

# SHROPSHIRE PARKS AND GARDENS TRUST

England & Wales · Charity number 1202152

## Details

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**Status** Registered

**Legal form** CIO

**Registered** 2023-03-02

**Register** [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

## Contact

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**Address** 24 Greenacre Road  
Shrewsbury  
SY3 8LR

**Phone** 01743 231033

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**Website** [shropshiregardens.org.uk](http://shropshiregardens.org.uk)

## Activities

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**Objects:** TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC IN THE ART AND SCIENCE OF PARKS AND GARDENS BY:A) PROMOTING THE UNDERSTANDING, CONSERVATION, PROTECTION, IMPROVEMENT AND RE-CREATION OF PARKS AND GARDENS AND DESIGNED LANDSCAPES; ANDB) PROMOTING FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC THE PRESERVATION, ENHANCEMENT AND RE-CREATION OF WHATEVER PARKS AND GARDENS AND DESIGNED LANDSCAPES MAY EXIST, OR HAVE EXISTED, IN AND AROUND THE PRESENT OR HISTORIC BOUNDARIES OF THE COUNTY OF SHROPSHIRE.

**Activities:** We work to protect historic gardens and designed landscapes throughout Shropshire. We organise lectures and visits to parks and gardens, publish a magazine and carry out research into historic parks and gardens. We are a statutory consultee for works affecting parks and gardens in Shropshire. We welcome new members.

## Classification

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- **How:** Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Sponsors Or Undertakes Research, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** Education/training, Environment/conservation/heritage
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

## Geography

- Shropshire

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£2,578	£3,929	-	-
2023-12-31	£3,949	£3,738	-	-

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
<b>Mary King</b>	Chair	2023-02-02
Christopher Gallagher		2023-02-02
DAPHNE CAPPS		2023-02-02
Imogen Wood		2023-02-02
Kathryn Herbert		2023-02-02
Rose Mary Gibson		2023-04-27
Stephen Packer		2024-03-21

**SHROPSHIRE PARKS AND GARDENS TRUST**

England & Wales - Charity number 1202152

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# Accounts

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**SHROPSHIRE PARKS AND GARDENS TRUST**  
Registered Charity Number 1202152

**SECOND**  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
Thursday 20th March 2025

**ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS 2024**

# **ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2024 - 2025**

The Shropshire Parks and Gardens Trust is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) Registered Charity Number 1202152, set up to replace the Former Shropshire Parks and Gardens Trust, Registered Charity Number 1076257, which was set up as a Charitable Trust in 1997.

The new CIO was registered by the Charity Commission for England and Wales on 2 March 2023 and all the assets and members of the former Trust have now been transferred to the new CIO. This is the second AGM of the new CIO.

## **The objects of the CIO are:**

To advance the education of the public in the art and science of parks and gardens by:

- a. Promoting the understanding, conservation, protection, improvement and re-creation of Parks and Gardens and designed landscapes; and
- b. Promoting for the benefit of the public the preservation, enhancement and re-creation of whatever Parks and Gardens and designed landscapes may exist, or have existed, in and around the present or historic boundaries of the County of Shropshire.

## **Chairman's Report 2024 – 2025**

Your Trustees have worked hard this year to continue to develop the Trust for the future, and particularly to address the problem of our falling Membership. Our numbers have dropped sharply since Covid, so we have appointed a consultant to help us improve our publicity and increase our membership. The first step will be to update our website and leaflets and publicise them to a wider audience in the hope of attracting new members.

We have also been improving the services we offer to members. Stephen Packer organised another excellent programme of visits and lectures for us, which he has summarised below.

Tom and Gisele Wall put together another two editions of our colourful magazine, keeping us up to date on the visits and talks we have had during the year, as well as on other interesting aspects of gardens and gardening.

Chris Gallagher continued the important work of responding to planning enquiries on behalf of both ourselves and the Gardens Trust, while our Treasurer, Rose Gibson, kept our accounts in order, and Daphne Capps kept our memberships up to date.

However, we have not had a Secretary all year, and this work has had to be covered by other Board Members. Currently we only have seven Trustees, and these gaps in our Board mean that it is increasingly difficult to keep up with all our work.

