



Devon Gardens Trust

A SHORT HISTORY 1988 - 2008



Castle Hill, Filleigh

Charity Commission Registration No: 800540
Company Registration No: 2277427

Office: 7 The Close, Exeter EX1 1EZ

Tel: 01392 252404 email: enquiries@devon-gardens.org.uk

Website: www.devon-gardens.org.uk

Devon Gardens Trust

The following contributed to the work of the Steering Committee
between inception and the Inaugural General Meeting

(* Main working core)

- 1.* Mr M Hickson (*Chairman*) - *National Trust*
- 2.* Mr D F L Richardson (*Secretary*) - *Devon County Council (Conservation)*
- 3.* Mr F G Skinner (*Treasurer*) - *Chairman DHBT*
4. Lord Clinton (*President*)
- 5.* Rt.Rev. Hewlett Thompson - *Trustee (Bishop of Exeter)*
- 6.* Lady Anne Palmer - *Trustee (Rosemoor)*
7. Mrs Anne Mildmay-White - *Trustee*
8. Sir Peter Bristow - *Trustee*
9. Dr D Harrison - *Trustee (University of Exeter)*
10. Lady Margaret Fortescue - *Castle Hill, Filleigh*
11. Lady Aileen Fox - *Devon Archaeological Society*
- 12.* Dr. A Plack - *Garden Recorder NCCPG*
- 13.* Dr. J Cox - *The Victorian Society*
- 14.* Mrs R Thres - *Country Landowners Association*
- 15.* Mrs V Chesher - *Devon Buildings Group*
- 16.* Mrs M Clarke - *Devonshire Association*
- 17.* Mrs I Pugh - *NCCPG (Devon Group)*
18. Mrs M Campbell-Culver - *Garden History Society*
- 19.* Miss M Pickthorne - *Landscape Institute (S.W. Chapter)*
20. Miss J Lancaster - *Devonshire Association*
21. Mrs L Seidel - *Devon Trust For Nature Conservation*
22. Mrs B A Pinnock - *NCCPG(Devon Group)*
- 23.* Miss D Penrose - *County Solicitors Dept. D.C.C.*
- 24.* Dr P Howard - *Exeter College of Art and Design*
- 25.* Dr R Padley - *Devon Archaeological Society*
- 26.* Mr N S Pugh - *Chairman NCCPG (Devon Group)*
- 27.* Mr Robin Fausett - *Garden History Society*
- 28.* Mr M Feeseey - *National Gardens Scheme*
- 29.* Mr A Leithgoe - *Landscape Institute (S W Chapter)*
- 30.* Mr L Stocks - *Historic Garden Owner*
- 31.* Mr E A K Patrick - *Devonshire Association/ Devon & Exeter Inst.*
- 32.* Mr J A Ford - *Landscape Institute (S W Chapter)*
33. Lt Cdr W Armstrong - *High Bickington*
34. Mr M C F Proctor - *Devonshire Association*
35. Mr S J West - *DHBT & National Gardens Scheme*
36. Mr P J Hunt - *DCC Amenities & Countryside Officer*
37. Mr R Gash - *Devon County Council (Solicitor)*

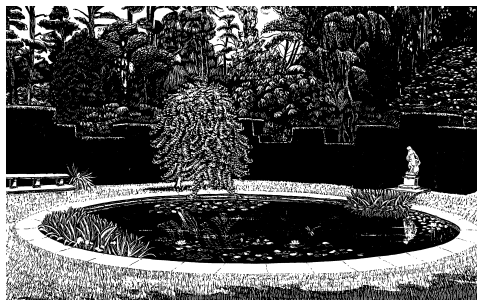
Register of Parks & Gardens of Special Historic Interest in England, Devon.

1	A La Ronde (NT)	II	27	Lindridge	II
2	Arlington Court (NT)	II*	28	Lupton Park	II
3	ST BARTHOLOMEWS CEMETERY, EXETER	II	29	Luscombe Castle	I
4	BARTON ROAD CEMETERY, TORQUAY	II	30	Mamhead	II*
5	BIDEFORD ROAD CEMETERY, GREAT TORRINGTON	II	31	NORTHENHAY AND ROUGEMONT GARDENS, EXETER	II
6	Bicton	I	32	Oldway	II
7	Bridwell	II	33	Overbecks (Sharpitor) (NT)	II
8	Cadhay	II	34	Oxton House	II
9	Castle Drogo (NT)	II*	35	PRINCESS GARDENS & ROYAL TERRACE GARDENS, TORQUAY	II
10	Castle Hill	I	36	Plympton House	II
11	Castle Tor	II	37	Powderham Castle	II*
12	CIVIC SQUARE, PLYMOUTH	II	38	Rockbeare House	II
13	Coleton Fishacre (NT)	II*	39	ROUSDON	II
14	Combe House	II	40	Saltram House (NT)	II*
15	CONNAUGHT GARDENS, SIDMOUTH	II	41	Saunton Court	II
16	Dartington Hall	II*	42	Sharpham House	II*
17	DEVONPORT PARK, PLYMOUTH	II	43	Shobrooke Park	II
18	Endsleigh	I	44	SIMMONS PARK, OKEHAMPTON	II
19	Flete	II	45	STONELANDS HOUSE	II
20	FORD PARK CEMETERY, PLYMOUTH	II	46	Stover Park	II
21	GREENWAY (NT)	II	47	Sydenham House	II
22	Hayne Manor	II	48	Tapeley Park	II*
23	Killerton (NT)	II*	49	THE HOE, PLYMOUTH	II
24	KING'S NYMPTON PARK	II	50	Ugbrooke Park	II*
25	Knightshayes Court (NT)	II*	51	Watcombe (or Brunel) Park	II
26	Langdon Court Hotel	II	52	Wood House	I
			53	Youlston Park	II
			Sites in block capitals are recent additions - since 1999		

A Short History of the Devon Gardens Trust 1988 - 2008

"The Gardens Trust Movement is one of the exhilarating new impulses in what tends to be a doom-laden time. Its aim is to preserve our heritage of gardens and guard against their devastation through neglect or bad planning."

Sir Roy Strong



'Knightshayes Court, Tiverton, print by Cynthia Rowan'

Introduction by Michael Hickson

Many memorable events have taken place in the last twenty years and one of the most within the County was the formation of the Devon Gardens Trust twenty years ago. I had the privilege to be the Chairman of the Steering Committee and under the careful guidance of David Richardson, the Secretary, and other knowledgeable members of that committee, working with other regional conservation groups, quickly formulated what the aims of the Trust should be and drew up a Constitution with the help of the Devon County Council legal department.

Prior to all this good work I had attended a meeting, with other garden orientated friends, at Hestercombe where a charismatic Gilly Drummond spoke of the work that had been achieved in Hampshire by forming a Trust that was recording the historical features of that county's gardens. In Devon the National Council for the Conservation of Plants and Gardens had been in existence for some time but the key representatives felt that

their 'Conservation of Gardens' remit would be better undertaken by and working with a Gardens Trust. With this support and in particular that of Peter Broomhead who was at the time, Regional Director for the National Trust in Devon, I was encouraged to become Chairman of the Steering Committee.

The thrill of the official launch of the Devon Gardens Trust at Bickton in 1988, when Lord Clinton (President), Gilly Drummond and Christopher Brickell gave us their support for the new venture was very moving and encouraging. In the last twenty years the Devon Gardens Trust has gone from strength to strength and has undertaken many projects within the County. The research into those 'lost' gardens, publishing learned works, recording many of the finest trees in Devon, which includes identifying the differing characteristics of the three main species of Cedrus, and the very important subject of education. I have watched with admiration the work undertaken in schools where the 'tarmac' is reduced to make way for gardens that the pupils can become involved in, all this under the watchful eye of members from the 'Trust'. Over the years the garden visits have been very special for the members, and potential new members, who are all given the chance to see landscapes, architectural features and living materials that are often not seen as they are located in private homes. It is amazing to find that there are well over two hundred renowned living gardens in a county which has such a diversity of terrain. Sadly some had succumbed to non horticultural developments before the work of the Trust started.

Congratulations must go to all those who have worked and are working tirelessly to make the Devon Gardens Trust such a successful and respected body, which will, I am sure, continue for many years to come.

