

NORFOLK GARDENS TRUST

CHAIRMANS REPORT 2018

As with previous years this year has been a busy one for the committee.

in addition to the garden visits and winter lectures, and looking back possibly, the highlight was a trip taken by 30+ members to see Sir Roy Strong's garden at The Laskett in Herefordshire. He was there to greet us and was his usual amusing self. The garden he and his late wife Julia Trevelyan created was described as the Sissinghurst of the late twentieth century. in my view not quite right, but an interesting promotion of a couple who were at the centre of the arts in England in the latter part of that century.

We took in 4 other gardens on our way there and back, hugely different in style and content but embracing contrasting features, giving the group the opportunity of considering their preferences. Our sincere thanks go to our events organiser Karen Moore. I wonder whether we can persuade her to take us on another such trip to look at gardens we may know about, but have perhaps not had the opportunity to visit

As i hope most of you may recall, the NGT received a few years ago a substantial bequest from the late Mr and Mrs Tate. The bulk of this was invested to produce an income which is currently being used to fund a scholarship to a masters graduate at the UEA. The next recipient is Isabella Roche, her topic being the attitudes to early geometric gardens in Norfolk during the height of the "landscape park " craze of the late 18th century . We hope she will be coming to talk to us at next year's AGM.

Looking forward - on the 29th May we are publishing a book entitled ' Humphry Repton in Norfolk'. 2018 is of course the 200th anniversary of the death of Humphry Repton, who is buried at St. Michaels church at Alysham. This publication is the result of a huge amount of work by our vice chairman Sally Bate who lead a research group of some 10 volunteers. This is the second publication for which Sally has been responsible and our sincerest congratulations and thanks go to her in particular and to her team. This book is being launched at St. Michaels church at Aylsham at 6.30pm on the 29th may . Everyone is welcome.

Also looking forward there is a National Conference at the beginning of June entitled "Repton – a prophet in his own country" to be held in north Norfolk . Again, this has been organised by Karen Moore and such is the interest that places on it were sold out very quickly.

And if that wasn't enough we are throwing a party to celebrate the 30th anniversary of our establishment as a charity. This is to be held on 6th July at Sheringham Hall by courtesy of Paul Doyle and Gergeley Battha-Pajor. Some tickets are still available so please contact Carol Keene who is very nobly organising it -you received a sheet of paper with the most recent mailing. if you have lost it you will find her contact email address on the last page of the most recent news.

Moving on, we have just launched our new website. We hope you like it. I would like to pay tribute to both David King and Brian Ellis who've masterminded our old site for many years without cost to the trust. Thank you both.

Please look at our new website for all details of forthcoming events.

With well over 500 members the NGT is the second largest County garden trust in England, second only to London. This results, in my view, in a very vibrant organisation with a huge amount of work being undertaken by committee members and others. In addition to those I have mentioned in this report our thanks also go to Tony Stimpson, our membership secretary, Peter Woodrow, our treasurer, Jenny Dyer, our website co-ordinator , Sue Roe and Clive Lloyd who edit, with enormous talent, our half yearly publication which henceforth we will be calling the Magazine, Karen Rosebery, our designer who again undertakes her highly professional work at no cost to the trust , Roger Lloyd, our secretary and to all the others on the committee.

Over the years I have been involved in a number of not for profit organisations in Norfolk and in my view your committee is the best of the bunch– but please don't tell the others !

I will be pleased to answer any questions or receive any comments.

Finally, at the end of this meeting there is a talk by Rod Stokes on the history of "Carrow Priory" and the Colman family