

LEICESTERSHIRE  
AND RUTLAND  
GARDENS  
TRUST



[www.lrgt.org](http://www.lrgt.org)

# Newsletter

No 40 Autumn 2018

Registered Charity no. 1063075

## LRGT is 20, let's party!



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## Chairman's Notes

This year has been a momentous year with the celebration of our twentieth anniversary since the first public meetings of the Trust were held. We have come a long way since then with an expansion of both the program and in the range of activities that the Trust carries out. I would like to thank everyone who has been involved with the Trust past and present for your contributions and support. An especial thanks to all those who organised the Lunch at Hoby which proved a great success and was much appreciated by all those attending.

Looking forward, I am sure you will agree that we have another varied and interesting program of talks and outings for next year. Following a recent Committee meeting I am pleased to report that both the Education and Research groups are progressing well. We enter the next ten years of the Trust's life in a strong position and I look forward to seeing you all during the next year.

*Stephen Barker*

## Events

### Three plus one Garden Visits by Coach.

**Gunby Hall** in Lincolnshire is a William and Mary house surrounded by 1,500 acres of parkland, and is approached by avenues of lime and horse chestnut. The walled gardens are spectacular. There is a pergola garden with its apple tree walk and paths leading to beds of old roses, herbs, annual and herbaceous borders and a second walled kitchen garden reached by passing through more borders of roses and herbaceous plants. The effect was very beautiful but we could not enjoy as much as



we would have liked as it was freezing cold. The wind was bitter: the



Head Gardener told us it was one of the only times he could remember smelling the sea whilst in the garden. It was ten miles away and in May. That's how cold it was. I was sad about that because I think, had it been a much better day, we would have appreciated it much more. It seemed such a peaceful place. We did the house and for the first time, in years

of visiting country houses, it was the first time I had come across live music. In the music room, they had a pianist playing Schubert. .

From there, we went on to a smaller garden, **The Old Rectory**, in the nearby village of **East Keal**, situated in a fold of the Wolds with fine views, it is a rambling cottage garden, on different levels, which falls into natural areas with changing atmospheres. It has been created by Mrs Ruth



Ward and her husband (now deceased) Again I think we would have been better able to appreciate it had it not been so cold. The local WI supplied welcome tea and cake, but, never mind, we are living in a time of climate change so we will have to get used to the unusual weather patterns.



**Arley Hall Garden** in Cheshire stretches over 23 acres, but is renowned mainly for its herbaceous border which dates from before 1846 and is the earliest of its kind in the country. It was designed to give colour from June to September, which is why it was chosen for our August visit. At one end is a

classical pavilion which provides a focal point and a seat from which the border can be viewed. Many of the plants are varieties which were used 100 years ago. We were given a fulsome garden tour by the Head Gardener who was able to explain in great detail how the border was maintained and kept its interest over the season, particularly after such a dry summer. For example, only certain plants each year are divided, so that, one year, it maybe the sedums and the following year something else. Unlike most of us with our dried up gardens Arley has its water supply from a nearby lake, so, in one of the driest summers for a long time, the herbaceous border at Arley looked fantastic.

We also did a tour of the house, which is an example of the early Victorian Jacobean style. Each room has elaborate panelling and plaster-work together with porcelain and paintings. It has been owned by the same family since it was built, and the present Viscount Ashbrook lives there, and, according to the Head Gardener, plays an active part in the management of the garden.

**Woburn Abbey** is just stuffed with paintings, porcelain, silver and furniture plus the present Duke's collection of silver toast racks. Who would have known that so many could exist? I think the contents must overshadow some of the collections in some of our public museums.

It has an important art collection, perhaps the most notable being the Rembrandt, The Armada Portrait of Queen Elizabeth I and 24 Canalettos in the very beautiful dining room The Grotto Room at the

end of the house tour is a surprise, as we are accustomed to finding grottos somewhere in the park.

