fund of the Unrestricted Funds (£62,000). The balance of the Unrestricted Funds (£163,724) is held in the Designated Fund to be used for expenditure in line with the Trust's objectives including inter alia the award of conservation and education grants and for the publication of research. During the year the Trustees have been considering a number of ways in which these funds might be appropriately utilised and will continue to review the Trust's reserves policy.

The Trustees regularly review the investment performance and the mandate under which the investment manager, Brewin Dolphin, operates. Since the year end, in line with general market performance, there has been a fall in the net value of Total Funds of 8.5% and the current outlook for financial markets is challenging. However, the Trust is well financed, and the Trustees will continue to take a balanced approach to managing expenditure in these uncertain markets whilst fulfilling the Trust's objectives.

Statement Of Trustees' Responsibilities

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.

DEVON GARDENS TRUST
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

	£	2022 £	£	2021 £
Income				
Subscriptions	3,350		3,915	
Gift Aid	1,005		1,147	
Donations	19		150	
Legacies	-		8,449	
Events including AGM	446		148	
Bank and Building Society Interest	-		5	
Investment income	7,035		5,891	
Book sales	211		179	
		<hr/>	<hr/>	
		12,066		19,884
Expenditure				
Administration	228		124	
Office Rent & Service Charge	1,633		1,204	
Publicity & Marketing	1,510		801	
Bursaries and Grants	662		2,123	
Conservation - Grants awarded	11,400		1,000	
- Committee expenses including officer	3,684		3,130	
Research & Recording	152		-	
Tree Recording	-		-	
Events & Visits including AGM	1,065		768	
Publications (Journal)	-		-	
Publications (Newsletter)	660		1,110	
Subscriptions & Sundries	141		199	
Insurance	641		714	
Accountancy	1,814		2,052	
Investment Management Fee	3,403		2,749	
Book Expenses	157		(272)	
Depreciation	1,704		1,704	
		<hr/>	<hr/>	
Total Expenditure		28,854		17,406
		<hr/>		<hr/>
Gains/(Losses) on investments		16,895		79,492
		<hr/>		<hr/>
Net Movement in Funds		107		81,970
		<hr/>		<hr/>
Funds Brought Forward at 1 April 2021		357,857		275,887
		<hr/>		<hr/>
Funds Carried Forward at 31 March 2022		357,964		375,857
		<hr/>		<hr/>
National Westminster Business Account		9,357		18,846
Cash in Hand		21,704		8,535
Investments at Market Value		335,448		328,107
Fixed Assets		1,706		3,410
Stock		1,963		2,348
Debtors		578		135
Accruals		(12,792)		(3,524)
		<hr/>		<hr/>
		357,964		357,857
		<hr/>		<hr/>

Notes

- The Trust is a Company limited by Guarantee, with charitable status.
- This abbreviated financial statement is produced for circulation to the Members. A copy of the full Accounts prepared in accordance with the requirements of the FRS 102, the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006 is held by the Treasurer.

Appendix

Reports from Committee Chairs

2021-2022

Conservation Committee Report

Chair: Dr Dianne Long

In the period 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022 there have been 55 consultations affecting designed landscapes in the county of which 42 required a substantial response by the Trust acting on behalf of the Gardens Trust, the statutory consultee on all planning applications affecting sites on the Historic England (HE) *Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in England (Register)*. 5 were in relation to felling license applications by the Forestry Commission including Arlington Court, Endsleigh, Killerton, Sharpham, Stover Park and Ugbrooke. In addition, there were 4 pre-applications relating to sites on the *Register* and on the *Devon Gazetteer of Parks and Gardens of Local Historic Interest (Gazetteer)*.

Examination and commenting on draft Local Plans has been undertaken for East Devon, Exeter, and Teignbridge. This is likely to be time consuming in the next year or two, and the Conservation team is pleased to have the help of volunteers who are offering local knowledge for Mid Devon, Teignbridge, Plymouth and Dartmoor, and East Devon.