Michael Hickson

Vice President (Devon Gardens Trust) May 2008

Early Garden Organisations

The National Gardens Scheme

Since its formation in 1927 this charity has been invaluable in identifying noteworthy gardens and encouraging the owners to open to the public for charity thus increasing awareness of gardens and popularising garden visiting.

The Garden History Society

This organisation had been in existence since 1965 its aims being:

"To promote the study of the history of gardening, landscape gardening and horticulture in all its aspects. To promote the protection and conservation of historic parks, gardens and designed landscapes, and to advise on their restoration. To encourage the creation of new parks, gardens and designed landscapes."

The Society holds research material which is of interest to Garden Trusts and other bodies and was of great assistance to the NCCPG (Devon Group) in their garden recording.

The NCCPG

During the latter half of the 20th Century the RHS and other interested bodies had become concerned about the increasingly limited range of garden plants available from garden centres and the resulting loss of plant species and cultivars to horticulture. The National Council for the Conservation of Plants and Gardens was formed as a national body in 1978, the Devon Group becoming affiliated in 1984.

The NCCPG's aims are to:

"Encourage the propagation and conservation of endangered garden plants in the British Isles, both species and cultivars; encourage and conduct research

into cultivated plants, their origins, their historical and cultural importance and their environments; encourage the education of the public in garden plant conservation. Through its membership and the National Collection Holders, the NCCPG seeks to rediscover and reintroduce endangered garden plants by encouraging their propagation and distribution so that they are grown as widely as possible. The NCCPG works closely with other conservation bodies."

From the beginning there had been a greater emphasis on plants than gardens, though it was recognised that to a great extent the two are inseparable. The present view of the NCCPG is as follows:

"The remit of the County Gardens Trusts does to some extent (i.e. the preservation of historic gardens) parallel the garden conservation objective of the NCCPG. This situation is gratefully accepted by the NCCPG as its interest in preserving gardens lies where historically significant or rare plantings are still in existence. Garden Trusts are more concerned with preserving and restoring garden features, architecture and landscapes. The NCCPG does have a role to play where a garden is to be replanted with contemporaneous plants and cultivars by providing advice on suitable plants and their sources."

In a letter sent to prospective sponsors for an early garden survey project Brian Lord, Garden Survey Organiser, Devon Group NCCPG wrote that:

"Whilst historic buildings are quite rightly listed and protected by legislation, their gardens are not even recorded by either national or local government and are not protected from destruction or decay. It is possible for a developer to destroy a beautiful Georgian garden in less than two hours with a bulldozer and still remain within the law. Could it happen in Devon? Regrettably, it already has and there was nothing we could do to stop it"

It was in this climate that the Devon Group of the NCCPG began identifying gardens of historic interest and recording them. With the help of the Garden History Society, The National Trust, Local Authorities and many individuals, a dedicated team of volunteers compiled a preliminary list of 261 of the most significant gardens in the County.

Brian Lord described the early days as being "very much in the way of self education". Eventually with help from the York Centre, The Hampshire Gardens Trust and Professor Ian Laurie, by 1985 a system of garden recording in Devon was set up which led to a set of some 130 records which are now held with the DGT papers at the Devon Record Office.

This early work was the basis for the formation of the DGT and the value of the hard work and commitment of the members of the NCCPG should not be forgotten.

English Heritage

As a result of the National Heritage Act 1983 a Register of Parks and Gardens was being established for the first time. Prior to this, limited protection for designed landscapes around Listed Buildings had existed before the 1983 Act. The new Register aimed to protect all gardens, parks and designed landscapes of special historic interest. The Centre for Conservation of Historic Parks and Gardens at the University of York was compiling information for English Heritage. Sites established up to 1939 were being surveyed and recommended for listing. The categories were to be the same as for buildings ie Grade I, Grade II*, Grade II.

County Garden Trusts

".... Gardens are fragile creations, vulnerable to change of ownership and the land hunger of developers, let alone the jungle encroachment that comes with neglect. Obviously not all can survive. Some, however, deserve to."

The danger that fine gardens may disappear does not constitute a problem; problems can be solved once and for all. Rather it is a continuing situation, requiring continuing attention. For this reason County Gardens Trusts have been set up in recent years."

Dr. Richard Padley

Probably as a result of these activities there was a growth of interest in garden heritage and County Garden Trusts began to be set up, with Hampshire first in 1984 closely followed by Avon in 1986. There are 36 in existence today.

On the 29th of October 1986 a meeting was held at Hestercombe House, Taunton under the aegis of Avon County Community Environment Scheme. The subject was:

"Formation of Garden Trusts in the South West"

Attended by representatives from Avon, Somerset, Dorset, Devon, Cornwall, Hampshire and Wiltshire this meeting was to prove pivotal.

The purpose of the meeting was as stated:

- a) To provide a basis for immediate advice and help for new proposed County Garden Trusts.
- b) To work towards a National "Umbrella" organisation, similar possibly to the Wildlife Trust, to provide long term support and co-ordination: to harness a wider scope of expertise and be able to apply pressure at higher political levels.

The main speaker at Hestercombe was the highly influential and charismatic Gilly Drummond who had been deeply involved in the setting up of Hampshire Gardens Trust and whose advice and experience was to prove invaluable to the Gardens Trust movement as a whole.

Representatives from Devon were - Michael Hickson, Head Gardener, Knightshayes; Mervyn Feese, National Gardens Scheme;

Iris and Steve Pugh, NCCPG; Peter Hunt and David Richardson, Devon County Council. Representatives from each County explained their position in regard to setting up a County Gardens Trust. Rather surprisingly Peter Hunt for Devon County Council stated that there were no proposals in hand for a County Gardens Trust in Devon and thought that there might be other possibilities for the future, though he did stress the need for garden recording in the County. He suggested the possibility of the already successful Devon Historic Buildings Trust widening its remit to include gardens. Steve Pugh for the NCCPG said that they had carried out recording work for the National Register but that the NCCPG saw its role as supporting a County Gardens Trust rather than changing into one as had happened in Wiltshire. However, within four months the County Council's policy towards a Devon Garden's Trust had changed.

Early steps towards a Devon Gardens Trust

Following the Hestercombe meeting there was a great deal of discussion between the various representatives from Devon and others regarding the advantages of a separate Gardens Trust for the County and its possible structure and relationship to other voluntary bodies and to the County Council.

It should be recognised that a great deal of "off the record" discussion, lobbying, negotiating and sheer hard work took place in order to achieve the very favourable conditions that were reached for the foundation of the DGT.

On the 16th of February 1987 there was an informal meeting at County Hall, Exeter to discuss the formation of a Steering Committee.

Present were:

Councillor F G Skinner
Chairman Devon Historic Buildings Trust
Mr and Mrs N S Pugh
NCCPG (Devon Group)
Mr S J West
DHBT
Mr M Feeseey
Dyer, Feeseey, Wickham Architects
Mrs B A Pinnock
NCCPG (Devon GroupWest)
Mr M Hickson
Head Gardener, Knightsbays
Mr P J Hunt
*Amenities and Countryside Officer,
Devon County Council*
D F L Richardson
*Section Head, Conservation,
Devon County Council*

The County Council provided a venue for this and future meetings and also secretarial services from Mr DFL Richardson and later on legal advice from Miss Penrose.

At this meeting it was agreed that:

"Peter Hunt's report "Leisure Policies and Programmes" is now official policy of the County Council, and commits the Council to the principle of supporting the setting up of a Devon Gardens Trust. The presumption, however, is that such a Trust would be run outside the County Council, with the initiative taken by, for example, the Devon Group of the NCCPG. The County Council would be able to offer meeting-place facilities, a "secretariat" and legal advice, particularly on the drafting of a constitution.

The County Council's Amenities and Countryside Committee might make an inaugural contribution of, say, £3,000 with an appropriate annual grant similar to those given to other conservation bodies."

The Trust was to operate completely separately from The Devon Historic Buildings Trust and the NCCPG. The constitution was to be based on the

Hampshire model, with limited liability and charitable status.

At this stage five potential roles were identified:

1. The identification of the County's important gardens.
2. The formation of a group within the Trust to overview threats, as part of the development control process.
3. Practical conservation work.
4. Dissemination, education, publication.
5. Marketing and fundraising.

