



## NORFOLK GARDENS TRUST

Minutes of the Norfolk Gardens Trust Annual General Meeting  
held on Saturday 23 April 2016 at Kirby Bedon Church

The President, Lord Walpole, welcomed members and guests

- 1 **Apologies for absence**  
Apologies were received from 16 members
  
- 2 **Minutes of the 27<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting held on 25 April 2015**  
The minutes were signed as a correct record of the meeting.
  
- 3 **Matters Arising**  
There were no matters arising from the minutes.

#### **4 Chairman's Report**

The Chairman, Matthew Martin, thanked members for attending the meeting and the hosts for the day, Mr & Mrs Peter de Bunsen for opening their garden for which we are all very appreciative.

Jenny Dyer has joined the committee to look after the website in conjunction with David King and Brian Ellis. Members were encouraged to look on the website for any information they may require.

MM advised that Janet Johnston, a long standing member of the committee, was retiring this year. During her time on the committee she had taken on responsibility for the newsletter which is a most demanding role. MM thanked her for all the hard work and a small token of appreciation was presented by the President.

Other members of the committee who gave their time so generously were also thanked; as well as owners of gardens who opened them for members and their guests to enjoy.

Under the leadership of the Vice Chairman, Sally Bate, the Trust hoped to publish a book this year entitled "Capability Brown in Norfolk" to coincide with the nationwide Launcelot Brown celebrations to mark the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his birth. A great deal of volunteer time has been spent on this project with new information and images coming to light.

MM mentioned the untimely death of Will Giles who had created a truly wonderful garden with its magnificent tree house and exotic planting.

Two projects have been grant aided using money from the most valuable Tate Bequest: £8,305 to How Hill for the restoration of the rose garden which is well worth a visit, and £5,000 to the University of East Anglia towards the not insubstantial cost of restoration of the Dutch parterre garden and long herbaceous border behind Earlham Hall; the Trust is still in discussion with the University on the execution of this work.

And finally, particular thanks to Karen Moore for providing the refreshments today, without which no garden visit would be complete.

The President thanked MM for his report.

#### **5 Treasurer's Report**

A copy of the Receipts & Payments Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2015 had been sent to members. The accounts were accepted.

Peter Woodrow, the Treasurer, explained that to date £1,133.25 has been received in royalties for the Norfolk Gardens and Designed Landscape book at approximately £1.80 per copy sold.

## 6 **Membership Secretary's Report**

The Membership Secretary, Anthony Stimpson, reported that membership at 31 March 2016 stood at 527 in the following categories:-

Single members	182
Joint members	314
Life members	29
Corporate members	2

This is an increase of 33 over the previous year.

The NGT continues to be one of the largest Garden Trusts. In the past we have mailed information to those members without email but with the increasing amount of information this has become impossible and it has been decided that in future all information will be emailed and is also available on the website.

The President Lord Walpole thanked AS for his report and proposed that it be adopted. This was unanimously agreed.

## 7 **Election of the Executive Committee**

The President Lord Walpole proposed that the committee as set out below be elected en bloc.

Matthew Martin	Chairman
Sally Bate	Vice Chairman
Anthony Stimpson	Membership Secretary
Peter Woodrow	Treasurer
Peter de Bunsen	
Jenny Dyer	
Graham Innes	
Joanne Kidd	
Roger Last	
Karen Moore	
Sue Roe	

Seconded by Clare Maris. These appointments were unanimously agreed.

## **8 Appointment of Independent Examiner**

The Treasurer, Peter Woodrow, stated that Robert Collin had carried out a full audit at a very reasonable cost and proposed that RC be appointed for a further year. All agreed.

## **9 Kirby Bedon Churches and The Old Rectory**

Peter de Bunsen advised that there was certainly a church on the site before the Vikings invaded. Both the current church buildings, St Andrew's and St Mary's, are dated 1140. St Mary's was in the ownership of Langley Abbey until the dissolution of the monasteries when it became a sister church of St Andrew's. St Mary's is currently in need of stabilisation so that it can once again be used for concerts. St Andrew's was refurbished in Victorian times.

The Old Rectory was substantially upgraded in 1725 by the vicar of the day. The garden has evolved over the last 28 years under the care of Peter and Mrs de Bunsen with the help of garden designer, Tessa Hobbs. Peter is particularly proud of his cloud box.

The meeting closed at 2.30pm.

Members enjoyed tea and cakes and a tour of the garden.