We went to Woburn as 2018 is the bicentenary of the death of Humphrey Repton, the last of the 18th century landscape architects. As I was sitting on the coach on the way to Woburn, I found myself wondering if I would easily recognise a Repton landscape from a



Brown landscape. The visitor entrance at Woburn is about two miles from the Abbey, so that sitting in a coach one has an excellent view of the landscape and happily I could recognise the difference. It could not have been a better introduction to the Repton Landscape. He was given the commission by the 6<sup>th</sup> Duke to

draw up a landscape scheme for the park as a whole and, by 1805, the result was Repton's finest Red Book containing his proposals, which were a triumph. They comprised a group of linked but separate areas of garden including an American and Chinese garden, a rosary, a menagerie, long gone (Early echoes of the Safari Park!) and an aviary, which is still there. Stephen gave us a comprehensive tour of the garden pointing out its important features. We saw The Chinese Laundry, the bog garden, the Chinese garden with tunnel, bridge and rockery, the cane walk, the maze etc. We finished up in the Camellia House, the walled garden (not original) and the stable yard. I am failing here to do Stephen's walk and commentary justice, but there is just so much. My lasting memories are of the vistas through the avenues of beautiful old trees, absolutely marvellous.

It was an interesting day and I was pleased all went well, as we welcomed a couple of new Friends to The Trust. Thanks are due again to Stephen for his excellent commentary and tour. We will just have to invite him back another day.

## **The Anniversary Lunch - July 2018**

We decided to celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of The Trust with a lunch for Friends in Hoby Village Hall (our second home). This was chosen for obvious reasons: Steve and Diane are on site and have lots of experience with events in the hall. I think Diane probably knows the kitchen as well as her own. Most of us knew we could recommend Mrs Bridges to cater, I had a friend who could provide music, Steve a contact in the village who could advise on a commemorative brochure and everyone had lots of photographs to remind us of events and trips of the last twenty years. We also knew the wine buyer in Waitrose, whom we hoped would get us a deal on a good prosecco, which we did. The hall also has the advantage of a small garden with views over the Wreake Valley, where the band could play and where we could have our pre- lunch drinks if the weather was good. Little did we know then how the summer was to turn out.

And it all went like clockwork. Inside the hall, long trestle tables, covered with gleaming white tablecloths and generous vases of flowers looked ready for a feast. Drinks and canapés were served outside where the sun shone and the band played on a beautiful English summer's day.

Mrs Bridges provided a lovely lunch with an assortment of cold meats, quiches and exceptional salads followed by choice desserts. At the end of the meal, the commemorative brochures were distributed. These came as a pleasant surprise and caused a great deal of interest. When we were in the walled garden at Upton Castle, Joan Hands suggested that it might be a good idea to have a memory book, in which Friends could record their memories of The Trust. This was also circulated and entries made. It will be available at all our meetings. We had decided that we did not want pompous speeches but that our Chairman should say a few words and that someone should do the same on behalf of the Friends. Stephen and Rowan struck the exactly the right note with their totally non pompous words. We still had a treat in store with our “in

house poet”. Paul always entertains us on the last evening of the holidays with one of his poems and I really wanted him to bring our celebration to a close, on a high note, with one to mark the occasion. A big ask. He did and it was great, see below - a perfect ending, I was just so pleased that he agreed to do it. There was a postscript: Grant, founder member and first chairman stood up and thanked Steve personally for the preparation of the commemorative brochure; he was delighted with it.

A happy day and before 5.00 pm, with the help of Friends, the Hall was completely restored to order and ready for the next group, yoga classes etc. Grateful thanks are more than due to all those helped to make this such a memorable event, the caterers, Mrs Bridges, the trio: Peter Hautman (keyboard), Paula Robinson (bass), Nick Hislam (sax), and everyone else who helped to make it such a lovely event. However particular thanks are due to Steve and Diane, their experience with other events in Hoby Village Hall really was the icing on the cake and a major contribution to this memorable event.

## THE LRGT AT 20

When Elizabeth, who we know simply **can't** be refused,  
Said 'Paul, I think we'd be mildly amused  
If you wrote us an anniversary verse'  
I uttered a quiet, involuntary curse.

