



**Devon Gardens Trust  
Annual General Meeting 2021  
Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021  
Poltimore House, Poltimore, Exeter, EX4 0AU**

Dear Member,

3 August 2021

We have pleasure in inviting you to the Devon Gardens Trust AGM 2021 at 2.00 pm on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021 to be held in the Chapel at Poltimore House. The AGM will be followed by a talk on the history of Poltimore and a tour of the grounds by Ted Hitchins, member of the Poltimore Estate Research Society. We are sorry for the relatively short notice, but I am sure you will appreciate that long-term planning has not been possible this year.

**Programme**

From 1.30 pm Arrival and registration, coffee/tea  
2.00 pm Welcome and introduction of our new Patron, The Earl of Devon  
2.05 pm AGM

**Agenda**

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the AGM 2020, held by Zoom on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2020 (Page 3)
3. Matters arising from the Minutes of the last AGM, not covered elsewhere on the Agenda
4. Report of the Chairman of the Council of Management (Annual Report) (Page 5)
5. Report of Financial Activities (Page 11)
6. Election of the Council of Management for 2021-22 (Page 13)
7. Any other business  
(Items for inclusion to be sent to the Chairman to arrive by Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2021).

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

3.00 pm Talk by Ted Hitchins, Poltimore estate research Society  
3.45 pm Refreshments  
4.15 pm Tour of the gardens

Attendance at the AGM is free of charge, but we would be grateful for catering purposes if you could register to attend either via Eventbrite or by email to [events@devongardenstrust.org.uk](mailto:events@devongardenstrust.org.uk) or writing to Events, DGT, Exeter Community Centre, 17 St David's Hill, Exeter, Devon, EX4 3RG. Please book by Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2021. Directions will be sent to those registering.

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

With kind regards,

Sue Minter  
Chair  
[chair@devongardenstrust.org.uk](mailto:chair@devongardenstrust.org.uk)



**Devon Gardens Trust**  
**Minutes of the Thirty Third Annual General Meeting**  
**held on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2020**

In view of the prevailing COVID-19 circumstances, and taking note of the current Government guidance, including the Corporate Insolvency and Governance Act 2020, the meeting was held as a closed meeting with no members being present in person and trustees present online via Zoom.

**33.1 Present:** Online: Jeryl Andrew, John Clark, Shane Cormie, Marion Kneebone, Michael Hickson, Debbie Hye, Dianne Long, Sue Minter, Barbie Moul, Ginnie Parker, Richard Soans.

**33.2 Proxy Votes received:** Janet Anderson, Eleanor Arran, John Borron, Philip Darch, Peter Davies, Stuart Drabble, Andrew Fishley, Michael Gee, Alison Gordon, Clare Greener, Susan Harwood, Lena Hickson, Jane Hill, Ian Howard, Sandra Howard, Anne Inman, Michael Inman, Derek Jackson, Rachel Jackson, Suzanne Jones, Caroline Keep, David Keep, David Lewis, Nigel Mason, Rachel McGavin, Stuart Moul, Shelagh-Maureen Neville, Ian Panton, Joanna Panton, James Perriman, John Reeves, Jennifer Ridd, Ruth Saltmarsh, George Seager Berry, John Shelley, Ian Smith, Ian Varndell, John Watt.

**33.3 Apologies:** John Borron, Sarah Conibear, John Shelley, Ian Smith.

**33.4 Minutes of the 33rd Annual General Meeting, on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2019, at RHS Rosemoor**

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 2019 AGM by Richard Soans, seconded by Ginnie Parker and approved by the meeting *nem. con.* The Chairman of the Council of Management then signed a copy as an accurate record of the proceedings.

