

## Wentworth Castle News



HRH The Duke of Gloucester with Jane Furse

The Conservatory is proceeding to 'green up' beautifully and so we were very proud of its appearance when the Duke of Gloucester arrived to formally open it on the 4th November last year. On the back wall *Lapageria rosea*, the national flower of Chile was blossoming prolifically, and the orange flowered winter climber from Madeira, *Canarina canariensis* is rapidly covering the western side. On the columns, the black eyed susan vine, *Thunbergia alata*, is still covered in blossom and the banana passion fruit, *Passiflora antioquiensis* is also producing a few fresh flowers. The cup and saucer plant, *Cobea scandens* has raced into the roof and the lemon scented jasmine, *Jasminum azoricum*, first recorded in Britain in 1724, scents the air. We have also had kangaroo paws from Australia flowering earlier this summer, along with the bluebell creeper *Solya heterophylla*. In the Africa bed, arum

lilies, specie pelargoniums and nerines have all done well and our tender Asian rhododendron, *R. fragrantissimum* looks set for a good show in early Spring.

The Duke was our first royal visitor, a visit kindly arranged by the late Lord Scarborough back at the end of July 2003 but it is hard to recall now just how overgrown the site had become. No lottery money had been awarded, no clearance work done and no rescue of the home farm and follies. In fact, such a great deal has been achieved over the last 13 years, with the support of our volunteers, staff, consultants, funders and major partners, that we wondered whether he would be able to recognize more than perhaps Lady Lucy's walk.

Our colourful new guide book, literally hot off the presses for the Duke's visit in November, is now in the shop. Its approach has been guided by Claire

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

#### Gardens

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| Steeton, High Hall       | 7 |
| Old Rectory, Scrayingham | 3 |
| Wentworth Castle         | 1 |
| Green Walk, Richmond     | 9 |

#### Other News

|                           |    |
|---------------------------|----|
| Autumn Social/lecture     | 11 |
| Small Grants/Conservation | 12 |
| Grants Scheme 2015        | 13 |
| School News               | 14 |
| Research & Recording      | 14 |
| GHS/AGT Merger            | 4  |

#### People

|                                    |    |
|------------------------------------|----|
| Chairman's Letter                  | 2  |
| From the Editor                    | 15 |
| From a new member                  | 16 |
| Sir William Milner/Reginald Farrar | 5  |
| Capability Brown 2016              | 6  |

Herring, the Trust's director with the horticultural side provided by yours truly. Peter Clegg, a skilled camera man on the trust's staff, photographed many of the plants and buildings and the history of our rivalry with Wentworth Woodhouse, for which the site is famous, was compiled by fellow Trustee Patrick Eyres. Patrick's experience in arts publishing (*New Arcadian Journal*) was extremely valuable in shepherding the guide book through to its publication. The funding was provided by the HLF with significant contributions from other organisations in match funding. This has allowed the Trust to publicise the breadth of the research that it has fostered (since 2001) to a much wider audience. The result is a colourful, affordable publication of which all our Trustees are immensely proud.

*Jane Furse November 2014*

# Chairman's Letter

## Framing the Landscape

Have you ever used your hands to make a frame to look through? This technique has been used by artists for generations when looking at landscape - and buildings; concentrating and focusing the mind in order to produce a wonderful picture. Many people look, but only a few see. It seems all too easy for many of us to be 'visually blind', allowing our surroundings to become degraded without even noticing.