'Now I don't want you writing anything rude  
Like 'there was a young man from..., that can be quite crude.  
I was thinking of something ..... pastoral, lyrical'  
I replied 'that'll be nothing short of a miracle'

'I simply can't write proper poems, I fear  
With simile, metaphor, onomatopoeia.

If it's something that's bouncy and with a good rhyme  
I can knock that sort out in pretty quick time'

But much as I dithered, deflected, demurred  
Elizabeth would **not** be denied or deterred.  
So here is my effort, which I hope will amuse  
Though I fear it reads more like Pam Ayres than Ted Hughes.

In the 20 year life of our dear Gardens Trust  
To all manner of earthly delights we've been bussed.  
Met designers, head gardeners, and plant breeders too,  
Then patiently waited in line for the loo.

We've met gardeners who don't let the landscape defeat 'em,  
Or spend fortunes on planting their own arboretum,  
Or dedicate lives to particular flowers,  
Or build follies, Greek temples and bloody great towers!

We've seen parterres and terraces, arbours and urns  
Woodlands and river banks, hostas and ferns  
Dry gravel gardens, damp boggy places  
Wild flower meadows and wide open spaces.

We've seen landscapes designed with great capability,  
Toured country estates of the English nobility.  
Gazed in wonder at snowdrops that brighten dark days,  
Walked among roses in warm fragrant haze.

We've admired great examples of arboriculture,  
Not to mention the odd piece of Soviet sculpture!  
We've marvelled at feats of hydraulic engineering  
And coach-driver Robert's immaculate steering.



We've filled entire coaches with purchases made.  
Plants for patios, pergolas, sunshine and shade.  
But when we get home and gaze at our plot  
We've no blooming space, so we buy a new pot!

But there's more to the Trust than just garden excursions.  
There's a whole list of other delightful diversions:  
Old market towns where we take guided walks,  
A varied selection of lectures and talks.

The celebrity lecture provides inspiration,  
**And** funds we can channel to local education.  
Funding projects in schools, and opening to young minds  
To the wonders of nature and plants of all kinds.

The research groups flourish, under Sue's tender care,  
Documenting the walled kitchen gardens out there.  
They study old records, and pore over maps  
Then contact the owners to fill in the gaps.

There's the phone call 'good morning, I do beg your pardon  
But please can we visit your walled kitchen garden?  
It's now just a pig farm? Oh dear, that's a shame  
But we'd still like to have a look round all the same.'

We're lucky to have such a brilliant Committee.  
(I've no time to rhyme all of their names, more's the pity).  
They're so good at performing the roles they're expected  
That year after year they are all re-elected.

Most of all we are grateful to Elizabeth Bacon  
For her energy, drive and the time that she's taken

To unearth and arrange horticultural delights,  
Sampling tea rooms, testing fruit cakes or savoury bites.

So Elizabeth, I hope that this struck the right tone  
With nothing too risqué or near to the bone.  
Now, three cheers for the wonderful LRGT  
And long may it flourish, like a sturdy oak tree.

*Paul Knight*

We were pleased the Friends enjoyed the anniversary celebration and thank people for their appreciative comments. Here is just one of them.

*Dear Elizabeth*

*We are writing to congratulate you and fellow members of the Organising Committee, along with the volunteers who assisted you, for organising such a perfectly judged celebration on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the LRGT.*

*The Trust is a model of social interaction at its best. The eclectic programme of talks and visits enhances awareness and understanding of values and perspectives underpinning the role of gardens in our culture.*

*The LRGT has put down deep roots and we are sure it will flourish for many years to come*

*John and Pat Woodliffe*

## Holiday to SW Wales

In September 2016, I went on holiday to Carmarthenshire. It was the first time I had been to South West Wales and I absolutely loved it. I knew of the National Botanic Garden of Wales and Aberglasny, but not much else about gardens in that area. Nevertheless, I did think that those two important gardens could form the core of the Gardens Trust holiday for 2018. There was the added advantage that we would have the sea as well. Living where we do, I think we all feel a longing for the sea once in a while.