A further series of meetings was held with Michael Hickson in the Chair and DFL Richardson, as Secretary during which time a Steering Committee was set up consisting of 28 representatives from many relevant organisations active in the County and also representatives of landowners. (See List)

It was decided the priority should be the setting up of the Trust by the early finalising of a constitution, negotiations with the Charity Commissioners and the establishment of limited liability status. The preliminary work done by Mrs Drummond starting the Hampshire Gardens Trust was of great value in the setting up of a Trust in Devon and other counties.

From the earliest days members of the Steering Committee were putting their minds to the ways in which the DGT would fulfil its future role. At their first meeting members highlighted the importance of research, educational value and the need to record existing plant material, particularly if owners intended changes. It was anticipated that an established Devon Gardens Trust would have a brief far wider than the list of gardens in the English Heritage Register.

The role of the DGT in relation to other groups such as the NCCPG and the Devon Historic Buildings Trust was considered and also that practical work and advice should not interfere with the professional activities of local architects and landscape architects.

The NCCPG were concerned that the work of the DGT might impinge on its own role, though it was expected that once the Trust was fully functioning the NCCPG's role would concentrate more on the conservation and propagation of plants and establishing National Collections, leaving the DGT to concentrate on gardens. The question of garden surveys was more of a problem at first, with Dr Audrey Plack suggesting that the NCCPG should concentrate on gardens important for their plant content and the DGT dealing with those of historic interest.

The DHBT saw little overlap of functions but felt that they could be of assistance to the DGT in being able to give advice concerning garden buildings and structures. Also considered were the potential difficulties for owners of parks and gardens on the new Register and representatives of this group were invited to serve on the Steering Committee.

Devon Gardens Trust - Steering Committee

(See List on inside front cover)

From these beginnings, under the able chairmanship of Michael Hickson and with the considerable input from the Devon County Council with their provision of a secretariat, venue for meetings, legal advice and a grant of £2,700 towards the cost of the launch of the Trust, the Steering Committee set to work. Immediate steps were taken towards setting up the Trust by the early finalising of a constitution, with negotiations with the Charity Commissioners and with the establishment of limited liability status. The speed with which this was achieved was largely due to the help and advice given by Hampshire, who being the first established Gardens Trust had done the pioneering work.

A President and Trustees were needed and the following generously agreed to serve:
President The Lord Clinton DL

Trustees

Sir Peter Bristow
Dr David Harrison,
Vice Chancellor,
University of Exeter
The Lady Anne
Palmer VMH
Mrs Anne Mildmay-White

Official Launch



Mrs Gilly Drummond and Chris Brickell with Michael Hickson at the Official Launch of the Devon Gardens Trust at Bicton Park, 22nd April 1988

On the 22nd of April 1988 The Devon Gardens Trust was launched at Bicton Park, East Budleigh. The location was entirely appropriate as Bicton Park is one of Devon's Grade 1 Register Gardens and Lord Clinton was the Trust's President.

The speakers for the evening were Mrs G Drummond, Chairman and founder of Hampshire Gardens Trust and Mr C D Brickell, Director General of the Royal Horticultural Society.

About 275 guests attended representing the County's political, administrative, land-owning, commercial, gardening and horticultural interests, the weather was warm and sunny and the evening was judged to be a great success. There was however disappointment at poor media coverage, and sponsorship of the Trust had been lower than had been hoped.

The Devon Gardens Trust was now well underway. The Steering Committee had, as well as working hard to set up the Trust, been in regular contact with other interested organisations in the County

regarding its future role and had been in consultation with English Heritage regarding the Register of Parks and Gardens suggesting additions to the proposed list. It had also produced a consultation document on the Objects of the Trust and an outline of possible areas of work on education, promotion and conservation and had considered the need for a computer data-base. A Design Competition had been held for students in conjunction with the launch of the Trust and a library had been started.

The Steering Committee had been very active in opposing the Department of Transport's A30 Road Scheme with regard to its preferred route, which would have adversely affected Rockbore House and its Parkland. The Committee was also concerned with gardens such as Lindridge Park, which was not on the English Heritage Register but had an Edward White designed garden of some merit, which was in need of restoration and in danger from development.



Guests at the Official Launch of the Devon Gardens Trust at Bicton Park.

After the official launch the membership continued to grow, though the target of 1000 members proved to be somewhat over ambitious. During this period new Members and potential Members were sent a Questionnaire, the aim of which was to assess their requirements and expectations of the Trust and to see what relevant interests and experience they might have which would be valuable to the Trust in its organisation and management.

Inaugural General Meeting

The Inaugural General meeting of the Devon Gardens Trust was held at the Crossmead Conference Centre, Dunsford Hill, Exeter, on Saturday 24 September 1988. There were 58 members present. The President of the Trust, Lord Clinton, was elected Chairman for the day.

Michael Hickson reported on the work of the Steering Committee since its inception.

David Richardson as Secretary reported that the Trust had 250 members, 44% of whom had completed the questionnaire.

The replies to this indicated a membership very actively involved in environmental, horticultural and gardening organizations, with a wide range of specialist interests and a significant proportion willing to assist in the management of the Trust. With a few small amendments the Draft Constitution was adopted. The Trust had achieved limited liability status but the Charity Commission had still not completed the charitable status formalities. The meeting then went on to elect the first Council of Management, which consisted mainly of active members of the Steering Committee who had brought the Trust to this stage and who had expressed a willingness to continue to serve. Those members were:

Michael Hickson, Audrey Plack, Joanna Cox, Rosamund Thres, Mary Soddy (who later became Mary Clarke), Veronica Chesher, Madeline Pickthorne, Peter Howard, Richard Padley, Gerry Skinner, Robin Fausset, Bill Armstrong, Andrew Leithgoe, Mervyn Feesey, David Richardson. In addition Jeremy Rougier and Douglas Reardon-Smith were elected leaving a maximum of three vacancies on the Council of Management.

After the conclusion of official business Dr Audrey Plack gave an illustrated talk on "Opportunities for the Trust, Problems we Face, Neglected Gardens, Plants in Danger and what we need to do."

Madeline Pickthorne gave an illustrated talk on "Educating Children, Designing School Gardens, Problems and Opportunities." To complete the illustrated talks Robin Fausset spoke on some of the "Lesser Known Gardens on Devon's Register of Historic Parks and Gardens."

The DGT as we know it was now fully established.

List of Presidents, Chairmen, Secretaries & Treasurers 1988 - 2008



Clare Greener makes a presentation to The Countess Arran our longest serving President, in thanks for her many years of service to the Devon Gardens Trust. Mamhead Orangery, 25th 0July 2007.

Presidents

1988 - 93	Lord Clinton
1993 - 95	Sir Peter Bristow
1995 - 98	Leonard Stocks
1998 - 07	The Countess of Arran
2007 -	Sir Malcolm Field

Vice - Presidents

The Trust has several distinguished people as Vice – Presidents, an honorary title bestowed on those who have given special service to the Trust.

Chairmen

Sir Peter Bristow (1988-89) was a High Court Judge who had retired to Devon in 1985. He was a member of the Steering

Committee and agreed to become the first Chairman of the Council of Management. With his clear mind he was influential in designing the structure of the Trust in the early days, and under his benevolent guidance the Trust achieved its democratic structure, which remains today. Having agreed to serve for one year only he became a Vice President and in 1993 succeeded Lord Clinton as President. Sir Peter, who was remembered for his gentle personality and benign influence on the Trust, died in 2002.

Lady O'Hagan (1989-90) Mary brought a penetrating mind and intellectual rigour to the affairs of the DGT. A considerable architectural historian (she wrote the official history of Ford House, Newton Abbot) and consultant, she instilled a belief in the importance of research and primary investigation particularly through garden surveys. It was very much under her chairmanship that the Trust matured as an organisation, and not a little due to her wide network of social contacts that it increased its standing among the garden owners of the County.

Robin Fausset (1990-93) Providing you understood it for what it was, Robin Fausset's impish sense of humour could be very endearing; there is no doubt that the Trust gained a sense of fun as well as mission during his Chairmanship. It helped of course that Robin had a professional marketing background, and so he was especially keen to promote the Trust and its work to existing and potential members and more widely afield. The garden visits programme gained particular momentum during his period of office, a key selling point for the Trust. Robin also had a genuinely scholarly interest in garden history. His work on the Georgian landscape at Castle Hill was groundbreaking: when challenged on some of his conclusions by the redoubtable John Harris, Robin squared up to him with characteristic vigour - and won the argument.

