



**Devon Gardens Trust**  
**Annual General Meeting 2024**  
**Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> August 2024**  
**Tapeley Park Gardens, Westleigh, Bideford, North Devon, EX39 4NT.**

Dear Member

22 July 2024

We have great pleasure in inviting you and your guests to the Devon Gardens Trust AGM 2024 at 11:00 am on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> August 2024 at Tapeley Park Gardens, Bideford.

The AGM will be followed by a tour of the Grade 2 listed Italianate gardens by the Head Gardener and, after lunch, a tour of the Agroforestry Garden.

**Programme**

From 11:00 am   Arrival and registration, coffee/tea  
11.30 am        Welcome  
11.35 am        Annual General Meeting

**Agenda**

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the AGM 2023, held on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2023 (Page 3)
3. Matters arising from the Minutes of the last AGM not covered elsewhere on the Agenda
4. Annual Report of the Chair and the Trustees (Page 5)
5. Election of the Trustees for 2024-25 (Page 22)
6. Presentation of the Trust's key initiatives in 2023 and plans for 2024
7. Any other business (Items for inclusion to be sent to the Chair to arrive by Friday 16<sup>th</sup> August 2024).

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

12.15 pm       **Tour of the Italianate Gardens**  
1.30 pm        Lunch (booking for lunch is essential. See Booking Form\*)  
2.30 pm        **Tour of the Agroforestry garden**  
3:30 pm        Depart

IF YOU WISH TO ATTEND PLEASE BOOK TICKETS EITHER ONLINE via the link in the latest DGT E-News OR please return the enclosed Booking Form with your remittance to arrive by Monday 12<sup>th</sup> August 2024.

\* DGT members may attend the AGM without charge, but attendance of the subsequent garden tours and lunch is only for those who have booked.

No dogs please.

Enquiries by EMAIL to [events@devongardenstrust.org.uk](mailto:events@devongardenstrust.org.uk)

With kind regards,

Sue Minter, Chair



**Devon Gardens Trust**  
**Minutes of Thirty Sixth Annual General Meeting**  
**held on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at**  
**Shilstone, Modbury**  
**by kind permission of Sebastian and Lucy Fenwick**

36.1 Members present: Janet Anderson, Stephanie Berry, Shane Cormie, James Davis, Paul Faulkner, Michael Gee, Penny Hammond, Patsy Hayman, Stewart Henchie, Anne Inman, Michael Inman, Sherry Jenkins, Jane Jerrard, Spencer Keys, Jane Knight, Eleanor Koopman, Liz Lewis, Susan Minter, Viv Rands, Gina Richards, George Seager Berry, Richard Soans, Adrian Symons, Andrew Underhay, Alison Underwood, Ian Varndell, Rosemary Yallop

36.2 Proxy votes received: Jeryl Andrew, Jane Berry, Derek Carmichael, Philip Darch, Peter Davies, Edward Day, Susan Fryer, Alison Gordon, Susan Harwood, Rosemary Howell, Carol A Hughes, Carolyn Keep, David Keep, David Lewis, Nigel Mason, Andrew McKeon, John E Reeves, John Watt  
All proxy forms voted for the 3 Resolutions.

36.3 Welcome and Introduction:

36.4 Apologies: Jeryl Andrew, Lady Arran, The Rt Rev Robert Attwell, Jane Berry, Hilary Bigge, Tom Bigge, John Borron, Clare Campbell-Lamerton, Derek Carmichael, Rosemary Carmichael, John Clark, Lady Clinton, Lord Clinton, Philip Darch, Peter Davies, Sandra Dean, Julie Dennis, The Earl of Devon, Ed Dolphin, Caradoc Doy, Eric Durrance, Eunice Durrance, Susan Fryer, Alison Gordon, Clare Greener, Susan Harwood, Ian Howard, Sandy Howard, Rosemary Howell, Carol Ann Hughes, Linda Jameson, Carolyn Keep, David Keep, Graham Knox, Jane Knox, Dianne Long, April Marjoram, Nigel Mason, Andrew McKeon, Hugh Meller, Barbie Moul, Hilary Neville, Iain Park, John Reeves, Ruth Saltmarsh, Jean Simpson-Smith, Saul Walker, John Watt.

36.4 The Minutes of the 35<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2022 at Castle Hill: The Minutes have been sent to all members in advance of the meeting. The Minutes were proposed, as an accurate record by Penny Hammond and seconded by Michael Hickson and approved by the meeting. The Chair of the Council of Management then signed a copy as an accurate record of the proceedings.

36.5 Matters arising from those Minutes: There were no matters arising.

36.6 The Minutes of the EGM held to adopt the new Articles on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2022 at Clyst St Mary Community Centre: The Minutes have been sent to all members in advance of the meeting. The Minutes were proposed, as an accurate record by Stephanie Berry and seconded by Richard Soans.

36.7 Matters arising from those Minutes: There were no matters arising, but it was noted that Philip Darch was present at the EGM, his attendance was omitted from the Minutes.

36.8 Report of the Chair of the Council of Management and the accounts: The Chair's Report including details of the Trust's activities for the year up to March 31st 2023 had been circulated with the AGM papers. The Chair thanked the Chairs for all their work and the reports. Acceptance was proposed by Rosemary Yallop and seconded by Paul Faulkner.

36.9 Appointment of Auditors: The appointment of the auditors Bush & Co for the year 2023/24. Acceptance was proposed by Janet Anderson and seconded by Stewart Henchie.

36.10 Presentation of the Trust's key initiatives in 2022 and plans for 2023: In support of the written reports, to explain new initiatives and advertise forthcoming events, a PowerPoint presentation was shown.