I started by contacting The Welsh Garden Trust who told me that we must, without fail, include Picton Castle and Upton Castle. This was an excellent start. Veddww came through Jan Lee and Tim Richardson, Dyffryn Fernant was in Gardens Illustrated and Cae Hir, I found on line.



The problem with Carmarthenshire and Pembroke is that they do seem to be a long way away, particularly if you call at **Veddww** on route, which we did. This garden is set above Tintern Abbey in the very beautiful Wye valley. The first things one notices about this garden are the well maintained,

curving hedges which divide the garden into smaller gardens and create a harmonious whole with the house and surrounding hills. These small gardens are all different and one is not sure what to expect. For example, in one, there was just a reflecting pool, which was quite perfect. Plants have freedom to spread and some, which many would regard as weeds, are given space. It was created by Anne Wareham, who is a garden writer, contributing to various magazines. Her published books include *The Bad Tempered Gardener*, and she describes herself “as a thorn in the flesh of the gardening

establishment". I can see that this is reflected in her rather idiosyncratic garden. From the description I had expected something more formal, but what I found was much more interesting.

Then it was on to South West Wales. It was a long drive and I could feel even our splendid driver, Robert, beginning to lose patience after miles of hilly and twisty roads. I sat there and thought that perhaps this was not such a good idea after all and the lesser known gardens would be a great disappointment after previous holidays.

I think we all began to feel better, having dinner in the hotel dining room with its 180 degree view of the sea and looking forward to the gardens.



Sue and I had been in the previous October and we took into consideration that, in the following June, the gardens should be at their best. I was totally surprised, they all looked so much better than either of us could have imagined. **Picton Castle** is set in 40 acres of woodland, is a partner garden for the RHS and has one of

the best collections of trees, shrubs and plants in Wales. The walled garden is magnificent, Grade 2 listed. The large beds are abundantly planted with summer flowering plants, roses, herbs and shrubs. Some of the back sheds remain, one of which houses a fernery. The walls are topped with Coade stone pineapples and there is a magnificent iron work gate and railings. As you can imagine our interest was mainly with the walled garden, so we did not get to see quite as much as we would have liked. We had a tour of the castle before lunch in the surprisingly themed Spanish restaurant.

**Upton Castle** is medieval and set in 35 acres of wood land which contain a collection of rare, old and magnificent trees. There is also a traditional rose garden, herbaceous borders and, of course, an early 19th century large walled garden, well used for its original purpose. There is also a medieval chapel which predates the castle, has interesting stone effigies and is still in use. A really good day in spite of damp weather which, I think, added to the atmosphere of these two gardens, with their old trees, damp smelling earth and the feeling of sea in the air.



The next day was **Cae Hir**. This is an interesting garden created by a Dutchman, Wil Akkermans over the last 35 years. It was originally a small holding set on a relatively steep slope. Wil comes from a Dutch horticultural family and settled in Wales after marrying a Welsh girl. He set to work by just walking the site and, having decided on what to do, he set to work with just hand tools and did everything himself. Building walls, heaving stone up hill in just a wheel barrow, creating beds and then planting. Quite an amazing feat (just as well his wife is a Physiotherapist I thought) One starts the garden from the bottom of the slope: there does not seem to be an obvious plan. One just wanders slowly up the garden and is constantly surprised by the plantings and views of the surrounding hills: natural eye catchers. The variety of plants and trees are too many to mention, but there are trees, shrubs and roses, all of which sit well with each



other. This garden is a remarkable achievement in 35 years and is an RHS partnership garden.

This is very much a family business, the son and daughter are now in charge, the former, the gardener, and the latter looks after the tearoom and business affairs. Mr Akkermans himself is not in good health but walks the garden and is happy to chat.

In the afternoon we went to Aberaeron for a walk by the sea, a visit to the shops and the inevitable tea and cake in a good deli.