Steven Pugsley (1993-96) Steven has been a member of the DGT since 1988 serving first on the Conservation Committee and then from 1989 on the Council of Management. He became Chairman after a period of some turbulence and is remembered for his calm, unflappable, well-mannered and youthful approach. Very knowledgeable on Garden History he brought many advantages to the Trust, not least his academic ability and experience in publishing. During his Chairmanship he encouraged research and also edited and published *Devon Gardens: An Historical Survey*, the first publication undertaken by the Trust. Todd Gray's *Garden History of Devon - An Illustrated Guide* was also published during this period and work was begun on the transcription of the Swete Diaries. The Archive and Research Committee was set up to carry out this important project. Steven has continued to support the Trust over the years and has recently chaired two important Day Seminars.

Mary Clarke (1996-99) Mary was a founder member of the DGT and was a fair, committed Chairman using tact and skilful persuasion to achieve progress. A strong leader, courteous to all those who gave their time for Devon Gardens Trust, she is remembered for her constant good humour. As a former teacher she was especially supportive to the education programme. During her chairmanship she had the difficult job of finding a replacement for David Richardson following his retirement as Secretary, she appointed Eric Durrance who has proved a worthy successor and who is still working hard on behalf of the Trust. Mary was also instrumental in finding and equipping the office at the Devon and Exeter Institution and was disappointed that the Trust eventually had to give up this facility. All who knew Mary were saddened at her death in November 2007.

Joy Williams (1999-2002) Joy Williams joined the Devon Gardens Trust in 1994, bringing with her a wealth of experience from Hampshire. Working with schools has been her first concern; she masterminded the Queen's Jubilee Award to Devon Schools in 2002 and set up the '*Green Challenge*' seminar at Killerton in 2004 to enthuse secondary pupils and appropriate staff about horticulture as a career. In 2008 she is co-ordinating the Primary Schools Project as part of the Trust's 20th birthday celebrations, while continuing to visit and inspire schools, collect and deliver plants supplied by members and oversee Trust events. Other highlights of her time as Chairman of the Trust included helping to move the Tree Register forward, the publication of the final volume of *Travels in Georgian Devon* and setting up the Finance and General Purposes Committee. She has contributed significantly to the annual education meeting for Trusts in the southwest and to the Association of Gardens Trusts, as well as to RHS work with schools.

Carolyn Keep (2002-2006) Carolyn has been a member of DGT since 1993. She was Chairman of the Trust from 2002 until 2006, prior to which she had been Chairman of the Conservation Committee, a position which she holds again at present. One of the most important tasks that she has undertaken for the Trust, working with John Clark, has been the compilation of Devon's Local Register of outstanding gardens. She also supervised the closing of the office and the deposit of our records with the Devon Record Office. Carolyn's knowledge of Devon's gardens is immense, her record keeping amazing and her enthusiasm for all aspects of Devon's designed landscapes is a stimulus to us all. Carolyn served an extra year as Chairman, standing in for Clare Greener who due to unforeseen circumstances was out of the County much of 2005-6.

Clare Greener (2006-) Clare has been a member of the DGT since 1999. She is a garden historian with a special interest in Devon Gardeners at all levels, and is currently working on her thesis on this subject. She has been on the Conservation Committee for some years and was Editor of the Newsletter until she became Chairman of the Trust. Clare has been instrumental in getting the new Journal under way, and also in obtaining Sir Malcolm Field's acceptance of the Presidency. Together with Sir Malcolm she has produced "The Way Forward", a mission statement for the next few years of the Trust's work.

Secretaries

1988 - 99	David Richardson
1999 -	Eric Durrance

Treasurers

1988 - 89	Gerry Skinner
1990 - 94	Richard Padley
1994 - 2007	David Quicke
2007 - 08	Lucy Allington
2008 -	Susan Hill

Council Of Management and Committees

The First Meeting of The Council of Management was held on 29th September 1988.

Because of his professional commitments Michael Hickson was sadly not available to continue as Chairman therefore Sir Peter Bristow was elected with Mrs Anne Mildmay-White as Vice- Chairman. Mr David Richardson was elected as both Secretary and Membership Secretary, Mr Gerry Skinner was elected as Treasurer and Lady Mary O'Hagan was co-opted to the Committee.

During this period the Council of Management met on a monthly basis and there was much discussion on how it would operate. It was finally decided that the best way would be through a system of

subcommittees the chairmen of which would report back to the Council of Management. With occasional changes of name and areas of responsibility that structure has remained, operating successfully for twenty years. Initially eight committees were proposed but this was cut down to three, Education, Conservation and Finance. Soon Marketing was added. There would also be an Executive Committee composed of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, and the Chairmen of the committees, which would meet in the event of emergency to avoid calling a meeting of the full Council. There would be a newsletter sent to members four times a year. Over the years there have been some changes to accommodate new situations but the basic structure and aims of the committees have remained the same.

It would be fair to say that the first year or so of the DGT was sometimes difficult as members of the Council of Management and its sub-committees settled in, and at least one very hard working member felt unable to continue on the Council. However during this whole period the work started by the Steering Committee carried on with great vigour and enthusiasm, which continued as the work of the Trust developed. Veronica Chesher a founder member remembers:

"A good workmanlike council with chairmen who had varying important contributions to make according to their equally varying personalities, and a collection of equally contrasting personalities. One of my abiding memories is of the original standing conference preparatory to the formation of the Trust, everyone taking part was from a different organization, which produced very interesting discussions."

The DGT continues to share information and ideas with the following organizations:

English Heritage, Garden History Society,

National Trust, Devon Wildlife Trust, Devon Historic Buildings Trust, Royal Horticultural Society - especially Rosemoor Garden, The National Gardens Scheme, The Devonshire Association, Friends of Devon Archives, Devon History Society, Devon Archaeological Society. Association of Garden Trusts.

Conservation Committee



Endsleigh Cottage, Milton Abbot, 1831

Chairmen:

1988 - 89	Audrey Plack
1989 - 92	Mary Clarke
1992 - 98	Richard Soans
1998 - 99	David Richardson
1999 - 2002	Carolyn Keep
2002 - 2004	Judith Betney
2005 -	Carolyn Keep

"The object of the Conservation Committee, taken from the Memorandum of Association of the Trust, is "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". Its activities will be organised under two headings; Research, incorporating garden surveys and historical research and Projects, dealing with planning matters and practical conservation or restoration." - Terms of reference for Committees 1988.

The scope of work carried out by the Conservation Committee has been very wide and the following paragraphs give just a few examples of what has been done over the past two decades.

The Conservation Committee carries out the Devon Gardens Trust's aim to conserve and enhance Devon's heritage of historic and designed landscapes in co-operation with owners and statutory authorities. From the beginning members were encouraged to carry out research on historical documents in the County Records Office and elsewhere in order to accumulate as much material on the County's gardens as possible in order to identify those which deserved to be included in the new English Heritage Register. Volunteers were also needed to keep an eye on local planning applications in order to alert the Committee to any potential threat to any valuable gardens, which may or may not be on the Register.

Working parties were set up to help owners who were finding the task of preserving their gardens beyond their means. The first property to benefit from this attention was Endsleigh, near Tavistock, a cottage orné built in 1810-15, which had been the fishing lodge of the Dukes of Bedford and is listed Grade 1 on the Gardens Register. Members of the Trust cleared and pruned various parts of the garden including the *Wisteria Walk*.

Later work has included the formal garden at Langdon Court near Wembury. With help from the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (BCTV) the citrus wall has been uncovered at Combe Royal, near Kingsbridge. Grants have been made to specific projects, for example the gazebo at RHS Rosemoor, (in memory of the Handy Brothers) and the garden at 21 The Mint, Exeter, which was restored by the Devon Historic Buildings Trust.

Following the retirement of David Richardson in 1998 the Trust employed John Clark as part time Conservation Officer. Both these officers have worked alone and with volunteers to keep the profile of the DGT high in the County, to represent the Trust and advise at planning enquiries and pre-application discussions and to establish good working relationships

with garden owners and other interested associations and charities.

The Trust gives advice to both owners and local councils with regard to restoration projects, examples of this are The Drum Inn, Cockington, Royal Terrace Gardens Torquay, Homeyard Botanical Gardens and St Bartholemew's Cemetery in Exeter.