However as part of his passion to find new ways to encourage people to take up art and engage with the countryside, Holmfirth artist Ashley Jackson has started framing the landscape in Yorkshire installing large picture frames in various locations. [www.framingthelandscape.co.uk](http://www.framingthelandscape.co.uk) The first frame was placed on Wessenden Moor, part of the National Trust's Marsden Moor estate in the summer, quickly followed by another at Hardcastle Craggs on Yorkshire Day, August 1st. I think that by now there will be a frame at Brimham Rocks and this will be followed by others before the project ends next year with a frame at Cusworth Hall near Doncaster. I'm sure that the eighteenth century landscape improver Richard Woods who worked at Cusworth would thoroughly approve. Although I doubt that he would say 'Na' wi' framin' in a strong Yorkshire accent. But Mr Jackson's efforts are to be applauded; we should think about framing the landscape and the gardens when we go on our YGT visits. We'd be in good company and no doubt would see much more.

Seeing so much more, developing technical ability and harnessing his own mental and physical energy, I believe makes JMW Turner our greatest landscape painter. He was a visionary whose outstanding ability to use light and to represent natural phenomena in all their complexity produced the most wonderful multifaceted paintings. I hope that you may have seen this autumn's exhibition at Tate Britain, *Late Turner Painting Set Free*, but if you haven't there will be an opportunity to see some of Turner's earlier watercolour painting when we visit

Farnley Hall, near Otley next March by kind permission of Guy Horton Fawkes and his family. Walter Fawkes was Turner's Yorkshire patron and from 1808, and for many years, Turner stayed annually at Farnley Hall.

Our new events team (Ray, Fiona, John, Liz and myself) has taken on the excellent baton from Dick and Susan and we hope that you like the 2015 programme. We are always on the look-out for ideas and ways to improve our events so do let us know what you think. We also feel that when possible it would be good to have a first-aider on any visit especially if it is outdoors. We did have members with these skills so if you could help in any way please let Louise Amende know. ([events@yorkshiregardenstrust.org.uk](mailto:events@yorkshiregardenstrust.org.uk))

We have some other changes and news. I'm delighted to tell you that Linda Smith has achieved a distinction in her MA in Historical Archaeology at York University and has been nominated for the Garden History Society Dissertation Prize; we hope that she wins! We are however sorry that she will be standing down as a trustee at the AGM in order to have sufficient time to further her career, but we do hope that she will continue to give us conservation advice from time to time – and perhaps a lecture! Dick has also resigned as a trustee in order to return to his research and translation of eighteenth century German designed landscape documents. We wish him every success with this specialised academic project. We are very sorry that our Company Secretary, Liz Simson is resigning from that role and will be stepping down at the AGM. Liz has been a mainstay of the Trust as secretary, chairman and company secretary and we are sad to lose her and her skills. She will remain as a member of the Trust and we look forward to seeing her at events. The trustees are delighted to welcome Fiona Barlow and Malcolm Barnett as co-opted trustees until the AGM. Their coming forward has enabled the Council of Management to function properly with numbers greater than the minimum (seven) set down in our Memorandum and Articles. The latter were written in

1996 and the Council of Management feel that due to changing circumstances the minimum number of trustees should be revised to five. Ideally we would like eight to ten trustees as this would spread the work and roles, so we do hope that new trustees will come forward to join us at the AGM next March. There will be an Extraordinary General Meeting alongside the AGM in order that members can vote on the proposal for revision of the minimum number of trustees to five.

Turning to other matters, we now have the Business Plan summary on the website and the full Business Plan in the members only area, however copies of the Business Plan are also available on request from our Administrator, [membership@yorkshiregardenstrust.org.uk](mailto:membership@yorkshiregardenstrust.org.uk) or by post from YGT Administrator, 14 Huntington Road, York, YO31 8RB. We are also looking again at the trustee documents that we need to have in place to ensure good governance and the trustees are working hard to ensure that the finances of the Trust remain in a healthy state. You will see from this newsletter that we are doing much to promote Yorkshire's parks and gardens. We are extremely fortunate to be supported by a number of very talented and hardworking individuals, trustees and volunteers but of course, additional resources would allow the Trust to do even more. In particular we would value some help with budgeting and finance to assist our treasurer, David, and also someone with a small amount of time but clerical/IT skills to fulfil our company secretary role. We do hope that many members can be actively involved with the Trust and its activities and if you would like to help in this valuable and enjoyable work please contact me, one of our other trustees or our Administrator for more details.

