



Annual General Meeting

11:30 Thursday 9th October 2025

Lukesland Gardens



Annual General Meeting AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the AGM 2024 (report p.3)
3. Matters arising from the Minutes of the last AGM
4. Presentation of the Trust's activities and achievements in 2024/25 (report p.7-10) and plans for 2025/26
5. Election of the Trustees for 2025-26 (report p. 22)
6. Any other business



Activities & Achievements 2024/25

Summary of Trustees' Report

Plans for 2025/26

Increase DGT support to professional gardeners and students

Education Committee: Activity and achievements 2024/25

- 7 bursaries awarded since last AGM
- WRAGS trainee at Nethercott approved



Successful bursary applicant
The Italian Garden



Farms for City Children
Nethercott House

Increase DGT support to professional gardeners and students

Education Committee: Activity and achievements 2024/25

- Professional Gardeners' Network reinvigorated – two CPD events held in 2025:
 - Feb 21st 'Let's go Wild' at RHS Rosemoor: 70 attendees
 - Sept 19th 'Carbon in the Garden' at Dartington: 50 attendees

DPGN event
Dartington Sept-25



'Carbon in the Garden' event Sept-25 with speakers Dr Mark Gush, Jane Knight and John Little

Education Committee plans for 2025/26

- Simpler and more effective application process for **student bursaries**.
- Continue to engage the Devon **Professional Gardeners' Network** - holding another two CPD events with attractive keynote speaker in north/south, spring/autumn 2026.
- Continue to **support WRAGS trainees**.
- Find ways to **engage primary school children**; possibly through 'Food for Thought,' an entry level gardening programme for schools across Devon, part of 'Devon Development Education.' Twin with nearby historic gardens/DPGN?
- Opportunity to **engage Secondary School children** via the Photo Competition?



Consolidate & improve access to DGT's research & library

Research & Recording Committee activity and achievements 2024/25: Archive Project

- All office content assessed and itemised. Duplicate and obsolete material removed.
- Developed and commenced the project plan to check and consolidate paper file material with the objective of improving quality and accessibility of research material.
- Project team created by Clare Greener, Honorary Archivist.
- DGT library evaluated for relevant content, non-essential books identified for disposal.
- Developed archiving methodology with Devon Heritage Centre staff
- Commenced archiving project – research files of Devon sites reviewed, consolidated into single subject files, and the cover sheet indexes updated.

Met Office volunteers assist Clare



Consolidate & improve access to DGT's research & library

Research & Recording Committee plans for 2025/26:

- Project continuing at Devon Heritage Centre for consolidation of research archives at their premises – due to be completed before the current office lease at Exeter Community Centre expires in May 2026.
- Upload the Cover Sheets onto the website to provide an accessible index of Devon gardens for research purposes.
- Find new home for DGT library, with the objective of retaining availability to members and researchers.
- Correct and update webpage entries of individual gardens within our Parks & Gardens database.
- Reinvigorate new research on completion of current project.



Continuing commitment to Conservation

Achievements 2024/25

- Responded to over 40 planning applications.
- 2 major complex consultations:
 - proposed landfill site near Peamore.
 - White Cross offshore wind farm infrastructure application impacting Saunton Court.
- Peamore Park and Larkbeare House added to Historic England Register.
- Provided information to the Garden Trust in support of its campaign challenging removal of statutory consultee status.
- Two £500 grant awards for research costs on book publications.