AOB: No items were raised in advance of the meeting. A question from the floor asked if the award given

to Knightshayes was monetary. The Chair replied that it had been a certificate but that maybe in the future the question of a financial reward could be considered. Following this another question regarding bursaries; The Chair explained that recently the nature of funding for professional development has changed, however the Trust is keen to help Devon gardeners and new avenues are being explored to enable them to receive appropriate support.

This concluded the official business of the Annual General Meeting which ended at 11:55 hrs.

Signed by Chair..... Date.....



**Devon Gardens Trust  
Annual Report  
2023-2024**

**Championing Devon's garden heritage**

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[www.devongardenstrust.org.uk](http://www.devongardenstrust.org.uk)

## Legal and Administrative Information Year Ended 31 March 2024

**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)

**Chair** **Susan Minter** (appointed 23 July 2019)  
**Vice Chair** **Rosemary Yallop** (appointed 20 October 2023)  
**Treasurer** **Stephanie Berry** (appointed 28 April 2021)  
**Company Secretary** Vacant  
**Directors** **Stephanie Berry** (appointed 20 October 2023), **Sue Minter, Rosemary Yallop** (appointed 20 October 2023)  
**Membership Secretary** **Elizabeth Lewis** (appointed 1 March 2020)

### Trustees

Mrs Stephanie Berry (elected 28 April 2021)  
Mr Shane Cormie (elected 8 September 2018)  
Mr Paul Faulkner (elected 7 December 2022)  
Ms Jane Knight (elected 7 December 2022)  
Mrs Elizabeth Lewis (elected 24 September 2022)  
Ms Susan Minter (elected 23 July 2019)  
Mr Saul Walker (elected 1 September 2021)  
Dr Rosemary Yallop (elected 24 September 2022)

**Conservation Officer** Jonathan Lovie  
**Newsletter Editor** Grace Lindsay-Smith  
**E-News** Vivien Rands

**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  
59 High Street  
Exeter  
EX4 3DL

### 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 Trustees**

### **for the Year Ended 31 March 2024**

The Trustees present their report, together with the financial statements of the Trust for the year ended 31 March 2024. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's articles of association, the Companies Act 2006, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" ("FRS 102") and the Charities SORP "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (effective 1 January 2019). The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

## **Objectives**

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

The Objects of the Trust are to:

- Promote, for the public benefit, the protection, conservation, enhancement, research and understanding of the Designed Landscapes of Devon and
- Promote the education of the public on the arts, crafts, sciences, and all other matters connected with the heritage of those landscapes.

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 Trustees**

The Trustees 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 were elected formally at the AGM and the EGM.

Saul Walker resigned as Trustee during the year due to work commitments. Shane Cormie is due to retire in 2024 having served two three-year terms as Trustee. Sue Minter is retiring as Chair having served two terms and is also stepping down as Trustee having served two years of her second three-year term. Rosemary Yallop is resigning as Trustee having served for two years. We thank them for the contributions that they have made to the work of the Trust.

## Main Activities and Achievements during the year

This year has marked the retirement of long-term President Michael Hickson VMH who has contributed much sage advice and support over the years since the foundation of the Trust. We thank him most sincerely. We also wish to thank our Patron, the Earl of Devon, for hosting, at Powderham, 'My Heart was a Tree', a recital of music and poetry which raised money for us and for Farms for City Children.

On the education front we have awarded a bursary to enable a student to attend at Bicton, plus a grant for a National Trust (non-statutory) training event. The year also saw the first meeting of the Professional Gardeners' Network (PGN) in March with an Innovations Day at Devon Garden Machinery in Torquay on battery-operated (low carbon) machinery. This meeting had been delayed a year awaiting completion of their new centre.

Events in the form of garden visits were held in May, June and July and talks in March and October with a celebrity Christmas event with Toby Buckland, all ably arranged by Shane Cormie.

David Sykes held a series of training days for research volunteers; and the tree records, at the suggestion of Ed Dolphin, have been designated a snapshot of Devon's planted trees over 20 years while future research/measurements will be integrated into site-by-site research.

Dianne Long remains as Journal editor and we welcomed the publication of a Journal in September with articles on Jadoo fibre (an early peat-free compost); on Cowley Place; on Miss Edna Gunnell and the Woman Gardener Movement; on violet-growing in Devon and on the picturesque landscape of Peamore.

We have (at last!) a new Newsletter editor - Grace Lindsay-Smith, whose summer 2024 edition is included with these papers. We continue with a very successful E-News run by Viv Rands and our social media presence continues to expand. Members will also note many new improvements to the website.

On conservation there have been several successes plus numerous frustrations. The successes include engagement with Torbay Council over the future of Oldway Mansion where there is now an excellent Conservation Management Plan (CMP) plus a Garden Management Plan for the volunteers - the latter now shared as an exemplar with the volunteers at Poltimore. The long-awaited pollarding of Oldways's lime avenue has been actioned. The *Gazeteer (Devon Local List)* review is continuing at pace and there has been engagement with the Cornwall Garden Society over the future of the Mount Edgcombe estate. We have also seen the positive result of previous pressure on the authorities at Exeter Cathedral over the thorough returfing of Cathedral Green after the Christmas market (a Jellicoe and Lutyens site!).

Less successful have been the attempts to engage with Historic England and local planners over the threat of local housing expansion on the landscape of Peamore. We have also been concerned about the plan of Devon County Council to sell Larkbeare House in Exeter, a Veitch villa landscape. Likewise, we have so far been unsuccessful in persuading Plymouth City Council that they need a CMP for Central Park (members should note that Plymouth has very little street tree planting with Central Park therefore having extra importance). And likewise, we have been concerned about the National Trust wishing to sell Half Moon House at Manaton and its associated landscape - given to them by the sister of Daphne Du Maurier.