An early successful intervention to save a garden was at Lindridge Park. This garden, which lies between Bishopsteignton and Newton Abbot was a cause for concern from the early days of the Steering Committee. The original 17thC garden was replanted on a magnificent scale in 1913 by Edward White. Unfortunately the house was destroyed by fire in 1962 and was not rebuilt. The garden, which fell into disrepair, was ignored when the English Heritage Register was compiled. When a planning application was put forward for the redevelopment of the site the DGT contacted English Heritage who agreed that Lindridge should immediately be put on the Register (Grade 11). As a result of this Teignbridge District Council while giving planning permission for housing on part of the site stipulated that the gardens should be restored. The DGT were asked to advise and suggested three landscape architects one of whom was engaged. When the DGT visited the garden in June 1990 they found the work well advanced and considered it to be "a meticulous restoration."

From time to time major road schemes threaten the designed landscape. The Trust



Lindridge Park, Bishopsteignton.
After restoration in the early 1990's

worked very hard to oppose the route of the A30 road scheme in East Devon which threatened both Escot, a 19th century house in an 18th century park which under the proposals would be truncated, dividing the house from its church, and Rockbeare, a Grade I house in a notable 18th century park. The first letter of protest was sent in November 1987 in the early days of the Steering Committee and the matter was very vigorously pursued from then onwards. There were several hearings at one of which Robin Fausset, on behalf of the DGT was at the witness stand for three hours. In 1993 the Trust and many other organisations were saddened to learn that apart from only minor modifications the Ministry of Transport's scheme would go ahead. A great deal of time and effort on the part of many individuals went into opposing the scheme and the lack of success in this instance was a great disappointment. However at Bridwell Park Robin Fausset was instrumental in achieving the rejection of an appeal for a housing estate to be built on part of the Grade II parkland. Richard Soans represented the DGT during the enquiry into the development at White Rock Business Park, Paignton, which was rejected on the grounds of its unacceptable visual impact on the Dart Valley landscape.

On January 25th 1990 a very damaging storm hit the South West causing a great deal of damage, particularly to trees. At the request of English Heritage the DGT wrote to about one hundred owners of important gardens and passed on their replies for action to be taken regarding advice and possible compensation.

Devon Local Register of Historic Parks and Gardens

One of the main aims of the Devon Gardens Trust is to build up a picture of gardens and designed landscapes of historic interest that are important in the local context of Devon. Work on compiling the Devon Local Register of Historic Parks and

Gardens has been ongoing since 1999 and now comprises over 150 sites. The Devon Local Register evolved from the Register Review Project which was commissioned by English Heritage in 1999. As a result of the Review 34 sites were recommended for inclusion in the English Heritage Register but so far only 15 have been added due to lack of resources.

The Devon Local Register is based on published sources especially Pevsner's *Devon and The Garden History of Devon; An illustrated guide to sources* by Todd Gray. In some cases, information obtained from a site visit has been included.

The purpose of the Devon Local Register is to provide a body of information about historic parks and gardens to assist the Trust in offering support and advice to owners. The Local Register also enables local planning authorities to make informed decisions when considering planning applications and preparing their Local Plan. Some years ago a copy of the Devon Local Register was sent to all of the local planning authorities in Devon. Most, but not all, have included an appropriate policy in their Local Plan to protect the sites on the Devon Local Register. The inclusion of the site in the Devon Local Register does not impose any statutory planning controls but proposals on nearby land that might adversely affect the setting of the estate will be looked at more critically. This could be to the advantage of owners who may require support in opposing development which might affect the character of the historic landscape

The Parks and Gardens Database is being compiled by the Parks and Gardens Data Service (PGDS), working closely with County Gardens Trusts and other organisations, including the National Association of Decorative & Fine Arts Societies and English Heritage. PGDS is creating the Parks & Gardens UK database, with associated website, on the history of

gardening, gardens, parks and designed ornamental landscapes in the United Kingdom. PGDS is a limited company set up jointly by the Association of Gardens Trusts and the University of York. The project is supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund. The information on the website will be available to everyone, and is likely to be used in particular by academic researchers, students, schoolchildren, lifelong learners, and people with an interest in parks and gardens, and community groups. Devon is contributing to this from the Local Register but only for public sites or with the owner's explicit permission.

Archive Research

When the Devon Record Office moved to Great Moor House, Exeter, the Trust was able to deposit all its garden records there, in addition to the forms and slides from the initial garden recording phase. The Record Office enables Trust researchers to access such useful material as tithe maps and apportionments, estate records and local authority minutes. It also holds a large collection of house sale catalogues, mainly donated by Rippon and Boswell in the 1950s. The North Devon Record Office at Barnstaple, the West Devon Record Office at Plymouth and the Devon and Exeter Institution also hold smaller but significant collections.

The detailed information to be found in sale catalogues had been recognised by the DGT and before the end of 1993 Liz Ward had volunteered to co-ordinate a DGT group to investigate them further. Margery Rowe, who was then the County Archivist as well as a member of the Trust, was a great help in setting up the project and continuing to help the volunteers using these resources. This happy co-operation with the Record Office has been maintained by John Draisey, who succeeded Margery. A year later there was an appeal for more volunteers but Liz was able to report that 234 descriptions had been entered on standard DGT forms. She had also begun

a database of the properties. Soon afterwards, volunteers were working in the Barnstaple and Plymouth Offices as well as Exeter, which was then in the city centre. By 2000 there were no more records coming in from the North and West Offices but Exeter was a much greater task and is still not quite completed. About thirty people have been involved during this long project, although most of the nearly one thousand records were made by about fifteen dedicated recorders. Information from almost all the records has now been entered on a database.

The West Country Studies Library continues to be an important source of published information and historic maps. The print collection has been examined by Elizabeth Maycock and she has collated information on all the items showing gardens and parks. The late Nigel Temple donated a large selection of copies of Devon postcards to the Trust, part of his unique collection and offering images not otherwise available.

Archives and Research Committee

Chairman

1995 - 2000 Margery Rowe

The Archives and Research Committee was formed primarily to facilitate the production of the Swete Diaries and to give guidance to those who wished to carry out further research. Margery Rowe as Chairman gave a great deal of time, expertise and commitment to the work. When in 2000 she wished to resign and no new chairman was forthcoming the committee was subsumed back into the Conservation Committee where Carolyn Keep was Chairman and Margery Rowe continued to be a member.

Tree Register

Chairman

2000 - Joy Etherington

During the latter years of Mary Clarke's Chairmanship she was approached by Madeleine Pickthorne who suggested the Trust might develop a Register of Veteran Trees in Devon. In consequence in 1998 the Trust commissioned a one year project by Madeleine Pickthorne to investigate the feasibility of such a register. The concept was supported by Michael Hickson who outlined a broad approach to tree records.

The criteria considered for possible inclusion on the register were:

Trees of exceptional age, stature and vigour.

Trees of great visual importance within a particular landscape.

Trees of great wildlife value for the particular species they support.

"Devon" trees, as identified by the NCCPG including original introductions and hybrids.

Trees rare in cultivation.

"Named" trees.

Trees associated with particular events in Devon.

A Tree Register Committee was established in 2000, with Joy Etherington as Chairman. Initially there was contact with the Devon Wildlife Trust which had already planned, but not executed, an ambitious scheme for recording native and introduced tree species, for which funding was said to be available. The DWT suggested a joint venture, but it quickly became clear that the complex scheme envisaged was not viable. The DWT pursued it no further and the DGT decided to establish its own register. The aim of the Tree Register was to establish a body of information, with particular reference to size, of ornamental and native tree species, tracing provenance as far as possible, principally but not

exclusively in parks and gardens in Devon. The Register was to be based on field work by Recorders using standard procedures, and Scouts who would notify locations. Liaison would be made with other organisations to prevent duplication of work.

A pilot project, "Cedar Search" was initiated, with wide publicity throughout the county, in relation to a current call from the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, for information in particular on the Cedar of Lebanon.

As is inevitable with a new operation, strategies and projected progress were optimistic and now lie at a realistic level. The last several years have shown a steady accumulation of data, based on the field work of a small number of "core"



Jay Etherington, Philip Darch and Eric Garner measuring girth of Cedar of Lebanon

Recorders with ancillary Recorders who help for brief periods. Currently more than two hundred trees located at nearly one hundred sites have been "registered", details of more significant specimens have been forwarded to TROBI, the Tree Register of the British Isles.

