Scotland's Garden and Landscape Heritage
Ninth Annual General Meeting, Saturday 31 August 2024
at Cambo Gardens, Fife

1. Welcome and Apologies

Bob welcomed everyone to this AGM at Cambo Gardens, the tenth for SGLH. He thanked Catherine Erskine for hosting the event.

Present:
Board members: Matt Benians, chair; Bob Luther, treasurer and acting secretary, Sarah Barron, Marilyn Brown, Fiona Gordon, Judy Riley.

Members**:** Anna Buxton, Catherine Erskine, Jean Harthill, Ann Harthill, Iain Jolliffe, Shiona Mackie, Marion Shawcross, Sheila Sim (minutes), David Simpson, Simon Stuart, John West.

Apologies:
Alison Allighan, Patricia Andrew, Chloe Bennett, Michael Bradnam, Ross Burgess, Peter Burman, Jane Butters, John Butters, Lesley Cumming, Adam Cumming, Harriet Devlin, Hugh Devlin, Christopher Dingwall, Peter Fitch, Adam Gillingham, Hilary Gunkel, Carol Jefferson-Davies, Lesley Kerr, Fiona MacKelvie, Peter Metcalfe, Barbara Morris, Katharine Prentice, Ann Steele, Freyda Taylor, Hannah Tweedie, John Whittall.

Proxies:
Alison Allighan, Patricia Andrew, Lesley Cumming, Adam Cumming, Carol Jefferson-Davies.

2. Election of a Chair for the meeting

Shiona Mackie proposed, and Anna Buxton seconded, the election of Matt Benians as Chair for the meeting.

3. Reports

Chair's Report
Matt Benians illustrated the achievements during the year 2023- 2024 with a PowerPoint Presentation.

GGEL recording project:

The project is in its third year. There are now 21 completed reports, of which 14 include statements of significance, with a further 13 reports in progress. Judy Riley noted that the steering group has now agreed a procedure for signing off these statements of significance. Three of the sites investigated to date might be added to the national inventory of designed landscapes. Funding from East Lothian Council will cover nine more reports. Matthew Benians noted his thanks to all the volunteers who have given their time to the project.

Conservation Advisor:

SGLH provides independent advice on Inventory and non-Inventory sites when requested by local planning authorities, Scottish Forestry and occasionally the Scottish Government, companies and private individuals. Since the last AGM SGLH has responded to:

- 7 enquiries from local authorities
- 14 enquiries from Scottish Forestry
- 12 enquiries from private companies/individuals

and attended one pre-planning case enquiry Dunmore Estate/The Pineapple.

Events

AHSS

Last year's lecture about designed landscapes of the recent past was given by Dr Julie Candy, Helen Bowman and Clare Sorensen from HES and me.

Blackie House Library and Museum visit in March 2024

After the success of last year's visit, Dr Bill Zachs again shared with us some of his antiquarian book collection.

Crawick Multiverse event

Visit in May. Guided tour of Crawick Multiverse, now in its 10th year and the most recent addition to the Inventory of Designed Landscapes and only example of a 21st Century designed landscape on the Inventory.

Thank you to Sarah who is on the events sub-committee.

The Pleasaunce

Issue no. 11 of The Pleasaunce was published in winter 2023 and focused on 20th century designed landscapes. Matt noted everyone's sincere thanks to Judy Riley, Editor.
Matt presented the findings from the recent survey of members (with thanks to David Lockhart for developing and collating the survey). There is a definite steer towards moving to digital format rather than hard copy, and a decision will be taken at the next board meeting on 18th September.

E-Newsletter

published in Spring and Summer, with a further edition due in the Autumn/Winter.
Thank you to Hannah and David for preparing the E-Newsletter.

Website

reminder to check the website for forthcoming events and also a reminder that the resources section includes past editions of The Pleasaunce, GG Guidance notes and conservation responses are published on the website.

Forthcoming events

SGLH Pomology study day at Megginch Castle, Errol on Saturday 26th October 2024.

This year's AHSS/SGLH Joint Lecture on Monday 11th November 2024 at Augustine United Church on George Fourth Bridge will be given by Professor David Munro, on Drumlanrig: the making of a ducal landscape.

4. Accounts

4.1Treasurer's report

Bob introduced the annual accounts. He noted the incorrect recording of some 2022 transactions due to an oversight by Treasurer. Key points from the accounts were:

- Total income £26,586, including £20,645 of restricted (grant) funds and £5,941 from subscriptions and other non-restricted sources
- Total expenditure £13,461, including £6,980 on GGEL project and £6,481 on regular activities
- Current balance of Vanessa Stephen Conservation Fund £8,620.20
- Current balance of GGEL Project account £5,570.45. ELC funding ends on 31 March 2025
- Bank charges relate to Stripe commission

The current membership stands at 146, including 34 life members, 102 annual members, one corporate member and nine students.

5. Elections of Trustees

5.1 Re-election of trustees

Two existing trustees were standing for re-election. Bob Luther was proposed by Sarah Barron and seconded by Catherine Erskine. Judy Riley was proposed by Shiona Mackie and seconded by John Bradshaw.
These two appointments maintain the Trustee numbers at nine, the full complement.

Bob Luther asked whether members were happy for him to continue as Acting Secretary as well as Treasurer. It was agreed that the Board would consider this issue, and that any new Secretary would need to come from among the trustees. Matthew Benians reminded members that they could always consider becoming a trustee.

6. Any Other Business

Members asked what might best be done with any funds freed up by moving The Pleasaunce to digital-only. It was generally agreed that more events, providing the opportunity to socialise, might be a way to increase membership numbers

Members were asked to suggest ideas about potential visits for next year.

The AGM was formally closed at 12.00 noon.

After lunch, Keri Ivins gave a short talk and guided walk around the estate, followed by a guided tour of the walled garden led by Katherine Taylor, Head Gardener.