We will simply not be able to continue if we cannot fill these vital posts soon. The work we do is important to the future of parks and gardens in Shropshire, as well as providing enjoyment for members, and we very much want to continue to promote the Trust and increase our membership, but we are beginning to run out of energy.

I am resigning as Chair, as I think it is time for someone with some new ideas to take over, although I will continue as a trustee for the time being.

I do ask you all to think very hard whether you could help the Board carry out our work. Much of the work of these posts could be divided between several different people, instead of being done by a single Board member as it has been in the past.

We urgently need a Chair and a Secretary, just to continue our core work, but we also need a Publicity Officer, to work closely with our consultant, a Magazine Editor to source material for the magazine and someone to organise our important work of finding out more about what survives of the historic gardens in Shropshire and adding the information to the Historic Environment Record (HER) held by Shropshire Council.

Please talk to any of our Trustees if you feel you could take on some of the work of the Board and would like to know what the work entails. Any help that you can give us will be gladly received.

#### **Treasurer's Report for the Financial Year January – December 2024**

The Trust made a loss in 2024 of £1,351. This was despite our decision last year to pause the bursaries scheme and is largely because of reducing membership and increasing costs - a familiar story.

The reduction in membership is less severe than appears from the accounts, as around £400 of the income ascribed to 2023 was prepayments for 2024 membership, but it is still something which we need to address, and the Board has therefore decided to invest in professional help with re-design of our publicity and promotional materials, the cost of which will appear in the current year's accounts.

We also considered increasing the cost of Membership but decided that we would hold the fees at the current level for at least another year, as we feel that increasing the level of fees could lose us members, which is the opposite of what we want.

We will continue to save on postage by limiting the number of mailings, and by using e-mail where possible.

Our Auditors James, Holyoak & Parker Ltd have in the past very kindly audited our accounts at no cost to us, but have now let us know that they will be unable to continue to offer their services free of charge, but will have to charge us a fee in the region of £150 plus VAT. We recommend that we continue to use their services and thank them for all the work that they have carried out for us without charge in the past.

## Planning and Conservation Report 2024-2025

The Gardens Trust is a statutory consultee for Planning Applications affecting Registered Parks and Gardens. Planning applications are referred to SPGT for consideration via our colleagues at the Gardens Trust, or increasingly, are sent directly to SPGT from the planning departments at either Shropshire Council or Telford & Wrekin Council and tend initially at least to follow a more or less consistent pattern, i.e. submission by the applicant, notification as above, followed by our (carefully crafted and reasonable) written response. Often, that is where the process ends for a given application. Statutory consultees are rarely notified as to the result of these applications and rarely do we have the time to check on the outcomes.

You may recall that I reported to the last AGM, back in March 2024, that we had been consulted about an application to fell a group of Horse Chestnut & Scots Pine trees that had been planted around a small single storey 'boat house' dating from the mid-1950's, adjacent to Water Lane in Frankwell, the better to erect an oversized (in our view) 'architect designed' two storey structure that would be both completely out of scale as well as of an intrusive design in that location, and which would negatively impact upon the Setting of the Grade II Registered 'Quarry Park and Gardens across the river Severn. This had been rumbling on for months and eventually went to Planning Appeal, where unfortunately the applicant's blandishments were sufficient to convince the Inspector to approve the application, subject to (ludicrous) assurances given regarding protection of the trees during the building process, only then immediately to submit an application to remove said trees, which thankfully has been turned down to by Shropshire Council. Given the applicant's 'previous' however, it seems unlikely that we have heard the last of this one.

Also 'live' around this time last year, but of somewhat more positive outcome – just – was an application to build three oversized 'bungalows' within Market Drayton's principal Conservation Area, which in their original form would have been clearly visible from the Grade II\* 'Pell Wall House' and from its Registered Park & Garden. Numerous objections and re-applications later, the applicant eventually opted to sink the buildings into excavated terracing (itself potentially intrusive, albeit more locally) and to reduce the roof angle, thus further reducing the height of the roofline. This was enough to persuade the Council's planning committee to approve it, although it remains to be seen how it will look in practice.