The Trust has expressed its concern about the proposed housing allocations set out in the **Teignbridge Draft Local Plan**, that have the potential adversely to affect the setting of several Register and Gazetteer sites, including **Powderham (II*)**, **Stover (II)**, and **Bradley Manor**. In addition, the proposed housing allocations at Exminster would further erode the designed setting of the former **Exe Vale Hospital** and would leave the **Chapel and Burial Ground** isolated within housing. The proposals would also affect the designed landscape at **Peamore**. The Trust would expect the next stage of the plan to include detailed impact assessments.

In view of the proposals in the Teignbridge Draft Local Plan the Trust fast-tracked research on **Peamore (Gazetteer)**, which has confirmed the survival of a Picturesque designed landscape with strong evidence of input from G S Repton in the early nineteenth century, ownership and familial links with two Humphry Repton commissions of the late eighteenth century, as well as inspiration for painters Francis Towne, John White Abbott and William Payne. The Trust is submitting an application to Historic England for the site to be added to the Register. East Devon and Exeter Local Plans are likely to include further housing affecting the wider setting of both **Killerton (II*)** and **Poltimore (Gazetteer)** in addition to the developments already under construction. This underlines the huge development pressure in the Exeter area and is something that needs to be monitored.

A much fuller historic impact assessment accompanying a revised application for a small solar array at **Ugbrooke (Grade II*)** adjacent to the Old Stables considerably allayed both the Trust's concerns and those of the Teignbridge Conservation Officer with regard to the potential impact of this scheme. However, a substantial solar array proposed for the north end of Chelson Meadow adjacent to **Saltram (Grade II*)**, on which the Trust has previously commented, would almost inevitably have an adverse impact on the designed landscape and especially views out from the walk leading to the Castle. We also remain concerned about potential impacts on longer views from **Mount Edgcumbe (I)**.

Mid Devon has a patchy record on consulting DGT, including on proposals affecting Creedy Park, but following adverse comments from the County Council the Trust is now receiving most relevant applications although many are erroneous not relating to historic designed landscapes that waste significant amounts of DGT's time. The Trust continues to be very concerned by the incremental development taking place, or proposed in the setting of, the historic landscape of **Creedy Park (Gazetteer)**, and have suggested to Mid Devon that supplementary planning guidance covering the landscape might be an appropriate way to ensure that its significance is not harmed by such development. This has included an application for a second cricket pitch within the park itself (originally with a proposed second pavilion, now withdrawn), and a large (tall) storage building on the edge of the park, which, despite an Officer's recommendation to refuse consent on the grounds of its adverse impact on the historic landscape, objections from members of the local community, and the Trust's re-iteration of its objections to the LPAS in advance of the Committee's meeting together with the lack of any historic impact assessment, elected members of the Mid Devon Planning Committee granted consent at their meeting in early October.

The Trust continues to be concerned about the impact of the Christmas market on the **Exeter Cathedral Green** (Gazetteer), the grass taking several months to recover with a detrimental impact on the visitor experience in the heart of the city despite some measures having been taken to lessen the impact compared with earlier years. The application approval has a further four years to run and the Trust will be liaising with Exeter Civic Society with a view to working with the Dean and Exeter City Council. The Trust was most disappointed that Exeter City Council failed to consult on proposals to construct a large columbarium within the **Higher Cemetery, Exeter** (Gazetteer). Nothing was known of the proposals until after the Council had granted permission for the scheme. The proposed concrete structure is soulless, banal, and quite inappropriate and out of character to its location in the Higher Cemetery. The development, for which strong economic arguments were advanced, poses, by reason of precedent, a serious threat to all un-registered cemetery landscapes in Devon, and is something of which the Trust takes serious note.

The Trust reported in 2021 that the various owners of the land comprising **Stover Park** (II) had come together to develop a plan for the future restoration of the designed landscape. The Trust had supported the application to the National Heritage Lottery Fund for the first phase of the work and had awarded a grant towards clearance in the area of the old stables and Meyer rockery. The economic impact of the past two years has meant that work has had to be scaled down and the restoration of the old stables, which are in the ownership of Stover School with consequent public access issues, has been withdrawn from the plan. The Trust will have to be mindful of such issues in the awarding of similar grants in the future. Sadly, the removal of the restoration of the 1779 stables conservation project from the lottery funded project has precipitated the dissolution of the Stover Historic Landscape Trust. On a positive note, the Trust was pleased to be involved at an early stage by Stover School on its development plans.