**33.5. Matters arising from those Minutes**

There were no matters arising. The acceptance of the Minutes was proposed by Richard Soans, seconded by Ginnie Parker and approved *nem. con.*

**33.6 Annual Report and Accounts**

The Annual Report including details of the Trust's activities for the year to the end of March 2020 was circulated with the AGM papers. This included an assessment of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Trust's financial position and the full financial statements rather than just the Statement of Financial Activities which had been circulated in previous years. The acceptance of the Annual Report and Accounts was proposed by Shane Cormie, seconded by Sue Minter and approved *nem. con.*

**33.7 Appointment of Auditors**

The appointment of Bush & Co as independent examiners for the year 2020/21 was proposed by Sue Minter, seconded by Marion Kneebone and approved *nem. con.*

**33.8 Election of Council of Management for 2020/21:**

A copy of the Election of the Council of Management paper was 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. Forty proxy voting forms had been received. During the year, the Council had comprised ten members. Two members, Dianne Long and Richard Soans were retiring having completed two terms of office. Two members had served one term and were eligible to serve for a further three-year term, Ginnie Parker and Jeremy Pearson; both have indicated their willingness to serve. There were two nominations by the Council of Management: Jeryl Andrew and Debbie Hye. Jeryl Andrew was proposed by Sue Minter, seconded by Ginnie Parker and approved *nem. con.* Debbie Hye was proposed by Sue Minter, seconded by Barbie Moul and approved *nem. con.* Jeryl and Debbie were welcomed to the Council of Management.

**33.9 Other Business:**

There was no other business, and no question had been received from members.

The Annual General Meeting was closed at 14.50.

Signed by Chairman ..... Date .....



## DEVON GARDENS TRUST

### Annual Report 2020-2021

### 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 2021

<b>Chairman</b>	Sue Minter (appointed 21 October 2020)
<b>Vice Chairman</b>	Vacant
<b>Acting Treasurer</b>	Dianne Long (from 26 June 2019)
<b>Membership Secretary</b>	Elizabeth Lewis (appointed 1 March 2020)

### **The Council of Management** (in addition to those named above)

Jeryl Andrew (appointed 21<sup>st</sup> October 2020)  
Mrs Sarah Conibear (appointed 8 September 2018)  
Mr Shane Cormie (appointed 8 September 2018)  
Debbie Hye (appointed 21<sup>st</sup> October 2020; resigned 30<sup>th</sup> March 2021)  
Mrs Marion Kneebone - Tree Recorders Chair (appointed 8 September 2018)  
Mrs Barbara Moul - Research and Recording Chair (appointed 9 July 2016)  
Mrs Virginia Parker (appointed 25 July 2017)  
Mr Jeremy Pearson (appointed 25 July 2017)  
Mr Ian Smith – Education Chair (appointed 9 July 2016)

### **Officers of the Trust**

<b>Patron</b>	The Countess of Arran (to 21 October 2020) Earl of Devon (from 21 October 2020)
<b>President</b>	Mr Michael Hickson VMH
<b>Vice-Presidents</b>	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)
<b>Company Secretary</b>	Vacant
<b>Directors</b>	Jeryl Andrew, Dianne Long, Susan Minter,
<b>Conservation Officer</b>	John Clark
<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	Dianne Long

<b>Registered Company Number</b>	2277427
<b>Registered Charity Number</b>	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 FD

**Devon Gardens Trust**  
**Report of the Directors and the Council of Management**  
**For the Year Ended 31 March 2021**

The Directors of the Council of Management present their report, together with the financial statements of the Trust for the year ended 31 March 2021. 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;

to 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.

**Main Activities and Achievements**

The core purpose of the Trust is to promote awareness of Devon's historic designed landscapes and seek to conserve the gardens, parks and cemeteries of the county. 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.

In 2020/21 the activities of the Trust were inevitably impacted by the COVID 19 pandemic and the resultant lockdowns and restrictions upon social mixing which eliminated the ability to maintain a garden visits programme, restricted our ability to visit archives and halted much of the research and recording activity and all tree-recording. Plans to develop a Devon professional gardeners' group were also postponed. However, the Trust has continued to consider and respond on all planning applications that affect significant designed landscapes in the county. We have continued to support education in horticulture and the designed landscape and have organized a diverse programme of talks online by Zoom, and sought to promote the county's designed landscape heritage wherever possible.