No conservation grants have been awarded this year, and potential recipients (as with the Lottery) need to APPLY to get them! We continue to increase our profile by every means

possible so that people are aware of our work.

Detailed reports from each Committee Chair are included in the Appendix.

I would like to thank Jonathan Lovie for his work on the conservation issues and all Trustees and volunteers who have contributed to the Trust as I retire as Chair and as a Trustee, by rotation, this year.

Sue Minter  
Chair

## Financial Report

As of 31 March 2024, the Trust's reserves amounted to £346,069 (2023: £326,164) of which £134,397 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 summary income and expenditure account, produced for circulation to members, is included on the following page. The activities for the year generated a net movement in funds of £19,905 (2023: £(31,800)) which included investment gains of £27,545 (2023: losses of £21,344).

The investment portfolio value grew by 12.2% in the 12 months to 31 March 2024. This was driven by strong growth in the US holdings which represent 30% of the portfolio, specifically the growth shown by technology companies. During the year markets were more positive about inflation coming back down to the 2% target level, and the expectation of lower interest rates heading into the second half of 2024. Political changes have not concerned the market unduly. The Trustees regularly review the investment performance and carry out an annual review of Brewin Dolphin's mandate.

Expenditure for the year was slightly lower than 2023, driven by the lack of conservation grant awards. Operating costs were otherwise in line with 2023. We thank The Earl of Devon for the £1,726 donation from the fundraiser held at Powderham Castle.

The Trust's expenditure on operating costs is stable but always exceeds its income. To ensure that DGT has sufficient operating funds and is able to respond to any unforeseen challenges the Trust maintains a level of reserves of twice the average annual expenditure in the General Fund of the Unrestricted Funds (£54,898). The balance of the Unrestricted Funds (£156,774), held in the Designated Fund, is available for expenditure in line with the Trust's objectives. We continue to explore ways to award more conservation grants and educational bursaries as the Trust remains well financed.

## 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.



**SUMMARY INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Income</b>		
Subscriptions	3,935	4,533
Gift aid	1,394	645
Donations	1,726	416
Events, including AGM	2,622	2,809
Book sales	66	151
Income from Investments	8,330	8,771
<b>Total Income</b>	<u>18,073</u>	<u>17,325</u>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Depreciation and impairment	284	1,422
Administration	572	405
Office rent & service charge	1,662	1,648
Publicity & marketing	2,949	1,105
Bursaries & grants	1,696	1,000
Conservation - grants awarded	-	3,108
Conservation - committee expenses including officer	3,175	3,904
Research & recording	397	486
Events, including AGM	2,470	4,310
Publications - journal & newsletter	2,398	1,489
Subscriptions & sundries	189	223
Insurance	711	680
Accountancy	2,315	2,028
Investment management fee	3,125	3,082
Book expenses	530	731
Legal & professional fees	3,240	2,160
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<u>25,713</u>	<u>27,781</u>
Gains/(Losses) on Investments	27,545	(21,344)
<b>Net Movement in Funds</b>	<u>19,905</u>	<u>(31,800)</u>
Funds Brought Forward	<u>326,164</u>	<u>357,964</u>
Funds Carried Forward	<u>346,069</u>	<u>326,164</u>

**SUMMARY INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT (CONTINUED)****FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

Bank current account	8,656	7,975
Brewin Dolphin account	30,947	13,228
Investments at Market Value	308,290	308,205
Fixed Assets	-	284
Stock	1,509	1,222
Prepayments	2,730	628
Accruals	(6,063)	(5,378)
	<u>346,069</u>	<u>326,164</u>

**Notes**

1. The Trust is a Company limited by guarantee, with charitable status.
2. 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

### 2023-2024

#### Conservation Committee Report Chair: Dr Dianne Long

It was a busy year for the Conservation team with some more complex consultations, the completion of a thorough review of the sites considered of local historic importance, identifying research priorities to support planning consultations and potential applications to Historic England for adding sites to the *Register*, and advising several owners or managers of sites. Also, *Journal 7* was published in autumn 2023.

#### ***Devon Local List (Gazetteer) Review.***

A thorough review of the *Devon Local List* has been undertaken, together with updating the criteria for inclusion of sites on the List. We also drew up a simple hierarchy that will help to inform planning responses and research priorities. In addition, this helped to identify which sites may be under threat and require research, sites which merit further research to determine their significance, sites which might merit submitting to HE for adding to the *Register*. The Research Group now has a list of priorities. The longer-term objective is to update all entries on the website to include a statement of significance which will aid consideration of planning consultations.

#### **Planning Consultations**

The Trust responds to all planning applications consultations affecting designed landscapes in the county on the Historic England (HE) *Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in England (Register)* and felling licenses acting on behalf of the Gardens Trust, the statutory consultee. It also responds to sites on the *Devon Local List of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest (Devon Gazetteer)*.

The most significant consultations were:

#### **Cathedral Green, Exeter**

Unexpectedly in August 2023 the Cathedral applied for a renewal of their permission for the Christmas Market two years before the expiry of the existing five-year consent. The new application entailed an extension of the area covered by the market to include the Processional Way (part of Jellicoe's scheme for Cathedral Green) and the County War Memorial by Sir Edwin Lutyens (both Listed Grade II\*). We objected on various grounds including the physical impact of the existing market on the fabric of Cathedral Green, and the adverse impact on the setting of the Cathedral and other Listed structures. Consent had been granted by the City Council for the expanded market to be held for a further period of five years. Following the Christmas market 2023, turf appears to have been laid, achieving a better and quicker restoration than in previous years.