Of similar outcome was an application to build a 'Lodge /chalet building' next to the Carp 'fishing lake' within the Grade II Registered Park & Garden at Badger, near Wolverhampton (Shropshire is such a big county). We originally objected to the extension of this development and especially of the four large rectangular breeding ponds adjacent to it, as being detrimental to the Significance of the Park & Garden, although these were approved notwithstanding. Carp fishing has traditionally been the preserve of the lone enthusiast, inured to cold and wet, but is now being promoted as a family entertainment, complete with barbecues and WhatsApp groups. This is clearly a vision shared by Shropshire Council's planning committee who approved the application. Again, it remains to be seen how this will turn out.

In between the above, we have also been consulted on numerous other smaller proposals, some of which involved Listed Buildings, but which needed no response from us. Of far greater import however, and having the potential for long term damage to the Significance both of two Registered Parks and Gardens (Walcot and Linley Hall, both Grade II RPAGs), 51 other Grade I, II\* and II Listed Buildings, 10 Scheduled Monuments, 3 Conservation Areas, as well as the Shropshire Hills 'National Landscape' (AONB) itself, and with also parts of the nearby 'Vale of Montgomery Landscape of Historic Interest, is an application to build a 1 MW wind turbine on lands to the east of Colebatch, near Bishops Castle (the proposed development site lies within the AONB). This will be a very large turbine, of some 50 m (164 ft) to hub height, 80 m (262 ft) to blade tip, and with three rotors describing a circle of diameter 60 m (197 ft). A response to this application is being prepared and will be submitted shortly.

Chris Gallagher, Vice-Chair

## **Events**

For 2024-25 we have had a full programme of events which include a series of visits from May through to September followed a series of winter lectures.

On Thursday 2nd May we visited Downton Gorge for a guided walk led by Tom Wall. In June we had planned a summer garden party at Hodnet Hall. However, it was necessary to cancel this due to the low number of bookings which failed to reach the minimum required by the caterers.

On Sunday 14th July the residents of Stiperstones Court in Shrewsbury opened their gardens for members to visit. The weekend visit on Sunday 21st July to Broadward Hall, near Clungunford was well attended. On Thursday 15th August we travelled out of the county to Derbyshire for a double visit. The morning began with a visit to Griselda Kerr's Dower House garden followed by a tour of Melbourne Hall in the afternoon. This was the most popular visit, being attended by twenty-two members and guests.

The final visit was on Thursday 12th September to Hawkstone Hall & Gardens. This was a self-guided audio tour of the gardens and the hall.

The Winter Talks Programme began in October with a talk by Brian Vowles on the development and restoration of the gardens and grounds of Biddulph Old Hall. As a result of this talk, we have arranged a visit there for June this year. In November Danny Wells spoke to us on the subject of the Art of the Garden, an interesting look at how gardens have been depicted in art.

In the new year, Simon Gulliver gave us a fascinating insight into the life of John Claudis Loudon and his wife Jane Webb, as he described it 'an amazing Victorian double act.' He was followed in February by Gareth Manning who gave us a brief history of Japanese garden design, based on visits he had made to the country.

For the March talk, coinciding with our AGM, we have Neil Cook from Hanbury Hall talking to us about how the formal gardens have been restored.

For 2025 we have another full programme of visits planned. This begins in April with a visit to Chillington Hall. In May we travel to the south of Shropshire to Action Scott Hall and in June we make our follow-up visit to Biddulph Old Hall in Staffordshire. For July we make a two-day visit to Monmouthshire to look at two gardens designed by Henry Avray Tipping – Wyndcliffe Court and High Glanau Manor. Our final visit of the year is to Apley Castle in Wellington.

We are now in the process of planning our Winter Talks Programme for 2025-26 with bookings already in progress.

All the visits and talks have been reasonably well attended and already bookings are looking good for the visits we have planned.

Steve Packer, Events Organiser

### **Election of Trustees for 2025– 2026**

The COI currently has 7 Trustees:

Chairman	Mary King
Vice Chairman	Chris Gallagher
Membership Secretary	Daphne Capps
Treasurer	Rose Gibson
Committee Member	Imogen Sambrook
Committee Member	Kathryn Herbert
Events Organiser	Stephen Packer

Under the terms of Clause 13 (1) of our Constitution, one third of the Charity Trustees shall retire from office at every General Meeting of the members of the CIO. Retiring Trustees may stand for re-election.