**Conservation and Planning**

One of the key roles of the Trust in promoting and protecting Devon's designed landscape heritage for future generations, specifically that which might be at risk, is to respond on behalf of the Gardens Trust which is the statutory consultee on all planning applications affecting sites on the Historic England *Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in England*. During the year the Trust has been consulted on forty-nine planning applications and two pre-applications relating to sites on the Historic England *Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in England* and on the *Devon Gazetteer of Parks and Gardens of Local Historic Interest*. This is an important role of the Trust in the conservation of Devon's designed landscape heritage, highlighted below are some of the cases considered by the Trust's conservation officer.

The Trust reported in 2020 on two planning applications impacting on the historic landscape of Creedy Park on the *Devon Gazetteer of Parks and Gardens of Local Historic Interest*, that for up to sixty-five dwellings to the south-west was refused by Mid-Devon District Council (MDDC) and a subsequent planning appeal was rejected by the inspector. The second covering 21 hectares of land at Pedlerspool for 257

dwellings, up to five gypsy and traveller pitches and the relocation of Crediton Rugby Club, that also threatened Shobrooke Park, has been permitted by MDDC noting, 'No significant issues are raised in terms of this application scheme regards impact on heritage assets, drainage, flood risk and/or ground contamination, the impact on any neighbouring heritage assets and without resulting in any impacts on protected species/ecology that cannot be satisfactorily mitigated against.' The Trust considered that the development would cause substantial harm to the significance of the Grade II registered park and garden at Shobrooke Park and the heritage asset of Creedy Park. Recently the Trust has objected to a planning application for a large agricultural building and access track within Creedy Park which further highlights the vulnerability of this landscape whose heritage value would be better protected had Historic England recognized the extent and intactness of the Park and its group value with Shobrooke Park.

The Trust was pleased to note that the Oldway Trust had been established for the preservation of the mansion and landscape of Oldway Mansion. During the year members of the Trust's conservation team met the chair of the Trust, representatives of Torbay Council and members of the volunteer gardeners' group to discuss early work on site and future restoration; they were particularly encouraged at the work undertaken by the enthusiastic volunteer gardeners to maintain the gardens. The Trust has urged the Oldway Trust to commission a conservation management plan at an early date in order to guide future restoration and ongoing maintenance. Metal grills have been installed into the grotto designed by F W Meyer which, whilst not ideal, are an acceptable temporary solution to prevent unauthorized access. The Trust's conservation officer advised on a revised location for the installation of a CCTV on the grassed area to the right-hand side of the former round Riding School building.

The Trust was pleased to support the application to the National Lottery Heritage Fund by Devon County Council, the owners of Stover Country Park and Local Nature Reserve, together with other land owners and organizations for the 'Restoring Stover Park' project. NHLF has awarded a grant of £341,000 for the first two-year development phase. This is an exciting project affecting an historic designed landscape that is in divided ownership, considered to be one of the major threats to the survival of such landscapes, and several applications potentially impacting on Stover Park were considered during the year. The proposed restoration scheme set out in an application for a first periodic review of the conditions attached to the existing permission for winning and working ball clays at Stover Quarry at Stover Ball Clay Works, Teigngrace, offers enhanced habitats when compared to the Approved Restoration Masterplan and the planning conditions should, as far as is possible, secure the restoration of the ball clay quarry as an exemplar of good modern landscape design within the context of the historic designed landscape of Stover Park. The Trust was pleased to note that a track is included in the proposals which would be maintained and improved to provide permissive access for the general public in future. This would offer the opportunity to connect to the potential reinstatement of the Carriage Drive along the western boundary and would restore the eighteenth-century circular carriage drive designed to provide a picturesque approach to the house. The Trust considered that a multi-sport artificial grass pitch, associated access and parking for up to 100 vehicles and 10 minibuses for hockey facilities including floodlighting and fencing at Stover School would intrude into the very heart of the designed landscape, to its detriment. It would detract from the views from the carriage drive to Stover House and from the key views south and west from Stover House identified in the parkland plan for restoration. A proposal to replace a residential mobile home with a dwelling at Middle Park Yard, Teigngrace, would result in further compromising the integrity of Stover Park, as would the proposal for a banner attached to an advertisement hoarding at the entrance to Ice House Copse, Stover, which would detract from the character and appearance of Stover Park.