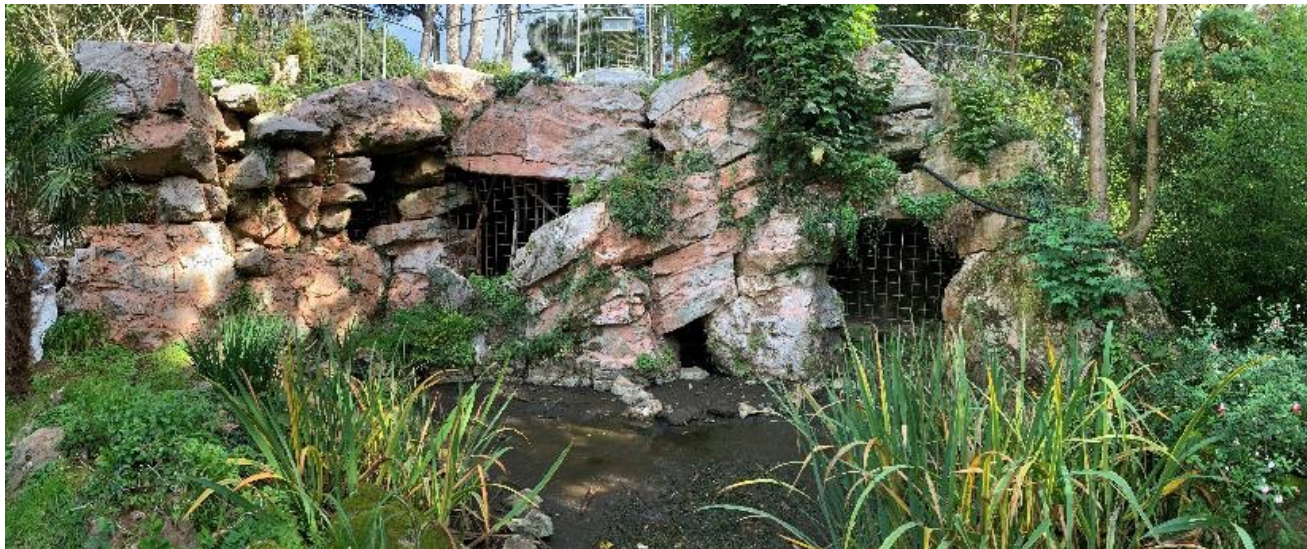


Saunton Court

Continuing commitment to Conservation

Plans for 2025/26

- Recruit more members for conservation committee for wider county representation.
- Encourage more research of sites where little information currently exists.
- Identify opportunities to support the conservation of historic gardens through grant funding.
- Support the Trust's contribution to the Gardens Trust's campaign to retain its statutory consultee status.



Possible use of 'restricted' **Wilson Fund** as match funding for a major project to restore the Oldway Garden grotto, rock garden and water feature and deliver significant impact in a publicly accessible historic garden.

Engage members & volunteers, attract new members

Events and Publicity Committee activities and achievements in 2024/25

- 3 winter talks, 8 spring/summer garden visits
- Successful Christmas event
- Stand at Toby's Garden Festival
- 602 followers on Instagram (up from 417)
- Volunteer photographer Liz providing photos to share via E-News and social media



Marwood Hill Gardens



The Pig at Combe



Old Stables at Stover School



Holcombe Rogus

Events and Publicity plans for 2025/26:

- Continue to develop a varied programme of events and winter talks
- Engage more volunteers with events
- Promote with National Gardens Scheme
- Stand at RHS Rosemoor Flower Show
- Annual photography competition to encourage people out into our parks and gardens

Pilot competition 2025, deadline extended to end November with award and exhibition at Christmas lunch



**We would love ideas from members for talks or visits
... as well as any contacts you have**

Good governance and financial control

Activities and achievements 2024/25:

- Review of policies, Charity Commission & Companies House requirements
- Policy management schedule updated - all policies being reviewed and updated/adopted in order of priority
- Particular focus on Archive and Library policy to support current project
- Simplification of grants programme, application process and website pages
- Review of financials and reserves policy to confirm funds available

Good governance and Financial Control

Governance plans for 2025/26

- Trustee recruitment
- Continue to review and update policies
- Review governance information on website
- Digital archive on website
- Reserves review

DGT reserves review

- Charity Commission obligation to not hold unnecessary reserves
- DGT runs at a small annual deficit of £5-6K excluding grants - a conservative reserve level to cover this is £50-60K
- This leaves around £280K which can be allocated to our charitable purposes
- Our grants & bursary awards have averaged just £3K/yr over the last 3 years (£6K/yr over last 10 yrs)

Encourage more grant applications

Activity and achievements 2024/25: Review the Grants Programme

Community Grants

- £10K/yr available
- For charities, community groups & schools
- Restoration, creation, landscaping of community parks and gardens

Education, Study & Research

- £10K/yr available
- For individuals: horticulture students and researchers
- Course fees, research or survey costs, publications

Conservation Grants

- £25K/yr available
- For garden owners
- Restoration of historic gardens: buildings, features, structural planting
- Conservation Management Plans
- Interpretation



Voting

- Receive the Directors' Report and Financial Statements to 31st March 2025
- Re-appoint Bush & Co as auditors

Election of Trustees for 2025-26

- Re-elect Jane Knight and Paul Faulkner as Trustees for a further 3-year term
- Elect Hugo Bugg as Trustee for a 3-year term



Any other business?

- Nominations for 2025 DGT Awards
 - Innovation and creativity in Devon's historic gardens & designed landscapes.
 - Innovation & creativity in their promotion.
 - Demonstrated commitment to sustainability in Devon's historic gardens & designed landscapes.
 - Impressive engagement of volunteers or garden users in Devon's historic gardens & designed landscapes.
- Anything else?
- Q&A