The Chairman, **Mary King**, is retiring by rotation at the AGM and not standing for re-election as Chairman but will stand for re-election as a Trustee.

**Kathryn Herbert** is retiring by rotation at this AGM and standing for re-election

Further nominations for Trustees are welcome. Any Members wishing to put forward nominations for themselves or someone else may do so either by sending them to the Chairman before the meeting or at the meeting in person.

Nominees must be proposed and seconded by members of the CIO and have agreed to their names being put forward.

**SHROPSHIRE PARKS & GARDENS TRUST**  
(Registered Charity No. 1202152)

**RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT**  
**YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2024**

	£	<u>Year Ended 31.12.24</u> £	£	<u>Year Ended 31.12.23</u> £
<b><u>Receipts</u></b>				
Subscriptions	847		1,837	
Lectures & Visits	1,436		1,859	
Summer Event	-		-	
Donations	75		-	
Gift Aid	-		253	
	<hr/>		<hr/>	
	2,358		3,949	
Bank Interest	<hr/>		<hr/>	
	220	2,578	138	4,087
<b><u>Payments</u></b>				
Hire of Room	554		428	
Speakers	339		200	
Insurance	218		198	
Printing & Publicity	536		783	
Entry Fees & Coach Hire	1,391		1,347	
Secretarial Expenses	265		213	
Sundries	167		70	
Website Costs	300		300	
AGT Membership	159		199	
Bursaries	-		-	
	<hr/>		<hr/>	
		(3,929)		(3,738)
Net Surplus/(Deficit)		(1,351)		349
Balance at Bank brought forward		<hr/>		<hr/>
		15,810		15,461
Balance at Bank carried forward		<hr/>		<hr/>
		14,459		15,810

We have examined the accounts together with the books, vouchers and documents relating to Shropshire Parks and Gardens Trust for the year ended 31st December 2024 and the balances in hand at that date. In our opinion the books have been properly kept and the above account is in agreement with the books, vouchers and documents submitted and explanations given to us.

**JAMES, HOLYOAK & PARKER LTD,**  
Chartered Accountants,  
1 Knights Court  
Archers Way  
Battlefield Enterprise Park  
Shrewsbury, SY1 3GA

*James, Holyoak & Parker Ltd*

12/2/25

**SHROPSHIRE PARKS AND GARDENS TRUST**

England & Wales - Charity number 1202152

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# Accounts

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# **ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2023 - 2024**

The Shropshire Parks and Gardens Trust is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) Registered Charity Number 1202152, set up to replace the Former Shropshire Parks and Gardens Trust, Registered Charity Number 1076257, which was set up as a Charitable Trust in 1997.

The new CIO was registered by the Charity Commission for England and Wales on 2 March 2023 and all the assets and members of the former Trust have now been transferred to the new CIO. This is the First AGM of the new CIO.

## **The objects of the CIO are:**

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- a. Promoting the understanding, conservation, protection, improvement and recreation of Parks and Gardens and designed landscapes; and
- b. Promoting for the benefit of the public the preservation, enhancement and re creation of whatever Parks and Gardens and designed landscapes may exist, or have existed, in and around the present or historic boundaries of the County of Shropshire.

## **Chairman's Report 2023 - 2024**

Your committee has worked hard this year to continue to develop the Trust for the future. As we informed members at the AGM last year, we were advised that our Trust Document, drawn up when the Trust was set up in 1997, was out of date and no longer in line with current legislation or with the way we want to run the Trust, so last year we registered Shropshire Parks and Gardens Trust as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) with the Charity Commission for England and Wales, with a revised constitution which was circulated to all members last year. We have now transferred the assets of the former Trust to the new CIO.

Harriet Devlin organised another excellent programme of visits and lectures for us and supervised all our Summer Visits before moving to Edinburgh, after which Stephen Packer took over managing the lecture programme and organising next years visits.

Hugh Devlin put together two editions of our colourful magazine with the help of Tom and Gisèle Wall, before moving to Edinburgh with Harriet. Chris Gallagher continued the important work of responding to planning enquiries on behalf of both ourselves and the Gardens Trust, while our new Treasurer, Rose Gibson, kept our accounts in order, and Daphne Capps kept our memberships up to date.

