

Norfolk Gardens Trust

Summer Newsletter 2020

We have missed you!

The Norfolk Gardens Trust Committee is sending out this newsletter as an interim communication between our Spring and Autumn Magazine editions. The NGT Committee have been holding meetings via the medium of Zoom – had anyone heard of Zoom before March 2020? It has not been possible for everyone to participate, due to technical or signal strength issues, but soon we plan to meet up in person, at a suitable venue – maybe even *en plein air*! We hope this finds you well and coping in these unusual times and, until we see you again, thank you for your continuing support. Please do visit our website (www.norfolkgt.org.uk) and in the meantime, here is the news from the Norfolk Gardens Trust.



Houghton Walled Garden

NGT cancellations due to Covid-19 safety concerns

We were disappointed our 2020 AGM, at Stow Bardolph Church and Stow Gardens, was cancelled and we are planning to reschedule the meeting component at one of our autumn talks. The good news is that the 2021 AGM will go ahead at Stow on Saturday 24th April so you will get an opportunity to visit this garden developed over the past 500 years for the Hare Family. Similarly, the owners of Elmham House and Wretham Lodge, who we were due to visit in May and June, have kindly agreed to host us next year.

After careful consideration we have taken the hard decision to cancel both our 25th June visit to Wolterton Hall and 18th July visit to Swafeld Hall and Antingham Lodge. We are in discussion with the owners to reschedule these garden visits to next summer when we will be able to welcome you properly and provide our scrumptious refreshments.

Our summer events are always popular with our members and we appreciate that you will miss not being able to enjoy the gardens and meet up with each other. We would like to thank the garden owners for their generosity in extending their invitations to next year. Karen Moore, being the efficient events coordinator that she is, already had additional visits lined up for 2021, therefore, it will be a bumper year for our members to look forward to!

Planning Applications

The Gardens Trust (TGT), as statutory consultees for any planning applications which fall within 2 km of a Historic England Grade 1, 2* or 2 Registered Park or Garden, has seen no decline in the rate of applications being sent to them from across England, despite council offices being closed and staff working from home. Norfolk Gardens Trust receives the weekly applications' list, and since March there haven't been any proposals affecting Norfolk's Registered Parks and Gardens – or at least not that we know of. Sadly, not all our District Council planning teams send their relevant applications to TGT which is where we need members to keep vigilant and let us know if they think something is proposed which may affect a Registered Park or Garden.

Norfolk Gardens Trust can also comment upon planning applications that may affect non-Registered historic gardens. Over the past few weeks our Planning Officer, Peter Woodrow, has written our considered responses regarding the proposed two-storey parking area at County Hall (former Repton site), an extension to a care home at Brooke House and a conversion of a stable block at Shotesham Park. Most recently, Peter has registered NGT's continued objection to an application, now the subject of an appeal, for the garden at Koolunga House in Gorleston.

We were pleased to receive news that Historic England is considering making the garden at Ketts Castle Villa on St Leonard's Road, Norwich, a Registered Garden. This 1856 house was built for Norwich School artist John

Berney Ladbrooke who undoubtedly chose this site because of the panoramic views of the city. Ladbrooke established a steep garden here, utilising fragments of Medieval masonry from nearby St Michael's Chapel or St Leonard's Priory. The last garden owner collected sculptures in the 1950s, made by students at the Norwich School of Art and these were included in the house sale. It is the fabulous views and the connections with C19th and C20th Norwich artists that make this garden so significant.

Lastly, we wait to hear the result of the Anglia Square Inquiry. The Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, Robert Jenrick MP, has until 9th September to issue his decision. Thank you to everyone who wrote to Mr Jenrick to let him know the amount of local feeling against the proposed development. Certainly, it is a serious threat to Norwich's historic skyline, but it is also a landmark case for several other cities

NGT Research Group

The research group has been unable to meet since March with site visits and hands-on archive research not possible. Some members of the group have elected to carry on with their own online research into Norfolk Gardens 1837 – 1914. The remainder of the group has taken advantage of the remote training packages The Gardens Trust has been sending out at regular intervals since April. These packages are a substitute for the usual training events and County Garden Trusts meet ups held around the country. Subjects have ranged from 'Social Media and its Uses' to 'Writing Statements of Significance' to help planners and conservation officers understand the historic parks and gardens in their district.

The packages are available to everyone on The Gardens Trust website and the Research and Recording material will be equally useful to anyone investigating family, buildings, or local history and you can find them here: <http://thegardenstrust.org/conservation/hlp-hub/training-materials/>

Later in the summer there will be a series of free garden history talks you can join, using Zoom. For more details: <http://thegardenstrust.org/gardens-trusts-education-goes-online/>

Grants

Earlier in the year Tina Douglas had several applications come in from schools and one cooperative, for NGT small grants to support garden projects. Varying amounts were given to:

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| Long Stratton High School: | Seeds, plants & equipment for a bee-friendly garden and allotment. |
| St Clements Hill Primary Academy: | Plants for an allotment and wildflower garden. |
| North Lodge Pre-School, Cromer: | Tools, plants and wood for raised beds. |
| Taverham Junior School: | Plants, shrubs and 2 fruit trees for a wildlife garden. |
| Robert Kett Primary School: | Seeds and wood for raised beds for sensory and vegetable gardens. |
| Norwich Farm Share: | Seeds, fertilizer and plants to develop their new site at Whitlingham Nurseries. This community supported agriculture cooperative uses a green site to pass on gardening skills to children and adults and produce ecological food for the community. |

... and finally,

to engage with wider audiences and other organisations, we now have a Twitter account and were delighted to gain over 60 followers in the first 24 hours!

You can find and follow us: **@NorfolkGTrust**

As you can see, that like many of you, we have all been learning new technology over the past few months.