I look forward to seeing you all at our events and to an enjoyable year of good weather and happy gardening. If you have any ideas and want to get in touch please Tel: 01748 822617 or [secretary@yorkshiregardenstrust.org.uk](mailto:secretary@yorkshiregardenstrust.org.uk)

*Val Hepworth*

# The Old Rectory, Scrayingham – New Garden for YGT



From the terraces. *Image P Dawson Brown*

Creating a garden in harmony with one's own sensibilities is something we are rather good at in this country. Once we see the glimmer of perfection we might pat ourselves on the back, recognizing that years of physical toil were worth every back-breaking moment. If the garden is up to a certain standard, we might even consider opening its gates to the public and this is what Peter and Urszula Pace decided to do in July 2013 when they welcomed visitors to The Old Rectory at Scrayingham in aid of the National Gardens Scheme. This summer they have generously invited Yorkshire Gardens Trust members to a private evening visit in June and I can promise you it will be a most dazzling experience.

With their busy lives (Peter is an architect, Urszula a practicing GP) it is remarkable what they have achieved since they began work on the garden back in 1997. Looking at photographs of that time, it is clear that most of the garden you see today has been crafted out of a wasteland of weeds and briars.

The Old Rectory was built in 1704 with the architect believed to have been Heneage Dering who also designed Aldby Park, a mile or so down the river at Buttercrambe. The south range survives from this period but in 1846 the Rectory was enlarged to the designs of G.T. Andrews, the railway architect

who carried out a great deal of work for George Hudson (the Railway King). Hudson is buried in Scrayingham Church having been born nearby at Howsham. Andrews was recognized for his Italianate designs employed on many of his stations which included the Old Station in York, Market Weighton, Stamford Bridge, Pocklington, Whitby and Hull. The deep overhanging roofs much-beloved by nesting house martins during summer months and the detailed sash windows are a part of his legacy.

Arriving at the Old Rectory shaded by venerable old trees, one is transported to the days of Trollope when clergymen lived like kings cushioned from too much hard work by their clutches of curates. Handsome livings with elegant gardens such as this were the perfect setting for Village Fetes and other fund-raising events; above all they were spiritually refreshing being close to the church yet separated from its constraints.



The Parterre. *Image P Dawson Brown*

Most clergymen held a great love and fascination for Natural History. Ornithology, entomology and even oology (the collecting of bird's eggs) were pastimes in which they could marvel at God's handywork. Many were esteemed botanists such as the Reverend W. Keble Martin whose lifetime's work *The Concise British Flora in Colour* (1965) is a jewel in any botanical library. Others were prominent horticulturists and gardeners: Canon Ellacombe (1790-1885) who lived at Bitton Vicarage in Gloucestershire, and the Reverend Samuel Reynolds Hole (1819-1904) who became the Dean of Rochester in 1887 and whose skills in cultivating roses gained him an RHS medal. However, the most famous naturalist clergyman of all time was undoubtedly Gilbert White (1720-1793) Curate of Selborne whose famous book *The Natural History of Selborne* (1789) ran to some 150 editions. Peter and Urszula have taken inspiration from traditional English Rectory gardens such as *The Wakes at Selborne* where White lived.

The front part of the Old Rectory has been kept much as it was at the turn of the century with lawns and substantial herbaceous borders; this sits comfortably with the house. Following the path round to the south side you reach the parterre with its low box hedging set out to a design from the garden at Villa Bernardini, Saltocchio, Lucca, taken from Geoffrey Jellicoe's seminal book *Italian Gardens of the Renaissance* 1926. Urszula has planted it up with soft colours including spires of pale-blue campanulas which look refreshingly cool in hot summer months. Peter and Urszula have designed their garden thoughtfully to reflect different themes while incorporating the principles germane to Italian gardens in the form of axial symmetry, stonework, steps, topiary and terraces which burgeon with exuberantly planted pots and vases. Urszula is not afraid of colour and many of her flowers extol the dazzling brightness of a Mediterranean sun. She has sought fulsome plants which climb, caress, spill or tumble out of their



From the terraces. *Image P Dawson Brown*



The Old Rectory. *Image P Dawson Brown*

designated territory creating a blissful unity without stiff formality.