However, we have not had a Secretary all year, and this work has had to be covered by other Committee Members. Gaps like this in our Committee mean that it is increasingly difficult to keep up with all our work.

## 2

We need a Secretary and a Magazine Editor urgently, just to continue our core work, and our important work of researching and recording gardens in Shropshire continues to be on hold as we have no one to organise it.

We will simply not be able to continue if we cannot fill these vital posts in the near future. The work we do is important to the future of parks and gardens in Shropshire, and we very much want to continue to promote the Trust and increase our membership, but we are beginning to run out of energy. I am beginning to feel that I have nothing left to give, and I know the rest of the committee feel the same.

I do ask you all to think very hard whether you could help the committee carry out our work. Much of the work of these posts could be divided between a number of different people, instead of being done by a single committee member as it has been in the past.

Please talk to me if you feel you could take on some of the work of the committee and want to

know what the work entails. Any help that you can give us will be gladly received.

### **Treasurer's Report for the Financial Year January - December 2023**

As you will see, the 2023 accounts show a small surplus for the year. This is slightly misleading, as it includes approximately £350 of 2024 membership payments received in November, so the overall outcome is that we effectively break even.

Costs have of course been rising, and while we have increased our subscription rates, membership numbers haven't increased to compensate. One of the main ways in which we have saved money is by suspending the bursary scheme until our finances are more robust. We are also trying to save on postage, both by limiting the number of mailings, and by using e-mail where possible.

### **Planning and Conservation Report 2023-2024**

The Gardens Trust is a statutory consultee for Planning Applications affecting Registered Parks and Gardens. Planning applications that are referred to SPGT for consideration via our colleagues at the Gardens Trust, or which increasingly, are sent directly to SPGT from the planning departments at either Shropshire Council or Telford & Wrekin Council, tend initially at least to follow a more or less consistent pattern, i.e. submission by the applicant, notification as above, followed by our (carefully crafted and reasonable) written response. Often, that is where the process ends for a given application.

Statutory consultees are rarely notified as to the result of these applications and rarely do we have the time to check on the outcomes. Such was an application at the end of March 2023 to build a largely underground dwelling on the site of, and largely within the structure of, a former sunken water reservoir within the Grade II Registered Park & Garden (RPAG) of *Condover Hall Park*, complete with horse paddock, stables and extensive tree planting. This application was

refused, and we have, to date, heard no more of it.

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Also in March 2023 was an initial application, as well as a Listed Building Consent (LBC) application, for the change of use of the Grade II\* *Berwick House* to a wedding venue, with an enlarged car park adjacent. Historic England had indicated their support for the application and indeed had been fully consulted prior to the application. As it was felt that the location of the car park could be mitigated with careful planting, we offered our assistance in this respect, should it be required.

Around the same time, came a second application (following an initial, largely similar proposal a year earlier) for the demolition and replacement of a small, discreet, single storey building in Frankwell, on the north bank of the Severn which, it was declared, had previously been a boat house. This overlooks the Grade II Registered *Quarry Park and Dingle Gardens* on the south of the river, dating from at least 1719, when Henry Jenks, then Mayor of Shrewsbury, funded the planting of over 400 Limes within the park.

The replacement proposed for the existing building is a two and a half storey, architect designed, rowing clubhouse, with gym, meeting, and practice rooms and with an wholly inappropriate zinc-clad roof, which we felt to be completely out of keeping with its surroundings as well as likely causing or leading to the loss of a key screening group of mature trees adjacent, which would exacerbate its negative visual impact upon the setting and hence the Significance of the *Quarry Park and Dingle*. This application was refused and has now been taken to Appeal by the applicant. We repeated our objections in writing to the Inspector and await his decision.

The Grade II Registered *Chetwynd Park*, near Newport, has similarly been subjected to many applications for housing development within its

immediate setting, all of which have so far been resisted. The recent Telford and Wrekin *Local Plan Review 2020-2040* provided an opportunity to explain to Council planners our understanding of the importance of Chetwynd Park as a key designated Heritage Asset, and to emphasise the contribution made by its setting to Chetwynd's undoubted Significance. Following this, the Council has opted to maintain the *status quo*, with no new housing allocations currently proposed for Chetwynd's immediate setting.