The Trust highlighted concerns over potential impacts of proposals at Magnolia Lake (formerly Mamhead Grange) **Mamhead** (II*) on designed views from within the parkland, and from the walks in the vicinity of the obelisk and advised the LPA that the documentation supplied by the applicant did not adequately address these issues.

Events Committee Report

Chair: Mr Shane Cormie

With the pandemic still ongoing, the Events' Team had to adapt to the changing advice and regulations. We are very grateful to our hosts, speakers and members for their support during the year.

In July 2021 members and their friends enjoyed the first garden visit for over 12 months. Alasdair Forbes kindly hosted our group at Plaz Metaxu, Witheridge where we enjoyed discovering this contemporary garden with the expert guidance of Alasdair and Cyril Harris who assists Alasdair.

Our 2021 AGM was held at Poltimore House where, after the formalities, the Friends of Poltimore House gave us a tour of the house and grounds, explaining the challenges ahead.

For something different, in September we headed to the Agroforestry Research Trust (forest garden) Dartington where Martin Crawford explained the ethos of growing both trees and horticultural/agricultural crops on the same piece of land and the research undertaken that confirmed the benefits.

Our autumn/winter talks commenced (October 2021) with an illuminating talk, in Clyst St Mary, on W.J. Godfrey (1858-1927), the Exmouth Horticulturalist by DGT member, April Marjoram. Then, given the ongoing situation the next two talks were given via Zoom. In November, our Chair, Sue Minter gave us an insight into the controversial restoration of the Palm House at Kew in the 1980's and its connection with Bickton Park. This was followed in January 2022 by Dr Henry French who explored the history of Devon estates in the twentieth century. This linked to the Devon History Society's Devon in the 1920's project.

During the year the Trust continued to use Eventbrite for online booking of events, this has proved popular and, although there is a small cost, it has significantly reduced the administrative burden on event volunteers. It has continued in use for online talks conducted by Zoom.

Finally, we would like to thank the small group of volunteers who research and organise these events. Despite a challenging year, the events, in person or online have helped us keep in touch with our members.

Publicity

During the year, a new DGT leaflet was produced to publicise the work we do and to encourage people to join. Copies were distributed to owners of gardens open via the National Garden Scheme. Leaflets are also distributed by a small number of members giving talks to various groups. We thank them for their time and enthusiasm in promoting the DGT.

Social media

We continue to engage with people and organisations via social media. In the past twelve months we have ventured into the world of Instagram which has helped us reach a different audience. Please do follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram to find out more about garden heritage, especially in Devon and reminders about our events.

Research and Recording Committee

Chair: Dr Clare Greener

Clare Greener took over as Interim Chair in September 2021 and has organised a series of meetings for existing and new volunteers, some on Zoom and some face to face. Particularly successful were the talks by Ian Varndell and Rosemary Yallop together with the map day at the Devon Heritage Centre and a walk round the Knowle at Sidmouth, led by Ed Dolphin, to learn about the trees there.

Over the last year we have recruited several new volunteers, some have moved on for a variety of reasons from moving house or jobs to illness. Some are waiting in the wings for external challenges to be solved. We have, however, a core of working volunteers. These are involved in researching, listing and cross-referencing information on nurseries, helping in the office, continuing on-going projects. Reports have been produced on Peamore and Cowley Place, and new research on Bradfield was shared with the Gardens Trust for a joint Gardens Trust and RHS Lindley Library virtual exhibition entitled 'Bicycle Boys Unforgettable Garden Tour' which went on-line at the beginning of June 2022. This will be followed up by articles in our Newsletter and Journal. Articles have been written for the upcoming Journal by four volunteers, and five members of the Research Group are giving presentations at a joint DGT and Devon History Society Symposium on Vegetable, Fruit and Flower Cultivation on 10 September 2022.