Aberglasny and Dyffryn Fernant are equal to some of the highest rated gardens in the British Isles. **Aberglasny** is a more traditional garden and has everything. A sunken garden, bog garden, two walled gardens: one kitchen, one pleasure, a sort of rose walk, woodland, a yew tunnel and wonderful views of the surrounding countryside, with what only can be described as exquisite plantings in all the various beds. Records show that there has been a garden here since the middle of the 15th century. After years of neglect it has been lovingly restored in the latter part of the 20th century. Sue and I were very fortunate to stay there when we did the recce visit. The Head Gardener, Thomas Atkin, is responsible for much of the planting and his mother actually made an improvement to one of Penelope Hobhouse's, designs in the walled garden.



Then on to **Dyffryn**: totally different and can be described, I think, as a 21st century garden. There are a series of small gardens extending outwards from a pink cottage, which are closely planted with vibrant colours, leading on to a bog garden and then into the Presceli Hills, without interruption. Christina Shand, the creator of this adventurous garden has had to deal with lack of topsoil, rock, marsh and bog. You will be able to hear all about it at our Hobby tea next April. She will do it more justice than I ever can.



The last day and last garden was **The National Botanic Garden of Wales**. I have been intrigued by this, as its fortune floundered in the early years of its creation, but money was found and it is still there in Carmarthenshire and a credit to Wales.

As a Botanic garden, its role is to inspire, research and educate and this it does with a series of themed gardens, skilfully designed. However, for me, the centrepiece is the Norman Foster designed, single span greenhouse. It is the World's largest and holds what must be the very best display of Mediterranean plants in the northern hemisphere. However, one is just not prepared for the effect on entering. It is dazzling with the sight and scent of what must be thousands of plants and the beauty of the building itself. I have to say, it did bring tears to my eyes - just wonderful. A further design



feature which I particularly enjoyed was the rill, which ran gently down the natural slope of the garden to the entrance.

This was an excellent finish to our Welsh holiday and Robert was particularly pleased with himself as he managed to get us back to Leicester on a Friday afternoon without any major delays.

When we were organising the holiday, the hotel did offer entertainment in the evenings, a harpist, bingo, a quiz and a singer. I politely said I thought we could do without, not realizing that there would be another group staying. We managed to ignore the quiz, the harpist was delightful and the singer got us all on our feet, dancing, so it all added to the fun. However, on the final evening we were on our own and I pointed out that we had our personal poet with us for that evening. Paul was great; he managed to create a piece using just Welsh place names. It was funny, clever, entertaining and much better than Bingo.

Several of you have said that it was one of the best, if not the best of our holidays and, on writing this, I think I agree. Thanks are due Paul Winson Coaches, Jackie at Success and all of you who came for making it such an enjoyable holiday. Hope to see you in Kent next year.

## **Celebrity Lecture September 2018.**

We were delighted to welcome **Professor Nigel Dunnett**, Professor of Planting Design and Vegetation Technology at The University of Sheffield, to give our annual Celebrity Lecture.

To quote him: *“I specialise in planting design as an art form, applying ecological designs to create uplifting, dynamic, dramatic landscapes - an essential to introduce exciting plants into cities and urban landscapes to meet the challenges of climate change and urbanisation”*



This is what he has done, very successfully. Especially renowned for his work with wild flower planting, he described how, as a child he had a precocious interest in horticulture and, at the same time, a love of the English landscape. He began to realise that these two passions could be combined, wild flowers could be used in garden design, particularly in urban areas. He began by planting wild flower meadows in the urban estates of Sheffield and by the verges of major city roads. We were shown lovely photographs of children running through these meadows as if they were in the very heart of the country.



As his ideas became well known he was asked to design the gardens for the Olympic Park. His sponsors became rather alarmed when there was only bare earth to be seen in May and secretly they had turf in reserve should the flowers not appear. Of course they did and were magical. His experimental work in Sheffield led to the creation of the company, Pictorial Meadows, producing seed mixes for gardeners to develop their own naturalistic plantings. Important principles in his mixes were that there should be no more than three flower species flowering at one time and that the flowering period could be extended to September by adding late flowering perennial species to the mix. This is important in encouraging this form of planting to be used in urban areas. His influence in the horticultural world has been enormous. In the last twenty years, his designs can be found in many important parks and gardens, eg, Trentham Gardens, the gardens at The Barbican, the John Lewis Water Garden and at the London Wetlands Centre and his ideas are emulated in lots of small domestic gardens up and down the country. As one of the innovators in the world of garden design and planting, he now holds a very important place in our list of speakers over the years. His lecture was excellent and afterwards, over drinks The Friends were

most enthusiastic. I would like to invite him back to Leicester to talk about his work concerning the environment.