The setting of heritage assets, in particular of Registered Parks & Gardens, Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas, is a key contributor to their Significance. A case which highlighted threats to all three of these was a proposed bungalow development of November 2023 within a part of the Conservation Area of Market Drayton, North Shropshire, which also formed part of the setting of the Grade II\* Listed *Pell Wall*, built 1822-8 by the architect Sir John Soane, of the Grade II Registered *Pell Wall* Park & Garden, and of six other Grade II & II\* Listed Buildings within and adjacent to it.

We submitted a detailed objection to this application, stressing the importance of setting and illustrating it with contemporary watercolours of the house and park, including the proposed development area itself. This led to the application being withdrawn, although as the latest in a series of such schemes proposed by the same applicant, we are keeping a weather eye out for future designs on, and in, the same area.

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Educational or other colleges located in Registered Parks & Gardens within the countryside are themselves a frequent source of development applications affecting these Heritage Assets. The Grade II\* Lilleshall Hall in North Shropshire, set within the extensive Grade II Registered Lilleshall Hall Park & Garden, is home to the National Sports and Conferencing Centre, which in its drive to provide '*...world-class facilities to sports clubs and organisations both*

*nationally and internationally, as well as to the local community...*' is continually upgrading the facilities it is able to provide. The many dwellings located within its extensive parkland areas, similarly, generate a variable number of applications throughout the year. An agreed *Development Framework* document produced on behalf of SPGT by *Ashmead Price Landscape Architects*, anticipates future development needs within the life of the study and guides managers at Lilleshall on their effective location within the historic landscape.

A comparable document prepared by the same consultants for the Grade II\* Listed *Acton Burnell (Concord College)*, provides a similar framework and guidance for the form and location of planned developments within and affecting this historic site. Two major applications were received in November 2023, one for an upgrade to the existing Sports Hall, with agreed landscaping and associated tree removals, and a more substantial proposal for a Boarding House and Staff Accommodation building, again with agreed landscaping, extensive tree plantings and more limited tree removals. Advice was given at a site visit to discuss these proposals, including the opportunity and need to preserve the genetic complement and hence appearance (phenotype) of existing ancient field boundary and later-18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> century Oak trees on site, via a project to grow on replacements for these individuals from their own acorns.

Finally, two applications have been considered over the year for the installation of photovoltaic panels on the roofs of cricket clubhouse buildings. The first of these (in June 2023) was located within the Grade II\* Registered Park & Garden of *Davenport House*, directly facing the Grade I Listed *Davenport House* itself. Permission was granted for this development, notwithstanding the high historical interest of both the house itself (1726, by Francis Smith of Warwick) and especially of its surrounding parkland, which was painted in 1753 by Thomas Robins the Elder, who may also have had a hand its design.

The second photovoltaic application came more recently (February 2024) and was for a Cricket Pavilion within the Grade II Registered Park & Garden of *Orleton Hall* and the setting of the Grade II\* Listed *Orleton Hall*. Here the Cricket Pavilion was remote from the house at the eastern edge of the park, and not facing it directly as at Davenport. In addition, the flat roof of the building sloped away from the park and out of the Registered Area. We considered that in this case, the impact of the array on the Registered Park would be minimal and suggested only that a Structural Engineer be engaged to assess the loading of the panels (amounting overall to 0.9 metric tons) on the roof itself.

**Chris Gallagher, Vice-Chair, SPGT.**

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## **Events**

### **Summer Visits 2023**

The following varied and interesting programme of visits was enjoyed by all participating members:

#### **Sunday 21 May Whittington Castle and Fernhill Hall**

We had a tour of Whittington Castles's complex fortifications, gardens and structures followed by lunch in the castle café.

We were then welcomed to Fernhill Hall by the owners Veronica and Charles Lillis to view the house by Edward Haycock, the topiary gardens they have created around it, the parkland and rhododendrons.

#### **Thursday 22 June Hatton Grange**

We were joined by members of Staffordshire Gardens and Parks Trust for a visit to Hatton Grange, designed by Thomas Farnols Pritchard, guided tours around the gardens and afternoon tea.