Looking forward to 2023 it is hoped that meetings will contain more of a social element as COVID restrictions and worries have relaxed a little and that our talks and training sessions will be opened up to all.

Education Committee Report

Chair: Mr Ian Smith

This year, there have been fewer bursaries awarded due to global issues and changes in the availability of funding to course participants. The education committee has concentrated on developing future work in the form of a Professional Gardeners' Network, Work and Retrain as a Gardener Scheme (WRAGS) traineeships and Growing Devon Schools, (GDS).

The Professional Gardeners' Network will meet in September and future events will begin to support those gardeners working in historic gardens within Devon.

We have been finalising with WRAGS how the DGT can financially support trainees in placements in Devon and hope to be promoting this direct support in the near future.

In the past the DGT have delivered our school education aims by supporting Growing Devon Schools 'GDS' who train teachers in gardening and food production in Devon schools. Their work was slowed in the recent years, but they will now be running their first education forum event since COVID on October 17th. It is proposed that the DGT will continue the budgeted financial support for them to facilitate this and future events for teachers.

The education committee is looking forward to delivering its aims in a more effective way through these new partnerships and groups.

Election of the Council of Management for 2022-23

Under the terms of the Trust's Constitution, the Council of Management comprises a maximum of 20 members. For the year 2021-22 there were 9 members, a combination of existing members and those elected or re-elected at the Annual General Meeting on 1st September 2021. The Constitution requires that, at each Annual General Meeting, one-third of the Council retires in rota, with the selection made from those who have served on Council for the longest period since last elected or re-elected. The following served on the Council of Management during the past year:

Mrs Jeryl Andrew	Elected	2020
Mrs Stephanie Berry	Elected	2021
Mr Shane Cormie	Re-elected	2021
Ms Susan Minter	Elected	2019
Mrs Barbara Moul	Re-elected	2019
Mrs Virginia Parker	Re-elected	2020
Mr Jeremy Pearson	Re-elected	2020
Mr Ian Smith	Re-elected	2019
Mr Saul Walker	Elected	2021

Retiring 2022:

Mrs Barbara Moul
Mrs Virginia Parker
Mr Ian Smith

Members eligible for re-election:

Ms Sue Minter

Mrs Elizabeth Lewis and Dr Rosemary Yallop have been nominated by the Council of Management for appointment and have indicated their willingness to serve as Trustees for the period 2022-2025. Their biographies are included overleaf.

Other candidates can be considered for election at the AGM if the Chairman receives written nominations in advance of the meeting, together with confirmation from the candidates of willingness to stand. If anyone wishes to make nominations, or be considered for nomination, please contact Sue Minter, Chair, chair@devongardenstrust.org.uk or telephone 01626 368948.

The new Council of Management will appoint its own officers at its first meeting after the Annual General Meeting.

Devon Gardens Trust
Nominations for Appointment to the Council of Management 2022-23
Nominee Biographies

Elizabeth Lewis



Liz was born in Exeter and was encouraged to enjoy gardening and appreciate the historic buildings, gardens and landscapes of Devon from an early age. She trained as a secretary and worked at Exeter University, the BBC in London and in Herefordshire before retiring to Devon. While living in Ross-on-Wye she was membership secretary for the Marine Conservation Society and more recently was a primary school secretary. She joined the Devon Gardens Trust in 2017 and has been Membership Secretary since 2020. She was co-opted as a Trustee in October 2021.

Dr Rosemary Yallop



Rosemary Yallop is an architectural historian of Georgian and early Victorian Britain. Her research has focused on the architectural Picturesque, with its emphasis on the relationship between house and setting. She is also interested in the work of Devon architects of the period and their patrons, and the creation of estate landscapes. She has been a Trustee for nine years of the Georgian Group, the charity which safeguards the built heritage and designed landscapes of the long Georgian period and is currently vice-Chairman. She and her husband restored a country house by John Nash in the South Hams where they now live.



DGT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2022 BOOKING FORM

Saturday 24th September 2022 at 11.00 am

at

Castle Hill, Filleigh

Nr. South Molton

Barnstaple

EX32 0RQ

We would encourage our members to book online via the link in the latest ENews. This helps us not only to monitor ticket sales more effectively, but also helps to manage our limited resources within our small volunteer team.