Administration of the Tree Register is effected by Recorders Meetings, held in spring and autumn, attended by Recorders, and Committee members if they so wish. A full Committee meeting is held biennially to analyse results and discuss operational matters.

The Tree Register is an example of the painstaking work carried out for the Trust by volunteers that is largely unseen but is of great value in recording the County's landscape heritage and thereby enabling it to be preserved.

Education and Events Committee



Castle Tor, Torquay, DGT visit September 1993

Chairmen:

Education

1989 - 90	Peter Howard
1990 - 92	Sheila Harrison
1992 - 93	Prof. Stephen Landor

Marketing

1989 - 90	Gerry Skinner
1990 - 93	Robin Fausset
1993 - 94	Rosemary Lauder

Education and Events

1994 - 96	Rosemary Lauder
1996 - 99	Joy Williams
1999 - 2002	Penelope Dudgeon
2003 -	Joy Williams

"The object of the Education and Events Committee is 'To promote the education of the public on matters connected with the arts and sciences of garden land'.

This involves interaction with all types of educational establishment, and other institutions, societies, associations and the public at large." - Terms of reference for Committees, 1988.

From 1989 to 1993 there were two separate committees. The present Education and Events Committee came from the merging of the Marketing Committee and the Education Committee in 1993.

Events

Events fall into two categories, an annual programme of garden visits within the County and sometimes beyond, and a series of seminars, study days, conferences and the occasional celebration.

Visits

The programme of visits to gardens is one of the most popular activities of the Trust. Over the years these have been organised by Robin Fausset, Rosemary Lauder, Rosemary Horton, Audrey Stock and Janet Anderson. Arranging an interesting and balanced programme covering all parts of the County year after year is no mean feat and those who have done this difficult job must be commended. Many of our members take part and greatly appreciate the opportunity to see gardens, many of which are not normally open to the public. Sometimes the owners are themselves members of the Trust. There is usually a guided tour or an explanatory talk included, which is of help in understanding the historical context, design and planting philosophy of the site, visits include a wide range of places including public gardens, parks, cemeteries and school gardens. These afternoons often end with a delicious tea.

By their nature gardens are ephemeral, often a private garden is the creation of a single individual sometimes over a lifetime, but when the property changes hands the garden can sink into oblivion. Sadly some of the gardens that have been visited during the past twenty years fall into that category being neither historic nor public they can change completely. Not all gardens can be preserved but the programme of visits helps raise awareness of the importance of our

garden heritage and to appreciate past and present garden fashions and trends and thus has an important educational role. Reports of visits are often included in the newsletters circulated to all members.

In 2003 a five-day visit to Ireland took place arranged meticulously by Audrey Stock. Members flew to Dublin from Exeter Airport thus cutting out travelling time and during their stay visited seven magnificent Irish Gardens of varying periods and sizes, all of them in the Dublin area. As well as the magnificence of the gardens and their plants the visit was particularly memorable for its smooth running and the fact that the rain kept off during all the visits.

Conferences, Study Days and Lectures



Annual General Meeting, Dartington, 4th July 1998

As part of its wider education policy the Trust has from the beginning run a programme of conferences, study days and lectures to give both members and the wider public an opportunity to hear from experts and to share information. We also respond to requests from outside organisations such as garden clubs and other interested bodies to provide talks on the work of the Trust.

Below is a list of Conferences, Study days and Lectures held by the Devon Gardens Trust.

1990 28th September

Autumn Seminar, Council Chamber, County



Association of Garden Trusts meeting, Dartington, September 1995

Hall. In conjunction with DCC. Various speakers on Conservation and Education.

1991 January to April

Series of Winter Lectures at Reed Hall, Exeter University.

1991 22nd June

Seminar - The Ducal Gardens of Endsleigh House and Werrington Park.

1993 27th March

Symposium on Garden Research, St Loyes College, Exeter.

1994 15th April

Lecture - Humphry Repton's Devon Landscapes. Pengelly Hall, Torquay.

1994 15th July

Seminar - Lutyens, Hestercombe House, Taunton, Somerset.

1994 24th August

Study Day - Shute, Axminster.

1994 26th November

Members Day - Garden Visits, Crossmead Conference Hall, Exeter.

1995 24th May

Study Day - Castle Hill, Filleigh, South Molton.

1995 29th April

DGT hosted a Symposium on South West Gardens at County Hall, Exeter.

1995 21st - 24th September

Devon hosted the Annual Conference of the Association of Garden Trusts at Dartington Hall, Totnes.

1996 2nd March

Spring Meeting - Garden Follies,
Crossmead Conference Hall, Exeter

1996 11th May

Study Day - Shobrooke Park, Crediton

1996 2nd November

Autumn Meeting - Garden Buildings
and Swete Diaries, Crossmead Conference
Hall, Exeter

1998 7th November

Joint Meeting with Devon History Society -
The English Kitchen Garden Exeter
University.

1999 30th October

Day Conference - Garden Archaeology in
South West England, Exeter University.

2000 25th March

Day Conference - Garden Design 2000,
St. Loyes College, Exeter.

2001 3rd February

Winter meeting - Gertrude Jekyll, Artist and
Inspiration, Exeter Golf and Country Club.

2002 27th November

DGT and English Heritage - Love Labour
and Loss, Royal Albert Memorial Museum,
Exeter

2003 8th February

Day Conference - Historic Gardens: Hidden
Treasures. Exeter Golf and Country Club.

2004 20th March

Winter meeting - Plant hunting: East and
West, Exeter Golf and Country Club.

2005 12th March

Winter Conference - Garden Buildings,
The Guildhall, Exeter.

2006 4th March

Winter Conference - Winter Gardens.
RHS Rosemoor, Great Torrington.

2006 11th November

Autumn Lecture - Gardens in Devon.
RHS Rosemoor, Great Torrington.

2007 10th March

Winter Meeting - Gardens of the
Twentieth Century, St Loyes Conference
Centre, Exeter.

2007 27th October

Autumn Lecture - Countesses, Cousins and
Plutocrats: Harold Peto's Edwardian Garden
Designs, Stoodleigh Court, Tiverton.

2008 23rd February

The Victorians: Gardens, Graveyards
and Horticultural Pioneers, RHS Rosemoor,
Great Torrington.

Celebrations

The Devon Gardens Trust celebrated its
10th Anniversary at the AGM held at
Dartington Hall on July 4th 1998. The
Countess of Arran was present as the new
President of the Trust. It was appropriate
that Gilly Drummond who had been the
driving force in the Garden Trust movement
and so helpful in the setting up of the DGT
should be the main speaker of the day.
She gave a resume of the past ten years
setting the DGT in the National context and
identifying the highest achievements of the
Trust as being research and restoration,
publications and the identification and
recording of gardens of both local and
regional importance.

On the 18th June 2003 the Fifteenth
Anniversary Celebrations were held at
Bicton Park Botanical Gardens the venue
of the launch of the Trust in 1988. It was
an evening event so members were able
to enjoy the gardens "after hours". Those
attending were treated to a ride around
the grounds on the narrow gauge railway
followed by supper in the Orangery
Restaurant. Todd Gray announced the
arrival of the eagerly anticipated book
"The Lie of The Land" and its editor, Robert
Wilson-North, talked about the contents
and uniqueness of the book.

To celebrate the 20th anniversary of the
Trust, by kind permission of John and Julia
Tremlett, a Garden Party was to be held at
Bickham House, Kenn, on Saturday May
17th 2008. Sadly the weather badly let us
down and after two days of torrential rain it
was decided that in the interests of public

safety the event should be cancelled. This was a great disappointment to all concerned and one wonders if we may find such incidents more common in future as a result of climate change.

Schools and Colleges



Tree Planting, Haytor View School

At the Trust's Inaugural General Meeting in 1988 Madeleine Pickthorne gave an illustrated talk on an aspect of education entitled "Designing School Gardens, Problems and Opportunities."

The Trust has always welcomed requests from schools for help and advice on the planning and design of school gardens and has helped with landscape design, suitable planting schemes and with the provision of plants which are donated on a regular basis by members and distributed to schools, mainly it must be said, by Joy Williams who has been the driving force both in this extensive and very popular programme and of the Trust's educational policy as a whole. A list of suitable plants is available to members, ones that thrive on neglect being best. Small grants can be made available for the provision of tools. Schools are also encouraged to run after school garden clubs with input from both parents and teachers.