#### **Stover School (Teignbridge)**

Stover School developed a masterplan for the site which aimed to enhance 'the setting of Stover School within the wider Stover Park including, where possible, restoring or reinterpreting historic views and landscape.' This included two new teaching blocks both replacing existing buildings (some portacabins), a sports hall on the existing tennis courts, and restoring the character of the walled garden. The subsequent application had taken account of the Trust's concern's about not encroaching on the wider landscape.

#### **Langdon Court (II) (South Hams)**

An application was submitted for a new mower shed and garage to be built at some distance

from the house and formal gardens. While the proposed design for the structure was quite sympathetic, it included an array of roof-mounted solar panels which would have been very visible from adjacent parkland within the registered site.

We recognise the need for accommodation for essential equipment, but in this case were concerned that the application did not include an appraisal of different locations for the proposed building, or an adequate visual impact assessment for the location being proposed. While not formally objecting to the proposal, these deficiencies in the application were highlighted to South Hams. The application was subsequently withdrawn.

### **A la Ronde and The Point in View (II) (East Devon) – Historic England consultation on a proposed amendment to the registered site boundary to exclude land to the east of The Point in View.**

The application for a boundary amendment was brought forward by a development company, presumably with the intention of seeking development along the Hulham Road which forms the present eastern boundary of the site.

We strongly objected to the proposal which, if implemented, would have a significantly adverse impact on the setting of the registered site and its Listed structures. The application sought to draw a false distinction between A la Ronde (Listed Grade I) and The Point in View (Listed Grade I), failing to recognise that they are intrinsically linked by historic development, historic ownership and aesthetic vocabulary and possess a very high level of collective significance.

Historic England (HE) approved the proposed boundary amendment in full. This was contrary to DGT, the Gardens Trust's, National Trust's and the local authority's objections. HE's argument was that the fields proposed for removal from the registered site were not deliberately ornamented, and despite being part of the "essential setting" of A la Ronde and The Point in View, should be excluded from the designated landscape. HE now seems to be considering "essential setting" ineligible for inclusion within the site boundary. We are concerned, as are other county gardens trusts, that there are many sites in England including Devon which include what might now be considered by HE as "essential setting" within the designated site boundary itself. This inevitably means that there are registered landscapes in Devon which are potentially vulnerable to this kind of proposed boundary amendment.

We will try to gather evidence with which to fight the inevitable proposal to build houses on the excluded fields and consider a possible appeal.

### **Arlington Court (II\*) (North Devon) – proposed temporary change of use of the Home Farm House to form a café facility.**

The Home Farm at Arlington dates from c1880 and has been attributed to the Barnstaple architect R D Gould. The Farm House is positioned on the entrance drive to Arlington Court and makes a significant visual contribution to the designed landscape – although it has been largely obscured by beech hedging for many years while in the occupation of the former tenant. Rather surprisingly, the farm house is not listed, and the NT planners note that it is not curtilage listed.

Having looked carefully at the proposals, we concluded that the café would not have an adverse impact on any designed views; indeed, we would welcome a reduction in the height of the hedge to allow the intended view of the farm house to be better appreciated from the drive. Furthermore, the temporary use would provide the building with a beneficial use while the NT considers ways forward for the Home Farm as a whole (its buildings apparently being no longer required or appropriate for agricultural purposes). We therefore supported the application.

Following earlier consultations relating to the lake at Arlington, the NT commissioned further specialist reports. As yet no further proposals have been brought forward.

## **Mamhead**

We were advised (by a local resident, rather than by Teignbridge District Council) of an appeal made by the owner of Obelisk Gardens against a refusal of consent for change of use of land for the siting of 14 holiday lodges and the demolition of glasshouses, the retention of one glasshouse for use as a winter garden, alterations to the access arrangements, construction of internal roads, parking spaces, hard standings, deckings and associated landscaping. The proposed development site (previously known as Mamhead Grange) adjoins the Grade II\* registered landscape and lies below the Obelisk Plantation which forms part of the landscape design. Both DGT and HE commented on the impact of the proposed development on the setting of the registered landscape and highlighted the lack of adequate assessment of impact on designed views from both the plantation and parkland. DGT will submit a written submission to the enquiry which is to be carried out by correspondence rather than in person.

## **Pre-Application Consultations**

### **Saltram (II\*) (Plymouth) –**

We were invited to take part in pre-application discussions with the NT regarding proposed changes in the registered site and immediately adjoining it. We had a very constructive discussion on the proposals both within the registered landscape and on the creation of more accessible facilities for the people of Plymouth within the wider estate but outside the registered boundary.

## **Oldway**

We were delighted that a comprehensive CMP for the landscape at Oldway was delivered. This is an excellent plan that sets out the historical significance of the site and its component parts, appreciates the challenges of the site and recommends pragmatic solutions with detailed work that could bring the gardens in a reasonable timescale to being the jewel in the Torbay crown. The plan has identified interesting opportunities for repurposing, including for event space that respects the historic fabric together with the aesthetic enjoyment of the gardens, user safety, enhanced community provision and visitor attraction. It also provides context and structure for the extremely valuable contribution of the Oldway Gardens Volunteer Group.

Together with the CMP on the mansion and rotunda (both integral to the landscape) Torbay Council is looking at developing a viable, self-sustaining future for Oldway. Whilst recognising this is a major long-term project, we look forward to Torbay delivering what could be a very exciting and nationally important project with real benefit to the community and visitors. Continuing the Trust's close liaison with the Oldway Gardens Volunteer Group, together with them we met with Torbay's Director of Pride in Place. We urged work on the lime walk to be undertaken urgently and we were pleased to see that was carried out in late winter. We also urged that a structural survey be undertaken on the grotto, so that its condition could be determined, and potential costs of restoration considered. To date that has not been done. We drew out the priorities from the CMP to help the Volunteers and the Council, and we are meeting on a regular basis with the volunteers to review progress. The achievements of the Volunteers Group are exceptional.