We made £484 for the Education Group. He also decided to reduce his fee and did not charge for travel. A truly good egg.

*. Elizabeth Bacon*

## Education

On the 21st of May 27 pupils from Hazel Primary School, together with members of staff, visited Kelmarsh Walled Kitchen Garden. The visit included a tour of the walled kitchen garden to identify a range of vegetables, a bug hunt and an artistic activity. The weather was beautiful and everyone enjoyed themselves. One child was heard to say ‘this is the best day of my life.’



During the year John Ferneley College received a grant of £500 to develop a garden with raised beds, and a greenhouse. The purpose of the garden is to provide a space, not only for practical science, but also for the emotional wellbeing of all.



In October 900 daffodil bulbs were purchased and distributed to 15 schools in the City and County.

*Judith Hibbert*

## **Membership.**

As we begin our 21st year of the Gardens Trust we have 127 members and, as yet, we have no new members for 2018-19. However we are early in our new membership year and I am sure we shall soon see more new faces. By the end of last year we had a total of 155 members with 21 new ones - boosted by the lecture by Tim Richardson on the "Gardens of the Oxford Colleges" and splendid tea in Hoby Village Hall.

Once again most of these new members are friends and neighbours of our membership. The sharing of a common interest and enthusiasm for gardens and fine landscapes is an ever rewarding part of our time in the Gardens Trust and as a result nearly all of our new members last year are friends of Friends, The new members bring new perspectives and new ideas and so we prosper.

So I must thank you for making my role so much easier and ask you to continue your good work,

*Irene Jones*  
Membership Secretary

## **Research**

A cluster of new sites which had walled kitchen gardens have emerged in the area around Market Harborough. These belonged to wealthy Victorian industrialists who built large houses in that district. This brings the total number of sites that we have identified up to 88. We have now researched 24 of these, with 14 as "work in progress". Since the spring, we have published research on Market Bosworth Hall, Braunstone Hall and Skeffington Hall.

In the last Newsletter, we wrote about "The Secret Garden Project" at Glenfield Hospital and their planned application to the Heritage Lottery Fund. We provided them with a statement of significance to support

their application but, sadly, their “Development Phase Grant Application” has not been successful in this round. However, all is not lost, as one of the Lottery Committee members has requested a visit to the garden, along with two other representatives from the Heritage Lottery Fund. They will be discussing the feedback from the application with a view to strengthening the grant application for the next round in June 2019. The Glenfield team feels that they would not be visiting and offering support if there wasn’t genuine interest in the project. We have offered to support them in whatever way we can and will be meeting with Glenfield’s Fundraising Manager later in November.

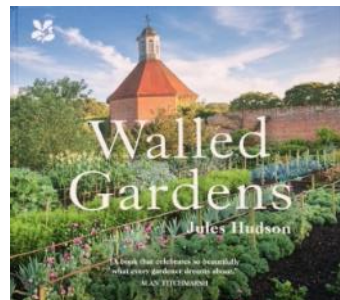
During the summer, we held a meeting with members of the Cambridgeshire Gardens Trust, who have also embarked on a Walled Kitchen Garden research project and who are in an earlier stage than us. Their project is headed up by Twigs Way, who gave our Spring Lecture on “Ernest (Chinese) Wilson. We felt it was a very successful day and we were able to share our research experiences and information with them. We plan to meet up for a site visit sometime during the winter months.

*Sue Blaxland*

## **Book Review: Walled Gardens by Jules Hudson**

This book, by archaeologist Jules Hudson, is a recent publication by The National Trust and follows in the footsteps of Susan Campbell’s “A History of Kitchen Gardening”, that bible of writing on walled gardens.