### **Thursday 6 July Wildegoose Nursery**

We visited the walled gardens at Millichope Hall where Jack and Laura Wilgoss have created an independent nursery specialising in violas and herbaceous plants. The visit included a talk on the magnificent, curved glasshouse dating from the 1830s, tea and cakes.

### **Thursday 21 September Oteley Estate**

The Oteley Estate is located on the shores of the Mere at Ellesmere. Accessed via the rolling parkland and through the original stable yard, the 10 acre garden is home to a wide variety of trees, shrubs and extensive lawns. Within the gardens are many features from the original house, which was demolished in 1959, including a boathouse, tower and Swiss Cottage. Tea and cakes were served in the café.

### **Winter Lectures 2023-24**

#### **Thursday 19 October Birkenhead Park - The People's Park**

Rob Belcher told us the fascinating story of the history of the park and its journey to World Heritage status.

#### **Thursday 16 November Downton Gorge - The Matchless Valley**

SPGT member Tom Wall told us about the remarkable designed landscape of Downton Gorge near Ludlow.

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#### **Thursday 18 January Wollerton - A Year in the Garden**

Pip Smith BSc MA MCIHort took us through the history and development of the garden and how it changes with the seasons.

#### **Thursday 15 February Towards an Archaeology of Roman Gardens**

Dr Roger White explained how Roman gardens have been revealed to us not only through the vivid frescoes which revolutionised gardening in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, but through

modern archaeology which shows how they were planted  
and  
used.

### **Summer Visits 2024**

A full program of visits is now being planned and further information will be given at the AGM.

### **Election of Trustees for 2024 - 2025**

The COI currently has 6 Trustees:

Chairman Mary King  
Vice Chairman Chris Gallagher  
Membership Secretary Daphne Capps  
Treasurer Rose Gibson  
Committee Member Imogen Sambrook  
Committee Member Kathryn Herbert

Under the terms of our Constitution, one third of the Charity Trustees shall retire from office at every General Meeting of the members of the CIO. Retiring Trustees may stand for re-election.

The two Trustees retiring by rotation and standing for re-election at this AGM are:

Vice Chairman Chris Gallagher  
Membership Secretary Daphne Capps

Further nominations for Trustees are welcome. Any Members wishing to put forward nominations for themselves or someone else may do so either by sending them to the Chairman before the meeting or at the meeting in person.

Nominees must be proposed and seconded by members of the CIO and have agreed to their names being put forward.



**SHROPSHIRE PARKS & GARDENS TRUST**  
(Registered Charity No. 1202152)

**RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT**  
**YEAR ENDED 31<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER 2023**

	£	<u>Year Ended 31.12.23</u> £	£	<u>Year Ended 31.12.22</u> £
<b><u>Receipts</u></b>				
Subscriptions	1,837		1,433	
Lectures & Visits	1,859		1,335	
Summer Event	-		-	
Donations	-		95	
Gift Aid	253		254	
	<hr/>		<hr/>	
	3,949		3,117	
Bank Interest	<hr/>		<hr/>	
	138		14	
		4,087		3,131
<b><u>Payments</u></b>				
Hire of Room	428		409	
Speakers	200		488	
Insurance	198		198	
Printing & Publicity	783		667	
Entry Fees & Coach Hire	1,347		1,138	
Secretarial Expenses	213		397	
Sundries	70		-	
Website Costs	300		300	
AGT Membership	199		202	
Bursaries	-		500	
	<hr/>		<hr/>	
		(3,738)		(4,299)
Net Surplus/(Deficit)		349		(1,168)
Balance at Bank brought forward		<hr/>		<hr/>
		15,461		16,629
Balance at Bank carried forward		<hr/> <hr/>		<hr/> <hr/>
		15,810		15,461

We have examined the accounts together with the books, vouchers and documents relating to Shropshire Parks and Gardens Trust for the year ended 31st December 2023 and the balances in hand at that date. In our opinion the books have been properly kept and the above account is in agreement with the books, vouchers and documents submitted and explanations given to us.

**JAMES, HOLYOAK & PARKER LTD,**  
Chartered Accountants,  
1 Knights Court  
Archers Way  
Battlefield Enterprise Park  
Shrewsbury, SY1 3GA

*James Holyoak & Parker*  
CA

21/2/2024