Of course, if you would prefer not to book online, please complete and return this form with your cheque to:

Events, DGT Office, Exeter Community Centre, St David's Hill, Exeter, Devon, EX4 3RG

Email events@devongardenstrust.org.uk

Tickets (for lunch) _____ £20.00 (DGT Members) / _____ £25.00 (Guests/Non-members)

Please state if you have any dietary requirements

I enclose a cheque for £_____ made payable to DEVON GARDENS TRUST.

Name: _____

Email: _____ Tel. _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

BOOKING REQUIRED BY Friday 16th September 2022



PROXY VOTING FORM
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Saturday 24th September 2022 at 11.00 am

The Devon Gardens Trust AGM 2022 will be held at Castle Hill, Filleigh, Barnstaple, EX32 0RQ. Members who do not wish to attend in person are encouraged to exercise their votes by appointing the Chair of the meeting as their proxy to vote on their behalf. By voting you will be helping us to ensure that there is a quorum for the meeting.

I _____(your name)

Of _____(your address)

a member of Devon Gardens Trust and entitled to one vote, hereby appoint the Chair of the meeting as my proxy to vote for me and on my behalf at the Annual General Meeting of the Trust to be held on Saturday 24th September 2022 at 11.00 am and at any adjournment thereof, as follows.

Resolution	For	Against	Abstain
1. To approve the Minutes of the AGM 2021 held on 1 st September 2021			
2. To receive the Directors' Report and Financial Statements for the year to 31 March 2022			
3. To re-appoint Bush & Co as independent examiners and the Council of Management to fix their remuneration.			
4. Election of the Council of Management for 2022-23			
a. To re-elect Susan Minter as a Trustee for a further three-year term			
b. To elect Elizabeth Lewis as a Trustee for a three-year term			
c. To elect Rosemary Yallop as a Trustee for a three-year term			

Signature _____

Date _____

Notes

1. Please place an X in the box representing your vote for each resolution.
2. If you do not wish to vote on a particular resolution, please put your X in the Abstain box.
3. If you do not complete a box for a particular resolution, your vote will be noted as an abstention. Note that an abstention is not a vote in law and therefore cannot be counted in the calculation of votes for or against a resolution.

This form must be **completed, signed and dated and sent to arrive no later than Friday 16th September 2022**

Either by post to AGM, Devon Gardens Trust, Exeter Community Centre, 17 St David's Hill, Exeter, EX4 3RG

Or by email as an attachment (including signature) to membership@devongardenstrust.org.uk



Could you give a little of your time to help the Trust grow?

We wish to augment our team of volunteers so that we can

- increase awareness of the Trust and its work
- achieve more in conservation and education
- develop our member services for the future

We would like more volunteers to help in all aspects of the Trust's activities. This will ensure that we can do more, are more resilient, and we are less reliant on only a few people.

Could you help with any of the following?

Management:

Supporting the Council of Management by becoming a Trustee
Administration – e.g. calling meetings, circulating papers, meeting minutes
Enquiries
Policies and procedures – e.g. health and safety, data protection

Member services

Talks – e.g. ideas for topics, speakers, arrangements with speakers and venues, setting up audio-visual
Visits – e.g. ideas of gardens, trips, arrangements with garden owners
Events – e.g. signage, registration, catering

Newsletter – e.g. identifying/generating articles, photography, mailing

Promotion

Website and social media; especially Instagram to enable us to engage with a more diverse audience
PR especially viz our capacity to give conservation/educational grants
Talks and exhibitions

Education

Assessing education grant applications

Conservation

Assessing conservation grant applications

Research and Recording

Researching individual sites, county-wide themes, families
Recording sites and recording significant trees

A little help goes a long way! Some activities involve travel and meetings, others can be done from home. Computer literacy would be useful but is not essential. Training is provided where necessary. Volunteering is a great way to get to know other members and make new friends. Talk to any Trustee or contact chair@devongardenstrust.org.uk for more information.