An application for building a three-bedroom holiday cottage and pool on the site of the redundant fish hatchery at Hotel Endsleigh, Milton Abbot, was withdrawn. The Trust had stated that the proposed development would adversely affect heritage assets of the highest significance. Endsleigh is a Grade I registered park and garden containing a substantial number of listed buildings. The proposed development was in a particularly significant location within the designed landscape necessitating justification in an historical context and consideration in relation to the whole estate. Although Repton's

proposed viaduct was not implemented, the site lies adjacent to the important route linking the pleasure grounds by the house with the Swiss Cottage and other areas of what might be described as detached pleasure ground within the wider designed landscape.

Another application that has been withdrawn was for the construction of five executive, detached, 5-bed dwellings and associated garaging, driveways, access and landscaping at East Field, Plympton House, Plympton, a Grade I listed building within a Grade II Registered park and garden, which would, if developed, cause substantial harm to the setting of heritage assets of the highest significance. The Trust fully supports the application by the Plympton St Maurice Civic Association to designate East Field, Plympton as a Local Green Space, which would give further protection to the site in the event of a resubmission of a planning application.

An outline planning application for the erection of up to 200 dwellings with associated access, infrastructure and areas of public open space/landscaping at West Clyst, Exeter, would affect Poltimore House, a Grade II\* listed building within an historic designed landscape included in the *Devon Gazetteer of Parks and Gardens of Local Historic Interest*. The site is not allocated for development in the East Devon Local Plan 2013-2030 and is within an area designated as a Green Wedge which extends from West Clyst towards the village of Poltimore. The proposed development would extend the urban area of Exeter onto the nineteenth century parkland of Poltimore House encroaching into its landscape setting, thereby causing considerable harm to the significance of the heritage assets.

Devon Gardens Trust has been very concerned about the damage to the grass caused by the siting of the Christmas Market on Cathedral Green in Exeter, and has recommended that consent be refused for the operation of an annual Christmas Market for a maximum of 35 days per year in November and December for five years from 2020. The adverse visual impact of the resulting bare earth from the close of the market until April would harm the significance of the Cathedral Green.

The Trust has liaised for some years with Mamhead parish council and Teignbridge District Council (TDC) regarding the Devon Sculpture Park at The Orangery, Mamhead (Grade II\*). TDC has determined that if a full planning application for the sculpture park was not received a Planning Contravention Notice would be served which would enable an assessment of activity levels to be made, and a decision on whether to issue an Enforcement Notice would then be made.

Teignbridge District Council approved a scheme to build a holiday home within the walled garden of the Italian Garden at Great Ambrook, Ipplepen, and included a Section 106 agreement to ensure that any income generated from the proposed holiday accommodation would be used to help fund the restoration of the Italian Garden.

The Trust's conservation officer has advised on the installation of fifteen solar panels at Oxton Mere, Kenton. Oxton House, developed by the Rev John Swete, is an eighteenth-century picturesque landscape included in the Heritage at Risk Register compiled by Historic England because the pleasure grounds are neglected, much of the park is ploughed and there is a considerable loss of parkland planting. It was suggested that if the proposed solar panels were sited as far back towards the site boundary as possible, they might not impact visually on the historic designed landscape.