## **The Knowle (East Devon)**

The most recent planning application by McCarthy and Stone for the old East Devon Council offices at The Knowle has been refused because: 'The scale, massing and design of the development, in particular the two blocks closest to the southern site boundary, fails to reflect local distinctiveness and is not compatible with the character of the site and does not relate well to its context and its surroundings and so will adversely affect the townscape and local landscape of Sidmouth.' However, an appeal has been lodged.

We have advised on the area of the gardens now in the ownership of Sidmouth Town Council, primarily to the south of the buildings and to be managed by a newly forming Friends group. The advice was to aim to reflect the atmosphere of the historic garden whilst managing for

sustainability. The gardens are very overgrown, particularly laurel and *Rhododendron ponticum* which are crowding out specimen trees. Advice included: to gradually reduce the clumps, to edit, undertake some crown lifting and other tree work to open up the views and allow light in, to make the entrance more inviting, contact the conservation officer about removing ivy etc from the listed summerhouse and prune the adjacent yew.

### **Other Consultations**

We have examined, and where appropriate commented on, proposals affecting A la Ronde (pre-application), Ambrook House, Great Ambrook (adjacent to, but outside, the Italian Garden, II), Connaught Gardens, Creedy Park, Dartington Hall (II\*), Rousdon and Sharpam (II\*)/Bowden House (NR). None of these proposals has been for significant or damaging development.

We met with the local team and have been supportive of the National Trust's proposals for reinstating/creating sympathetic and historically appropriate routes around the grounds at A la Ronde.

### **Teignbridge Local Plan**

We have submitted a further comment on the unchanged housing allocations in the draft Teignbridge Local Plan in respect of their unacceptable impact on Peamore. Our attempts to initiate direct contact with officers at Teignbridge have not been successful to date.

### **Peamore**

The application to HE for adding Peamore Park to the Register has been submitted together with an updated historic development report, further images, references and contact details of owners who are willing to support the application. We have done presentations to the residents on the Trust's research.

Before Christmas we received a report upon which they make their assessment and recommendation as to registration. The report largely follows the DGT application as does the proposed site boundary. We responded positively in support of the consultation report from Historic England on behalf of both DGT and the GT as statutory consultee. To date, over a year after the submission of the application, we have heard nothing further regarding the application despite enquiries to HE and the further evolution of the Teignbridge draft local plan.

### **Larkbeare, Topsham Road, Exeter (Exeter City Council)**

In late 2023 we heard that Devon County Council had placed Larkbeare House, Exeter, on the open market for £4 million. The house is, surprisingly, un-listed. An application had been made to HE to list the house, and we were advised that DGT would be consulted. We responded to a draft List Entry report circulated for consultation by Historic England. Following our robust comments on the report (which only considered the house for Listing) and the comments of others, Historic England opened new consultations on draft List Entries for the historic designed landscape (Register), the eighteenth-century summerhouse or gazebo and the mid-nineteenth century garden steps. While welcoming the decision to consider these elements of the overall heritage asset for national designation, we remained very concerned about aspects of each of these assessments, and a pervading negative tone which suggested that a conclusion might already have been reached. We highlighted omissions of fact, inconsistencies and misinterpretation in the assessments and also advised that Historic England should consult Dr Brent Elliott, former Archivist and now Historian of the Royal Horticultural Society, long-time member of the English Heritage Parks and Gardens Advisory Committee/Panel and author of the only comprehensive study of Victorian gardens.

At our invitation, and immediately prior to the submission of our response to Historic England, Dr Elliott visited Larkbeare and its landscape. He confirmed, as we suspected, that it is a rare if not unique survival of a mid-nineteenth-century Veitch villa-scale landscape, which, despite some losses (in particular, two areas of productive gardens, stables and glasshouses – the latter removed very soon after acquisition of the property as Judges' Lodgings in 1878), remains

unusually and substantially intact.

We have submitted some further advice to Historic England in relation to historic land ownership and usage in the area that now makes up Larkbeare, which seems to have helped to shape the Veitch landscape plan, and which most unusually reflects patterns of ownership in the City from at least the eighteenth-century.

We liaised with Exeter Civic Society advising them of our research and assessment on the significance of the site to assist them in their response to HE.

### **Woodland schemes**

We have been consulted on proposed tree planting at Shobrooke and Mothecombe.

**Central Park, Plymouth** – Work involving the creation of new ponds to improve drainage in a part of the park was completed towards the end of 2023 with planting to take place in the spring. This resulted in a large amount of spoil, the proposed onsite disposal of this is contested by Plymouth Central Park Interest Group which considers there are more appropriate locations in the Park; they have corresponded on this and other issues with the Council.

Members of the Trust's Conservation Committee met at the Park and recognised the need for a CMP, particularly for the northern part of the park that incorporates the formal gardens around Pounds House, to update the Historic Landscape Assessment undertaken in 2002. Such a plan would guide development within the Park. We have written to the Strategic Director for Place, Plymouth City Council, requesting a meeting to discuss the various sites in the Plymouth area (Mount Edgcumbe, Saltram, Central Park, Armada Way and Civic Square, etc).