In his introduction the author talks about his fascination with walled gardens: spaces which have required hard work and yet seem enchanted, away from the real world, and, once entered, produce feelings of calm and tranquillity.



The walled garden of the past developed to such an extent that not only did they produce fruit, flowers and vegetables for the large country house but became places of scientific endeavour with the development of large heated glass houses to produce exotic fruits and flowers.

It is well set out with two main parts. The first deals with gardens through history and the anatomy of walled gardens, i.e. key features and how to spot them - for example bricks. Bricks were expensive prior to the mid-nineteenth century and were taxed, a symbol of wealth for the owner. However, when the tax was lifted, brick manufacturing became more mechanised and there was an explosion in the use of bricks in Victorian architecture. This can then help to date the walled garden. It is easy to access various features in a walled garden such as serpentine walls, hot walls, shelter belts, etc. The second part of the book is concerned with exploring walled gardens and looking at particular features and changes through the centuries up until the present day and into the future.

The book is beautifully produced with lavish photography of some of the most beautiful and productive gardens throughout the British Isles. I would love to visit Gordon Castle in Moray in Scotland for example, having seen the photographs.

I do recommend this book, for those interested in walled gardens but also to those who regularly visit gardens but are not very knowledgeable. It would just make any visit more interesting and the visitor aware of just how marvellous the Walled Kitchen Garden can be for the production of vegetables, fruit, exotics and cutting flowers.

Published by The National Trust    ISBN    978-1-909881-196-9

*Elizabeth Bacon*

## LRGT Events 2019

Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup> January <i>own transport</i>	<b>Winter Lunch Neville Arms Medbourne</b>
Saturday 16 <sup>th</sup> February <i>coach trip</i>	<b>Return trip to Thenford, Banbury, preceded by lunch at The Red Lion</b>
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>AGM &amp; Spring Lecture</b> <i>"Small Creatures that Keep us Alive"</i> <b>Speaker: Matt Shardlow, CEO of Buglife</b> <b>Venue: Leicester Bowling Club,</b> <b>AGM 7.00 p.m. Lecture 7.30 p.m.</b>
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> April	<b>Sunday Afternoon Lecture &amp; Tea</b> <i>"Between a Bog and a Hard Rock"</i> <b>Speaker: Christina Shand,</b> <b>Dyffryn Fernant, Pembrokeshire</b> <b>Venue: Village Hall, Hoby 2.00 p.m.</b>
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> May <i>coach trip</i>	<b>Bramham Park House &amp; Gardens</b>
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> June	<b>A day in Winwick village, Northants,</b> <b>to include Winwick Manor Gardens,</b> <b>a tour of house, Church and lunch.</b>
19 <sup>th</sup> - 23 <sup>rd</sup> June Mon. - Friday	<b>5 day holiday to Kent Gardens,</b> <b>staying at Eastbourne</b>
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> July <i>coach trip</i>	<b>Stockton Bury Gardens</b> <b>&amp; Hampton Court Castle, Herefordshire</b>

Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup> August <i>own transport</i>	<b>Sunday afternoon/early evening visit to Spring Barrow Farm Long Horn Cattle followed by a Mrs Bridges picnic and a visit to the art gallery</b>
Saturday 17 <sup>th</sup> August <i>own transport</i>	<b>Hoby Village Walk followed by a pub lunch</b>
Tuesday 10th September	<b>Annual Lecture Speaker: Kim Wilkie, Landscape Architect Ken Edwards Lectur Theatre University of Leicester 7.30 p.m.</b>
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> September <i>coach trip</i>	<b>The Old Rectory, Sudborough and Boughton House, Northamptonshire</b>
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> October	<b>Autumn Lecture Speaker: Peter Tyldesley, Director, Bradgate Park Trust Venue: Leicester Bowling Club 7.30 p.m.</b>
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> November	<b>Friends Evening Venue: Leicester Bowling Club Kenwood Road, Leicester LE2 3PL 7.30 p.m.</b>

### Useful Contact Numbers

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The 20th Anniversary lunch at Hoby,  
July 2018