The Trust supported the proposals by Plymouth City Council for bronze 'totem' interpretation panels on The Hoe, with one panel to be situated above the Belvedere (Listed Grade II), and one adjacent to the Tinside Pool (Lido) (Listed Grade II). The Trust was also pleased to support Plymouth City Council's proposals for a much-improved design for the Clock Tower Garden on The Hoe. Also, the Trust has been informally consulted on lighting the naval memorial on The Hoe. The Trust has been consulted at various stages on the restoration of the Civic Square in Plymouth including advice on planting and looks forward to seeing further details as the design progresses.

The Trust's objection to the construction of a three-bedroom dwelling replacing two existing workshop buildings at The Paddock, Rousdon Estate resulted in a satisfactory revised scheme.

The Trust has opposed a development near Straitgate Farm, Ottery St Mary, for the extraction of up to 1.5 million tonnes of sand and gravel, restoration to agricultural land together with temporary change of use of a residential dwelling to a quarry office/welfare facility. If implemented, this would cause more than substantial harm to the Grade II garden and the designed setting of the Grade I Listed building at Cadhay, because it poses a serious threat to the springs supplying both the mediaeval fishponds at Cadhay, and the drinking water supply.

The Trust is pleased to note that Wood House, which is set in a Grade I registered landscape designed by Thomas Mawson, opened as a cosmetic surgical facility in February 2021. Although there is still work to be done on the house, the owners intend to move on to the garden structures with a view to re-establishing a kitchen garden.

The Trust congratulated Mid-Devon District Council on its Design Guide – Supplementary Planning Document, requesting an amendment to an illustration relating to Creedy Park, Shobrooke Park and Downes Park. In response to Plymouth Local Green Space Development Plan Consultation Document Designation Criteria the Trust has fully supported the initiative to designate Local Green Spaces and asked for the inclusion of sites on the *Devon Gazetteer of Parks and Gardens of Local Historic Interest* as they are important designed landscapes in the local context of Devon. The sites in Plymouth are Beaumont Park, Central Park, the Elizabethan Garden, Freedom Fields Park, the Royal Naval Hospital at Stonehouse, Radford Park, Mutley Park and Thorn Park.

The Trust has urged Torbay District Council that its new Heritage Strategy should set out a clear and deliverable programme to remove Lupton Park, Oldway Mansion and Princess Gardens from the Historic England Heritage at Risk Register. The Trust supported the Conservation Management Plan for Princess Gardens, applauds the improvements that have been made to the gardens and were pleased to be consulted on further works which are in accordance with the Management Plan. The Trust was pleased to note that the inappropriate hotel and apartment development proposed for Princess Gardens has been abandoned.

The Trust was consulted on a new local plan for East Devon – Issues and Options Report and suggested that it was important that historic designed landscapes should be given more emphasis in the text.

The Trust has added Penrose Allotments to the *Devon Gazetteer*. The allotments are associated with the seventeenth century Penrose Almshouses in Barnstaple, are contemporary with the main building and have been in continuous horticultural use since 1627.

During the year a grant was awarded to Stover Historic Landscape Trust for the publication of *Stover Park, History and Connections* by DGT member Stuart Drabble which was published in January 2020.

## **Research and Recording**

The pilot project to train volunteers and to assess methodology for the Trust's research and recording involving sixteen volunteers was progressed until interrupted by the Covid 19 pandemic. Although reports have been produced for Alleron, Eggesford, Follaton, Tracey, Widworthy Court and Widworthy Barton, research on Ashley Court, the Tavistock Cemeteries and Blackpool Sands is ongoing. The completed reports are being deposited with the county's Historic Environment Record to aid local authority planning and conservation officers and are to be included on the particular site's entry on the Trust's website.

The Trust has continued to receive a wide range of enquiries most of which have been answered by reference to the Trust's research, referred to members or others who may have more information.

An important output of the Trust's research is publication of articles in the *DGT Journal*, the Trust's Newsletter, and occasionally books. Issues of the DGT Newsletter during the year have included items on the Clyst Valley Regional Park, 'Why plant trees?' reflections on the depredation of predators and disease, and the history of Alleron with its circular walled garden.