### **Half Moon House, Manaton (Dartmoor National Park)**

Members of the Conservation Committee visited Half Moon House in 2019 and recognising the importance of the gardens, added it to the *Devon Local List*. The house and land were the home of painter Jeanne du Maurier (sister of Daphne) and poet Noel Welch from 1954 until their deaths in 1997 and 2017 respectively. They developed a landscape that demonstrates a strong understanding of earlier landscape design, with subtle religious iconography and incorporation of the Dartmoor features like the Manaton Rocks, including topiarising the gorse in the meadow. A full description of the gardens is on the DGT website. The ladies left the small estate to the National Trust, which has now decided to put the house and part of the gardens on the open market. The Trust was considering an application to Historic England to add the site to the *Register*. The Conservation team visited the gardens and were depressed that while the house has benefitted from conservation repairs including re-thatching, the detail of the garden has been eroded because of a period of reduced maintenance; the structure of the garden survives, along with some planting and built elements such as the terraces, walls, pond (although overgrown) and the Oratory. The Picturesque walks through Manaton Rocks survive well (as well as in 2019), as does the associated ornamental planting. Given the condition of the gardens and the NT's intention to divide the estate eroding its significance, the Trust concluded that it would not be sensible, or appropriate, to proceed with an application to Historic England to add the landscape to the *Register*. However, the Trust will advise NT of the surviving significance of the Half Moon landscape, and that, in our view, it would be appropriate for the NT to impose covenants on any portions of the landscape which are to be sold to ensure that any changes would require the prior agreement of the NT; also, that the Picturesque walks through Manaton Rocks are of such significance as to merit retention by the NT, and the provision of their own CMP to ensure management which appropriately recognises their historic and aesthetic significance, as well as their clear ecological and geological significance.

### **Mount Edgcumbe**

Although Mount Edgcumbe (Grade I) is now in Cornwall, historically it formed part of Devon. In addition, since 1971, the historic designed landscape has been owned and managed jointly by

Plymouth City Council and Cornwall Council. The Grade I historic designed landscape is of international significance and was hugely influential in the C18th and C19th through visitors' experience, written accounts, and pictorial representation. This influence spread far beyond Plymouth and the Tamar Valley, arguably making Mount Edgcumbe as influential as other major C18th landscapes such as Stowe.

We have recently been made aware of concerns over:

- Reduction in funding (to zero in 2023) by the two local authorities;
- The absence of a comprehensive CMP embracing designed landscape, historic landscape structures and Mount Edgcumbe House (rebuilt following destruction during the War);
- Continued fragmentation of the historic designed landscape and a lack of overall conservation management (the very significant walled garden remains the property of the Mount Edgcumbe Estate, and is now essentially derelict);
- The very poor condition of many of the listed landscape structures;
- A lack of understanding of the landscape's international significance;
- Incremental planning proposals which are not linked to a CMP.

During 2023, Plymouth City Council has made two applications for change/development within the Grade I landscape; while the first application was for pre-application advice (for a "barn structure to replace a temporary marquee in the Earl's Garden"), the second, which was a full application and Listed Building Consent application entailing physical alteration to the Garden Battery.

Given its proximity and inter-relationship with Plymouth and Saltram, and, following conversations with The Gardens Trust and Cornwall Gardens Trust (which voted to amalgamate with Cornwall Garden Society on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024), it has been agreed that DGT's Conservation Officer will look at statutory consultations affecting Mount Edgcumbe going forward. Cornwall Gardens Trust has been very positive and enthusiastic about this joint working, and it offers potential for future collaboration between the two counties.

### **Poltimore**

A meeting was held with volunteers at Poltimore and we were able to share with them the Gardens Management Guidance Report prepared for Oldway to demonstrate what might be a suitable approach for them. It transpired that one of the volunteers has recently retired from a professional career in horticulture and so he is going to prepare a guidance report for the Trust and its volunteers. We have offered to help with any queries.

We were saddened to note the fire that caused considerable damage to Poltimore House early in 2024.

### **Wood House, South Tawton**

We are very pleased to note the ongoing restoration at Wood including substantial clearance of laurel and invasive bamboo in the lake area and further work in the kitchen garden including bringing a small area into productive cultivation.

### **Meeting with Devon Historic Environment Record**

We had a very constructive meeting with the Devon County Council Historic Environment team.

A key outcome was the terminology we use for the *Devon Gazetteer*, which is not recognised by local planners, who are familiar with the term 'local list'. We have therefore amended the title to *Devon Local List of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest*. Our aim is to advise all local planning authorities in the county of the sites in their area to ask for them to be included in their local plans. If local authorities formally accept the list, then they will have greater regard for those sites and hopefully it will ensure that DGT is consulted on any planning matters affecting those sites.

## **Conservation Grants**

There have been no applications for Conservation grants during the year. It is hoped that in time the Parks and Cemeteries Programme might help to identify suitable projects that could be supported. The aim of the programme is to ensure that public parks and cemeteries have in place good current conservation management plans with succession planting plans, which once in place, might trigger some grant funding from the Trust.

## **Events Committee Report**

**Chair: Mr Shane Cormie**

Thank you to everyone who attended our events over the past 12 months. We appreciate your support.

We would also like to thank our various garden visits' hosts, speakers at our winter talks and our wonderful volunteers. Without this team and their hard work, we would not enjoy so many talks and visits.

In July we travelled to Sidmouth. A look at garden structures, sometimes referred to as follies, was the subject of a talk by Roger White, Georgian Arcadia, Architecture for Park and Garden. This was held in conjunction with the Sid Vale Association. The planned walk around the town prior to the talk was called off at the last minute due to the weather. However, we were entertained by a guided tour of Sidmouth Museum.

In May we returned to the Bishop's Palace Gardens in Exeter. The previous year's visit to the gardens were a sell-out so we were grateful to Bishop Robert for allowing us a return visit.

June saw us at Chevithorne Barton with a joint event with the Royal Forestry Society. In addition to a tour of the formal gardens, we explored the collection of 441 differently named oaks...all this in beautiful surroundings.

For our 2023 AGM we returned to Shilstone. After the AGM proceedings, we toured the house and grounds, followed by lunch.