In April 2004 a twice-yearly newsletter for primary schools called "*Grounds for Learning*" was started, this was generously sponsored by St. Bridget's Nursery, Exeter.

The DGT also has close contact with RHS Rosemoor which runs an active education programme and whose Education Officer is a member of the Trust's Education Committee.

Once a year the Committee meets with the Education Committees of other County Trusts in the South West Region to exchange ideas and strategies. These meetings are greatly valued by those involved in the education programmes of the various Trusts.

To celebrate the Queen's Golden Jubilee in 2002 the Devon Gardens Trust awarded a commemorative plaque and awards of up to £500 to Devon Schools to be spent on their school grounds. Twelve schools entered for the award and each received a certificate to commemorate the event plus something to enhance their School Gardens, a variety of awards were made including cheques, plants, trees water-butts and benches. Many members made donations to the scheme, as did South West Water and St. Bridget's Nursery.

On February 13th 2004, with the aid of sponsorship from the Heritage Lottery Fund "Awards for All," South West Water and Endsleigh Garden Centre, the Trust ran a very successful seminar for secondary school students and careers staff entitled "Green Challenge" at Killerton House. The day was set up to publicise the advantages of horticulture as a fulfilling career and expert speakers kindly donated their services. After a conducted tour of the gardens and a free lunch, six speakers from a wide range of horticultural careers offered views of their very different routes into employment. The sponsorship enabled the day to be free of charge.

On Saturday 17th July 2004 by the kind permission of Mr and Mrs Robin Fausset a Garden Party to raise funds for education was held. Robin had worked exceedingly hard for the Trust in its early years in various roles including Chairman and



Last meeting of the Education and Events Committee before becoming two separate committees in September 2008

members enjoyed a sunny afternoon admiring his fine garden, enjoying a cream tea, and helping raise money to assist the Trust's ongoing education programme.

Whereas the Education Programme is ongoing with many visits to schools and provision of advice and help where needed, as part of our 20th Birthday celebrations a special Primary Schools Project 2008 was held. The Trust offered small contributions towards children's gardens in school grounds. Invitations to take part were sent to all primary schools in Torbay, Plymouth and the County. 56 schools took part in the project at the end of which certificates were awarded naming them *"Devon Gardens Trust Schools"*

Executive Committee - Finance and General Purposes Committee

Chairmen

1988 - 89	Gerry Skinner
1990 - 94	Richard Padley
1995 - 07	David Quicke
2007 -	Janet Anderson

"The object of the Finance Committee is to 'Raise and allocate to the other Committees funds for the furtherance of the objects of the Trust'" - Terms of reference for Committees 1988.

The forth committee to be set up was Finance but following the resignation of the first Treasurer the Finance Committee went into abeyance, the Treasurer's job being done by David Richardson, in addition to his other duties, until the appointment of Richard Padley as both Treasurer and Membership Secretary in 1990. The Finance Committee was not revived. David Quicke was appointed Treasurer/Membership Secretary in 1994 and also became Chairman of the Executive Committee, which did not hold its first meeting until January 1995 when it was convened to discuss the Handy Legacy and the future finances of the Trust. From 1995 to 2002 the Executive Committee dealt with all financial aspects of the Trust.

In the early years the DGT depended on a generous grant from the County Council, and also enjoyed the provision of secretarial services. A venue for meetings and some legal services were also provided by the Council. Additional finance was and still is raised from membership subscriptions and membership levels have always been a cause for concern. In the spring of 1998 David Richardson, who had been Secretary from the beginning, retired to Cornwall and was replaced by Eric Durrance who still holds that position. This change coincided with Devon County Council being unable to renew its annual grant to the Trust. At the beginning of June of that year the DGT moved into an office at the Devon and Exeter Institution at 7, The Close, Exeter from which the business of the Trust was to be run and which would provide a venue for committee meetings.

In 2002, under Joy Williams, the Executive Committee was re-defined as the Finance and General Purposes Committee. The business of this Committee was to be the formulation of recommendations to the Council of Management on all aspects of the Trust's "housekeeping". The Chairman of the Council of Management, the Treasurer, Secretary and Membership

Secretary would be ex officio members of the Committee, which would also include several other members.

It had been apparent for some time that the financial implications of running the office were detracting from the main work of the Trust and with regret in 2006 the lease was not renewed and the property of the Trust was housed elsewhere. The DGT Archive and Library are now kept at the new Devon Record Office at Great Moor House, Bittern Road, Sowton, Exeter. Other Trust property resides with various officers of the Trust. The Council of Management and the Education and Events Committee continue to hold their meetings in the Reading Room of the Devon and Exeter Institution.

In 2004 the DGT was able to establish a sponsorship link with the NatWest Private Banking Service a grant from which enabled the commissioning of a new membership leaflet.

The Handy Legacy

Two brothers, Denis and Miles Handy of Morebath Manor, Morebath, died on the 5th December 1993 and 14th February 1994, respectively. Under their wills the Devon Gardens Trust received a generous legacy in the region of £148,000. As Morebath Manor needed to be sold it was some time before the whole legacy was received.

Active steps were then taken to prepare a business plan to safeguard the gift and to ensure that it would be properly used to further the objects of the Trust. The Committee resolved to recommend to Council that the legacy should be fully invested with only the income from it used for core and project funding. It was anticipated that the income would be roughly equal to the value of the County Council's administrative and secretarial support. Budgets would be on a five - year rolling programme.

The Handy Legacy transformed the activities and scope of the Trust as the main financial constraints became self imposed rather than

driven by cash shortage as experienced by similar organisations.



The Gazebo at RHS Rosemoor.
There is a plaque in memory of
the Handy Brothers inside

In 1998 a Heritage Lottery Fund Grant was awarded towards the restoration of the gazebo in Great Torrington, a grade II* listed building which was in a ruinous state. It was proposed that this building should be dismantled and reconstructed in the south arboretum of the RHS garden at Rosemoor.

The Devon Historic Buildings Trust, in partnership with RHS Rosemoor, Devon Gardens Trust, Torridge District Council and Devon Waste Management matched this funding and the work was completed in 1999. It was decided that the Devon Gardens Trust should erect a plaque in memory of the Handy Brothers on the newly restored gazebo.

Publications

Originally it was intended that there should be a Publications Committee to be



Oxton House, Kenton 1791
The home of the Reverend John Swete

responsible for the public face of the Trust, for commissioning research and publishing both the newsletter and other publications. In the event the newsletter was handled separately under an editor as it is today and other publications were dealt with by the Conservation Committee. Later, in 1994 an Archives and Research Committee was formed which dealt with publications as part of its remit. In 1999 on the retirement of its Chairman Margery Rowe this committee was merged with Conservation.

Devon Gardens : An Historical Survey, Edited by Steven Pugsley (1994), Published by Alan Sutton.

This history of important gardens in Devon was first discussed early in 1989 and was the first major project undertaken by the DGT. In March 1990 a meeting was set up with the County Council to discuss this further and it was decided that the book would cover the whole historical, geographical and style topics of the County. The text was to be produced by in house authors and Dougal Swinscow would produce colour photographs.

The contributors were Steven Pugsley, Robert Iles, Todd Gray, Robin Fausset, Peter Hunt, Richard Stone, Audrey le Lievre, David Mawson, Rosemary Lauder, and David Richardson. Historic illustrations proved difficult to find. Photographs and historic prints had been commissioned for the Trust's archive from which a suitable selection could be made. Also County Hall's own photographer provided prints and slides from a range of material at the West Country Studies Library and Devon Record Office for use in various chapters of the book.

The finished book, eventually launched at a party at The Bishop's Palace in April 1994 included the background to the designs and reasons behind the development of major gardens in Devon, some of which have now completely disappeared. Of those that have survived, though some may be open to the public, others are completely private.

The Garden History Of Devon - An illustrated guide to sources by Todd Gray (1995) Published by University of Exeter Press.