### **Supporting Education, Life-long Learning and Continuing Professional Development**

In recent years the Trust has supported the Growing Devon Schools Partnership (GDSP) as its main way of promoting and supporting horticultural education in schools. This key strand in the Trust's education commitment has been in abeyance since the onset of the pandemic because GDSP has not been able to hold its workshops and other training sessions for teachers.

Another aspect of the Trust's educational role is its support to individuals embarking on a career in horticulture and disciplines related to the management of historic designed landscapes. Three bursaries were awarded to students undertaking RHS courses: one on a Level 2 Certificate in Plant Growth and two on the Level 3 Certificate in Practical Horticulture, all at Bicton College. It was noted with satisfaction that a previous bursary recipient had been appointed as a gardener at the Castle Hill Estate, Filleigh.

Farms for City Children's Nethercott House had to close during the pandemic except for day attendees as no residence was allowed, this meant that the restored Victorian walled kitchen garden, previously supported by the Trust, also had to close.

### **Promoting Devon's Designed Landscape Heritage and Role of DGT**

The new DGT website went live in July 2020, and, as more information is added, it will provide extensive information about the Trust, the parks, gardens and cemeteries in the county.

The Trust has developed its social media presence, now having some 300 followers on Facebook and nearly 700 on Twitter. In addition to advertising our talks and those of the Gardens Trust and other county gardens trusts, we kept members and potential members up to date with snippets of landscape history and news on research being undertaken by members. Asking followers to share their knowledge on subjects such as Devon tea gardens and nurserymen added to the knowledge bank of the DGT. We are grateful to members, organisations we work with and those who are interested in garden history for sharing our social media posts.

### **Delivering an Informative and Varied Programme**

Our thanks go to our speakers who braved the technology of Zoom lectures to bring us together virtually during the year. Sue Minter explored how the Victorians used walled gardens as a larder for country houses with an extended cropping season. Dr Ian Varndell brought us up to date with developments at the Exeter Dissenters' Graveyard, a project that the DGT has supported on a couple of occasions. We followed Michael Gee's quest to find out how Devon took to cider with his talk on how our orchards, such a feature on farms and in gardens, became established and then nearly disappeared. Saul Walker lifted our spirits during the Devon winter by showing us how to bring a touch of the exotic to our gardens. Whilst we were not able to visit gardens in our county, Alasdair Forbes transported us online to Plaz Metaxu, Mid-Devon. Meanwhile Carolyn Keep shared her research and knowledge of gardening for children over the past 200 years. Paul Hawthorne highlighted the history and brought us up to date with the current situation, the challenges and plans for the future of Oldway in Paignton. In addition our regular ENews listed similar talks by the Gardens Trust and other county gardens trusts. So although

we were unable to meet up for our programme we were able to enjoy talks and lectures in our own homes without the hassle of travel over our wide-spread county. It had the added benefit of attendees from elsewhere in the country and overseas. Nevertheless, we are looking forward to welcoming our members and others to events and lectures.

## **Membership**

Membership numbers as at April 2021 were 289 (333 in 2020) of whom 122 were life members (88 individual life and 34 joint life) and nine were bursary students. There was a total of nine new members. Four people tendered their resignation mostly due to no longer being able to participate in Trust activities or moving home. It is with sadness that we report the deaths of Gerard Noel and Margery Rowe.

We would like to thank our members for their continued support during the past twelve months. We look forward to the time when we can meet again, but in the meantime we will keep members informed via the ENews, Newsletters, website and social media.

## **Financial Performance**

The Statement of Financial Activities shows a net surplus for the year of £81,970 (2020: £57,875) which included the surplus/deficit on the market value of investments of £79,492 (2020: deficit of £40,713). This has resulted in an increase of the Trust's reserves to a total of £357,875 (2020: £275,887) at 31 March 2021.