One of the earliest and most celebrated American landscape architects, Beatrix Farrand, was the focus of our visit to Dartington Hall in October. We learnt of her involvement at Dartington with a talk by Gay Watson. Additional information on Farrand's work at Dumbarton Oaks (USA) was given by Sue Minter and Penny Hammond. Neville Evans, Head Gardener, then led a tour of the gardens. Could not make this event? We have copies of Gay's booklet on Farrand available for sale. Just contact us for further details.

Our Christmas event saw Toby Buckland, well-known broadcaster from Devon, entertain us with his gardening tips and tales. This was a relaxed affair followed by tea and cake, giving members time to catch up with friends and learn more about the work of the DGT.

In March, Jane Knight, a DGT Trustee and landscape architect who has worked for the Eden Project for over 20 years, gave us an insight into the challenges of a maturing garden in the 21st century. Jane also gave us a sneak preview of her work on the new Edens being planned.

## **Publicity**

In an effort to raise the profile of the DGT and what it does, we have been upgrading our materials over the past year to give us a more professional look. Thanks to volunteers being generous with their time and enthusiasm, we attended Toby's Garden Festival in May.

During the year the DGT leaflet was distributed to owners opening their gardens under the National Garden Scheme for Devon to publicise the work we do and to encourage people to join. 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 post regularly on X (737 followers) and Instagram (417 followers). If you do not currently follow us, why not? We post information on our visits and talks, news from The Gardens Trust and other county trusts, highlighting our charitable aims and more. Please encourage your family and friends to follow us.

**We would welcome more volunteers to help set up and run events. This would allow us to increase the number of talks and events especially in different parts of the county. Interested? Please drop us an email at [events@devongardenstrust.org.uk](mailto:events@devongardenstrust.org.uk) and we will get in touch with you for an informal chat. Thank you.**

## Research and Recording Committee

**Chair: Mr David Sykes**

During the latter half of 2023, the Research Group held a combination of meetings, visits and talks. In September, we held a business meeting of the group followed by a talk from Suzanne Jones on the role of Oral History in Research. The talk looked at where oral research fits in with other forms of research, its benefits and pit falls. It was hoped that this would launch an initiative to develop an archive of local, oral, Garden History.

In October, the group had a very successful visit to the Devon Clinton Archives at Bicton. The Archivist, Charlotte Hodgson gave an excellent presentation on the history of the Devon Clinton estate and then showed the group a wide range of materials including maps, pictures, diaries and account books which she had selected from the archive of particular relevance to the history of the estate and its landscape.

Finally in December, the group visited the Library of the Devon and Exeter Institution. The Librarian, Beth Howell gave a short talk on the history of the Institution and took the group on a tour of the library explaining the resources available and selected some key items from the collection which were of interest to DGT Researchers. Sadly, attendance was poor.

In January 2024, the Committee of the Research Group met and discussed the remit of the group and the practical means of achieving its purpose. It was agreed that it would be useful to integrate training in Garden History research with meetings and visits.

In the Spring of 2024, an integrated programme of training sessions based around the visit to Mothecombe, including how to conduct desk research and a lecture on the use of archives was planned. The training would have culminated with a 'Recording Session' in the afternoon of the visit to Mothecombe. It was hoped that the programme would provide a useful introduction and refresher to researching a garden/landscape using a local example.

Sadly, the response from members of the research group was insufficient to justify running the programme. Following the lack of response from group members to this programme, David Sykes circulated members asking them for input to try and identify what would be of interest to members. Again, the response was negligible.

During 2024, there was much consideration given to updating the *Devon Local List* (previously the *Gazetteer*) on the DGT website. Following discussions with the Conservation Committee and

the Governance Committee it was agreed that the Research Group would assume responsibility for updating the *Devon Local List* on the website.

## **Education Committee Report**

**Chair: Ms Penny Hammond**

Supporting Education, Life-long Learning and Continuing Professional Development

Following the resignations of Saul Walker and Rupert Bannister we have a new Chair of Education and Professional Gardeners' Network: Penny Hammond.

The Education Committee has awarded one bursary for a Bicton student this year and one grant to a National Trust employee to attend a NT (non-statutory) training event at some distance from Devon.

The Professional Gardeners' Network has now had its inaugural event at Devon Garden Machinery in Torquay - a full day with attendance by many manufacturers and several talks on the subject of electrification of garden machinery which has several advantages: it is low carbon, quiet (important in historic/visitor settings) and lower weight (important with higher water tables connected to climate change).

This meeting had been delayed by a year pending the completion of DGM's new centre with its conference room and extensive displays and workshops. The demonstrations were held at a nearby sports site and were preceded by a splendid lunch.

## **Membership Report**

**Secretary: Mrs Elizabeth Lewis**

We have successfully introduced a new online membership system this year, which is a more efficient and secure way of managing our membership records. Members are able to access their personal membership record via our website and update any changes, make donations or renew their membership as needed. Members who do not use a computer continue to be contacted by post. The Trustees thank all annual members who have renewed their support this year.

We are sad to report the deaths of longstanding members Alison Mallet, Freda Wilkinson, Rollo Clifford and Gerard Clinton. All were members since the DGT's inception in 1988. Ruth Kidson also joined in 1988 but has resigned as she has moved abroad.

Our membership numbers at April 2024 were 286 (315 in 2023). We have one Bursary student member. 20 new members have joined in the year up to April 2024.

Due to rising postal costs our newsletters are now sent to members by email. The DGT Journal will continue to be published biannually and posted to all members as usual. Current information on our activities and events can always be found on our website [www.devongardenstrust.org.uk](http://www.devongardenstrust.org.uk)

## Trustees for 2024-25

Under the terms of the Trust's Articles of Association there shall be at least 5 and not more than 15 Trustees. For the year 2023-24 there were 8 Trustees, a combination of existing members and those elected or re-elected at the Annual General Meeting on 12th September 2023. The Articles require that any Trustee who has served their term of three years must retire at the next Annual General Meeting that occurs nearest to the expiry of their term. A retiring Trustee may be re-elected for a maximum of two consecutive terms of office including their initial term.