In 1992 it was decided to initiate a research project to identify and catalogue records relating to parks and gardens in the county. Later that year Dr. Todd Gray an expert on Tudor and Stuart history in Devon was engaged as Research Fellow by the DGT to begin this work, initially for a period of twenty four weeks but later extended. English Heritage and the Claude Pike Woodland Trust also contributed to the cost as did the County Council. The Project was overseen by a small Steering Group from the DGT consisting of Mary Clarke, Steven Pugsley and Veronica Chesher. The University of Exeter provided Dr Gray with the necessary facilities and day to day help for him to progress with the task, and the University of Exeter Press were the publishers of the resulting book.

Entries for over 200 Devon gardens describe their history and list relevant documents, printed sources and illustrations. It also provides an introduction on how to conduct garden research. This was a groundbreaking and wide ranging study of the garden archives of the County.

As a direct consequence of this project an investigation into Devon's sale catalogues was begun, and was carried on by volunteers, the results of which are lodged with the DGT papers in the Devon Record Office.

Travels in Georgian Devon - the Illustrated Journals of the Reverend John Swete (1789-1800). Devon Books (1997-2000)

This limited edition of four volumes was published in association with the Devon Gardens Trust and the Devon Record Office.

In March 1994 the Devon Record Office gave the DGT the opportunity to transcribe the volumes of the Swete Diaries the

manuscript volumes of which survive from the 18th Century. The project would include works not in print, 17 of the original 20 volumes plus 568 illustrations. It was expected that the project would take several years, the transcription work would be done at the Devon Record Office and three part time researchers would be needed. A grant would be sought from the County Council.

John Swete's travels through Devon took place over twelve years. The originals of his surviving seventeen volumes of superb water-colours and diaries are an invaluable and beautiful record for historians and include garden illustrations. The reproduced volumes were edited by Todd Gray and Margery Rowe who as well as being an important and active member of the DGT had until her retirement held the post of County Archivist at the Devon Record Office.

The DGT has also contributed towards the publication of the following books.

Devon Country Houses and Gardens Engraved - Volume 1 - Todd Gray.
Published by the Mint Press (2001)

The DGT was able give financial assistance towards this volume covering from A-La-Ronde to Lifton Park. The volume contains more than 200 images of country houses and their ornamental landscapes. Lithographs, aquatints and etchings as well as engravings show a variety of buildings in their settings, many of which are much changed or no longer exist.

The Lie Of the Land - Aspects of the archaeology and history of the designed landscape in the South West of England. Edited by Robert Wilson-North Published by The Mint Press (2003)

Thanks to a generous grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund the DGT was able to support the publication of this regional study in the rapidly expanding field of garden and landscape archaeology. Aspects

of six hundred years of landscape design are reviewed by a range of experts. Some of the chapters were originally offered as papers at a conference organised by the DGT and the Centre for South-Western Historical Studies at Exeter University.

Newsletters

Editors

1989 - 90	Richard Padley
1990 - 94	Robin Fausset
1994 - 98	Mary Clarke
1998 - 01	Margery Rowe
2001 - 02	Alison Rix
2002 - 06	Clare Greener
2006 - 07	Judith Betney
2007 -	Shirley Tamblyn

The Devon Gardens Trust Newsletters are the primary method of contact between the Council of Management and the broader membership. There were two preliminary issues, edited by Dr Richard Padley, in the Spring and Winter of 1989 but in 1990 Dr Padley became Treasurer and Robin Fausset took over the editorship. From issue one in Spring 1990 the Newsletter adopted the A4 format on cream paper containing a mixture of text, photographs and other illustrations that has become so familiar to our members. In 2008 the format changed to an A5 and the content increased. Newsletters are sent out four times a year giving news of the activities of the Trust, notice of future events, reports of Annual General Meetings, book reviews and other articles of interest and relevance. The Newsletter aims to be both educational and entertaining, encouraging members to take a more active part in the work of the Trust including making their own contributions to the publication. Of the eight editors three have gone on to become Chairman of the Council of Management. Mary Clarke did both jobs simultaneously for a year when she first took the Chair.

Dates and Venues of Annual General Meetings

Inaugural General Meeting

24.9.1988 Crossmead Conference Centre, Exeter.

Annual General Meetings

1 31.05.1989
Streatham Court, University of Exeter.

2 02.06.1990
Dartington Hall, Totnes.

3 01.06.1991
Arlington Court, Barnstaple.

4 20.06.1992
Endsleigh, Milton Abbot.

5 26.06.1993
All Hallows School, Rousdon.

6 09.06.1994
Stover School, Newton Abbot.

7 30.06.1995
The Manor House Hotel,
Mortonhampstead.

8 29.06.1996
Castle Hill, Filleigh, Barnstaple.

9 05.07.1997
Ugbrooke House, Chudleigh.

10 04.07.1998
Dartington Hall, Totnes.

11 26.06.1999
Queens Building, University of Exeter.

12 24.06.2000
Castle Hill, Filleigh, Barnstaple.

13 23.06.2001
Ugbrooke House, Chudleigh.

14 06.07.2002
Bicton College, East Budleigh.

15 28.06.2003
Flete House, Ermington, Ivybridge

16 26.06.2004
Hartland Abbey, Hartland, Bideford.

17 25.06.2005
Southill, Chagford.

18 08.07.2006
Bicton College, East Budleigh.

19 30.06.2007
Wembury Village Hall, Plymouth.

20 20.09.2008
Castle Hill, Filleigh, Barnstaple.

The Way Forward



Mamhead Orangery, Kenton.' The home of Sir Malcolm Field, President of the Devon Gardens Trust'

On a wet bank holiday afternoon in May I sat down to read this excellent and most informative history of the Devon Garden Trust. Very quickly I forgot the weather and was captured; I realised that surviving for twenty years was a feat in itself but establishing a successful Trust a remarkable achievement. As you read the history you can appreciate why. Twenty years rolls off the tongue all too easily; it camouflages a huge amount of time spent by a few who guided the work and development of the Trust and the strong support from our loyal membership.

Our success stems firstly from those who had the vision and courage to set up the DGT and secondly the tireless effort by many who have given their time, energy, knowledge and passion to fulfil the objectives of the Trust. We are indebted to them and on behalf of the membership I thank them all.

We live in a wonderful county enhanced by a wealth of designed landscapes, parks and gardens, historic and modern, plus a rich heritage of nurseries and plant collections and there exists within our membership enormous interest in all of our activities. Recently the Council of Management approved a plan entitled 'The Way Forward' covering the next five years. It builds on the established strengths and reputation of the Trust. Our aim is to spread the activities and the research findings across the county to a much greater degree than hitherto and to study and document more of our unexplored horticultural heritage and legacy.

To do this we need more new members of all age groups from all walks of life to help the hard working core of current members and to spread further our recognised and respected activities to all parts of the county. Research shows that too many people are unaware of the Trust, we need to correct this. Nevertheless our future role remains as stated in 1988 to safeguard and enhance what we are privileged to have inherited. We owe it not only to our successors but also to our predecessors. All of us have a part to play in making the next 20 years even more successful. Huge thanks go to Judith Atkinson who has done so much research in preparing this valuable record of the Trust over the past 20 years.

Sir Malcolm Field

Acknowledgements

I have done my best to be as accurate as possible while writing this history and hope that it meets the approval of those who have worked so hard on behalf of the DGT over the years. Almost without exception I have been met with kindness, enthusiasm and encouragement from those I have approached for information and ideas. Many people have been generous with their time but in particular I would like to thank Michael Hickson, David Richardson, Steven Pugsley, Richard Soans, Joy Etherington, David Quicke, Todd Gray, Veronica Chesher, Rosemary Lauder and Madeleine Pickthorne for information on the early years of the Trust. John Clark provided detailed and useful material on conservation, David Quicke gave advice on finance and Eric Durrance for procedural guidance.

Thanks also to Lady Arran, Sir Malcolm Field, Carolyn Keep, Clare Greener and Jim Carter for providing photographs, to Cynthia Rowan for permission to use her print of Knightshayes and to the staff of the Devon Record Office who have been most helpful in giving access to the Trust Archive.

Carolyn Keep and Joy Williams have been endlessly patient, sharing their wide knowledge and giving so much help throughout the project. Without their support this History would not have been written.

A special mention must be given to the late Mary Clarke who although gravely ill welcomed me to her house and spent a morning talking to me about her long involvement with the Devon Gardens Trust. Her devotion to and influence on the Trust is well known and she will be long remembered with great affection and respect by those who worked with her.

Judith Atkinson
July 2008