The Trust has both Restricted and Unrestricted Funds. Restricted Funds amounted to £125,920, Trustees have entitled this the 'Wilson Conservation Fund'; the income has been invested in the Trust's investment portfolio and its relative percentage of the total portfolio will be maintained adjusting for additions and withdrawals. During the year the Trust received a final amount of £8,450 (2020: £111,000) as part of the legacy from the estate of John Wilson, which was restricted 'for the restoration and conservation of important Devon Gardens with priority given to the restoration of Oldway Mansion Paignton's original landscape design by Achille Duchene'.

Unrestricted funds totalled £231,937. The Trust's expenditure on charitable activities has exceeded its normal income (excluding legacies) for several years and this is likely to continue. The Trust aims to maintain a level of reserves of two times the average annual expenditure for the past three years. The average expenditure for the past three years was £26,224 (2019: £27,889, 2020: £33,379, 2021: £17,406), however, it must be recognised that in 2021, expenditure was significantly affected by the COVID pandemic and the curtailment of most activities, so a more realistic estimate of the average annual expenditure going forward would be in the region of £31,000. Therefore, the Trust aims to have £62K as its unrestricted funds and has therefore exceeded its required level of reserves by £170K. These excess reserves have been designated for conservation and education grants and for the publication of research like the DGT journal and books. The generally positive impact on the value of the Trust's investments in recent years has enabled the Trust to award some £32,300 in grants over the past four years. During 2020/21 the Trust's grants criteria have been revised and grant levels substantially increased. The availability of the grants is being promoted to encourage more applications and it is therefore hoped that the Trust will be awarding significantly more in grants over the coming years which will reduce the surplus in reserves.

## **Management and Administration**

During the year the Trust has established a risk register and continued to review and develop its policies and procedures. The criteria for grants and application process has now been published on the website.

As it has not been possible to hold events during the year it has been more difficult to engage with members, particularly new members and to explore volunteering interests. However, we are very fortunate to have considerable expertise and experience amongst trustees and volunteers particularly to support our work in conservation, research and recording, and we thank them all. We are most grateful to Dr Eric Durrance who has continued to field some web and telephone enquiries, to Dr Clare Greener and Philip Darch for maintaining the DGT library of books and journals which are available for members and researchers on request and for keeping up to date the Trust's files that are held at the DGT office at Exeter Community Centre.

### **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.

### **The Directors and Council of Management**

The members of the Council of Management and the Directors are shown on page 2. 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.

### **Status of Report**

This report, which has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

**DEVON GARDENS TRUST  
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

	£	2021 £	£	2020 £
<b>Income</b>				
Subscriptions	3,915		5,592	
Gift Aid	1,147		1,175	
Donations	150		377	
Legacies	8,449		111,000	
Events including AGM	148		7,431	
Bank and Building Society Interest	5		20	
Investment income	5,891		6,076	
Book sales	179		296	
		19,884		131,967
<b>Expenditure</b>				
Administration	124		452	
Office Rent & Service Charge	1,204		1,632	
Publicity & Marketing	801		735	
Bursaries and Grants	2,123		4,847	
Conservation Grants awarded	1,000		4,000	
Conservation Committee expenses inc officer	3,130		2,707	
Research & Recording	-		640	
Tree Recording	-		472	
Events & Visits including AGM	768		7,353	
Publications (Journal)	-		1,604	
Publications (Newsletter)	1,110		620	
Subscriptions & Sundries	199		52	
Insurance	714		736	
Accountancy	2,052		2,346	
Investment Management Fee	2,749		2,295	
Book Expenses	(272)		1,492	
Depreciation	1,704		1,420	
<b>Total Expenditure</b>		17,406		33,379
Gains/(Losses) on investments		79,492		(40,713)
<b>Net Movement in Funds</b>		81,970		57,875
Funds Brought Forward at 1 April 2020		275,887		218,012
Funds Carried Forward at 31 March 2021		357,857		275,887
National Westminster Business Account		18,846		449
Cash in Hand		8,535		7,098
<b>Investments at Market Value</b>		328,107		214,369
Fixed Assets		3,410		5,114
Stock		2,348		2,069
Debtors		135		51,561
Accruals		(3,524)		(4,773)
		357,857		275,887