### **The following served as Trustees during the past year:**

Mrs Stephanie Berry	Elected 2021
Mr Shane Cormie	Re-elected 2021
Mr Paul Faulkner	Elected 2022
Ms Jane Knight	Elected 2022
Mrs Elizabeth Lewis	Elected 2022
Ms Sue Minter	Re-elected 2022
Mr Saul Walker	Elected 2021
Dr Rosemary Yallop	Elected 2022

### **Members eligible for re-election**

Mrs Stephanie Berry

### **Retiring 2024 after two terms:**

Mr Shane Cormie

### **Resigned:**

Mr Saul Walker

### **Retiring early 2024:**

Ms Sue Minter

Dr Rosemary Yallop

Three new Trustees, Sue Beardsmore, Peter Bieneman and Ian Smith are proposed for election and have indicated their willingness to serve as Trustees for the period 2024-2027. Their biographies are included overleaf.

Other candidates can be considered for election at the AGM if the Chair 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](mailto:chair@devongardenstrust.org.uk) or telephone 01626 368948.

The Trustees will appoint the Trust's officers at their first meeting after the Annual General Meeting.

**Devon Gardens Trust**  
**Nominations for Appointment as Trustee 2024-25**  
**Nominee Biographies**

**Sue Beardsmore**



Sue Beardsmore worked for BBC television for over 20 years on daily news as one of the main presenters of Midlands Today. She has extensive production, writing and coaching experience, both inside and outside the BBC, in television and radio. She subsequently worked as a media and personal presentation skills consultant and trainer in the UK and abroad.

She had a BA in English and Politics from the University of Newcastle upon Tyne, and an MA in Mass Communications from the University of Leicester.

She is a former Chair of Governors of a Birmingham Primary school, and a past Chair of the National Lottery Heritage Fund for the Midlands and East (England), as well as other non-exec roles in health and arts organisations. She is the current Chair of Birmingham Botanical Gardens.

**Peter Bieneman**



Peter Bieneman was born in East Africa and his earliest memories are of gardens in the Kenya highlands. He grew up in Wiltshire, went to school in Cheltenham and then Durham University where he read Natural Sciences.

He spent a long career in teaching, mainly at Harrow, but with an impactful year away in New Zealand and time also in South Africa with a recent project in southern Namibia on the Orange River developing a conservancy focusing on conserving water supplies.

Whilst at Harrow he taught Biology to A Level throughout his career but was also focused on the provision of pastoral care. He was a House Master for 12 years and then on the Senior Management Team for ten years as Director of Boarding. His focus was on the appointment, induction and training of everyone involved with pastoral care, line managing the counsellors and inhouse psychologist and overseeing

safeguarding. His work included overseeing the Head Gardener and his team and he sat on the School Tree Committee which managed the 400-acre estate in northwest London. Both these interests gave him an insight into the lives of horticulturists and arborists employed by the estate.

He has had a house in the South Hams for 30 years and is now settled there developing his gardening skills, keeping bees and getting to know the county.

His interest in the Devon Garden Trust is especially in the general welfare of those working, often alone, in large gardens quite remotely around the county.

## **Ian Smith**



Ian is a freelance garden designer, horticultural advisor and head gardener at two large gardens in Northern Devon. With nearly 20 years' horticultural experience in a variety of practical and educational roles.

During his 11 years as a Horticultural Lecturer for Bicton College, based at RHS Garden Rosemoor, he enjoyed supporting and developing the skills of students. As well as delivering the RHS Level 2 and 3 courses, has also found time to teach short adult learning courses at RHS Rosemoor, which he continues to do. He has also been employed as a horticultural adviser for RHS Wisley.

In 2015 Ian completed the RHS Master of Horticulture qualification, with his research project based on the history of a walled garden in Fremington, supported by the DGT. As a trustee Ian hopes that he can continue helping other gardeners to gain appropriate skills and experience to care for the historic gardens of Devon and safeguard them in the future.

[www.iansmithgardendesign.co.uk](http://www.iansmithgardendesign.co.uk)

**DEVON GARDENS TRUST**

**DGT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2024 BOOKING FORM**

**Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> August 2024 at 11:00am**

**at**

**Tapeley Park Gardens**

**Bideford**

**North Devon**

**EX39 4NT**

We would encourage our members to book online via the link in the latest E-News. 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:

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

Email [events@devongardenstrust.org.uk](mailto:events@devongardenstrust.org.uk)

Tickets (for lunch and garden tours)

\_\_\_\_\_ £27.50 (DGT Members) \_\_\_\_\_ £32.50 (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 Monday 12<sup>th</sup> August 2024.**





**PROXY VOTING FORM**  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> August 2024 at 11:35am**

The Devon Gardens Trust AGM 2024 will be held at Tapeley Park Gardens, Bideford, EX39 4NT.

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 Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> August 2024 at 11:35am and at any adjournment thereof, as follows.

Resolution	For	Against	Abstain
1. To approve the Minutes of the AGM 2023 held on 12 <sup>th</sup> September 2023			
2. To receive the Directors' Report and Financial Statements for the year to 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2024			
3. To re-appoint Bush & Co as independent examiners and the Trustees to fix their remuneration.			
4. Election of Trustees for 2024-25 i) To re-elect Stephanie Berry as a Trustee for a further three-year term ii) To elect Peter Bieneman as a Trustee for a three-year term iii) To elect Sue Beardsmore as a Trustee for a three-year term iv) To elect Ian Smith 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 16<sup>th</sup> August 2024** 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**