**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.

## Election of the Council of Management for 2021-22

Under the terms of the Trust's Constitution, the Council of Management comprises a maximum of 20 members. For the year 2020-21 there were 10 members, a combination of existing members and those elected or re-elected at the Annual General Meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2020. 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 Sarah Connibear	Retired	2021
Mr Shane Cormie	Elected	2018
Ms Debbie Hye	Resigned	2021
Mrs Marion Kneebone	Re-elected	2018
Ms Sue 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

Retiring 2021:

Mrs Marion Kneebone

Members eligible for re-election:

Mr Shane Cormie

Ms Stephanie Berry and Mr Saul Walker have been nominated by the Council of Management for appointment and have indicated their willingness to serve as trustees for the period 2021-2024. 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, Chairman, [chair@devongardenstrust.org.uk](mailto: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 2021-22**  
**Nominee Biographies**

**Ms Stephanie Berry**

Stephanie has a strong finance background. She qualified as a Chartered Accountant with Price Waterhouse in London and subsequently worked in financial control and financial analysis roles in Paris, Brussels and the US. She then spent over 10 years as a Chief Financial Officer with General Electric in various business units with activities ranging from financial services to film production and then healthcare. Her passion has always been plants and gardens and she retrained as a garden designer some years ago. In 2016, she became the joint owner of a historic garden in Devon, The Italian Garden at Great Ambrook. Since then her energy has been focused on sensitively restoring and preserving this important garden with help from the National Lottery and a dedicated team of volunteers.



**Mr Saul Walker**

Having been born and living a significant proportion my life in Plymouth – my roots in Devon are very strong. I became besotted with plants and gardens in my teens (very unfashionable in the 90's!) due to my grandparents' green fingers and insistence I join them on their outings to Kew, Wisley and many National Trust properties. My break into gardening, after a short stint as an archaeologist, started with the National Trust at Antony House, near Torpoint, as an apprentice sponsored by the live-in family, the Carew-Poles. After my apprenticeship and working as a gardener at Antony, I was accepted to study and work at RBG, Kew where I spent four magical years fulfilling a life-long ambition and gaining experience around the world both within the gardens and abroad. After my time at Kew, I took a small detour from practical gardening to join the RHS as a Show Manager, firstly at the Hampton Court Palace Flower Show and then the Chelsea Flower Show, commissioning and managing exhibits, gardens, and the floral marquee (among many other duties!) which was a great eye-opener on the UK horticultural industry and its many facets. However, the pull back to my native Devon was too great, I moved back seven years ago and started my current employment as Head Gardener of the 12-acre private estate at Stonelands House on the outskirts of Dawlish. I sit on the Trustee boards of the Chartered Institute of Horticulture and the Garden House, Yelverton, am a member of the RHS Tender Plant Committee, a British Orchid Council judge and host a regular gardening podcast called Talking Heads with fellow Head Gardener Lucy Chamberlain.





**PROXY VOTING FORM**  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**Wednesday 1st September 2021 at 2.00 pm**

The Devon Gardens Trust AGM 2021 will be held in The Chapel at Poltimore House, Poltimore, Exeter, EX4 0AU. 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 Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021 at 2.00 pm and at any adjournment thereof, as follows.**

Resolution	For	Against	Abstain
1. To approve the Minutes of the AGM 2020, held by Zoom on Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> October 2020			
2. To receive the Directors' Report and Financial Statements for the year to 31 March 2021			
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 2021-22			
a. To re- elect Shane Cormie as a Trustee for a further three-year term			
b. To elect Saul Walker as a Trustee for a three-year term			
c. To elect Stephanie Berry as a Trustee for a three-year term			
d.			
e.			

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 Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2021** 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](mailto:membership@devongardenstrust.org.uk)