Nothing can prepare you for the treat in store when you reach the back of the house with its commanding views over the ancient Derwent Valley. It is here you can fully appreciate the impact of an Italian garden with its strong East West central axis which was chosen to run from the centre of the house down the western steep terraces in three flights of steps and beyond. Having descended to the flat land at

the bottom, a charming humpbacked bridge, built by Peter, takes you through the 12 Apostles which are represented in the form of Yews (the nearest thing to Italian Cypress). Once they have achieved their required height they will be shaped as topiary. Walk on along the closely-mown grass path which cuts through the wildflower meadow to the wooded banks of the Derwent where perhaps one day Peter and Urszula will build their dream boat house!

And there is more – much more which

I hope you will discover for yourselves. You will be inspired!

My thanks to Peter and Urszula Pace for their detailed notes on the house and garden some of which I have included in my article.

The visit to The Old Rectory at Scayingham will take place on Thursday, 25th June, 2015 at 6 p.m. Further information will be included in the next events programme.

*Penelope Dawson-Brown*

## GHS and AGT Merger

In the last Newsletter Jenni wrote of progress on the proposed merger of our 'umbrella' body the AGT (Association of Gardens Trusts) with the GHS (Garden History Society).

At the AGM of the GHS, towards the end of July, GHS members overwhelmingly agreed to the merger. However your Council of Management meeting in early July, agreed that YGT would vote 'in principle' for a merger at the AGM of the AGT in September. This is on the understanding that a business plan can be agreed first, as we felt this is key to any working partnership, and also would clearly demonstrate how funds will be allocated. We are aware that a merger is likely to require the YGT to review its Memorandum and Articles and we are also very aware of ensuring that there are no legal or financial constraints on our trust. Like all the other County Gardens Trusts we feel that a strong national voice is needed to protect our designed landscapes parks and gardens but this should be balanced by the

local County Gardens Trust member's primary need for an interesting programme of visits and a magazine that underpin our educational charitable aims. Our role in research and recording, schools, and conservation and planning is also an important plank in what we aim to achieve.

Prior to the AGT AGM it was evident that a number of County Gardens Trusts also had some concerns but that the vote would not be for/against the merger but for/against the method to follow. Resolution A put forward by the Cheshire Gardens Trust was for a decision on merging to be postponed until such time as adequate financial and business planning for a merged organisation is available. Resolution B from the AGT Committee of Management following reports and recommendations of the Merger Board, resolved in principle by members of the charity to merge with the Garden History Society on such terms and date as to be agreed between the trustees of the respective charities. Your Council

of Management decided that we should vote for Resolution A and against Resolution B. This stance was taken by several other County Gardens Trusts but Resolution B was carried by a small majority.

Since that vote the Transitional Committee (chaired by Mike Dawson, Vice-chairman of AGT) has been working on the draft constitution and draft business plan for a merged organisation. These are due to be considered by the AGT and GHS Committees by the beginning of February and the business plan will be made available for consultation, including a discussion at the AGT Business Meeting on the 5<sup>th</sup> March. The two organisations are having a joint annual conference this year which will be in Newcastle on 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> July. It is proposed that the final decision on the merger by both the AGT and GHS will be made at that conference.

*Val Hepworth*

# Sir William Milner of Parcevall Hall and Reginald Farrer, plant hunter

*“The gardens contain many shrubs and plants collected by the late Reginald Farrer, of Ingleborough Hall, and the late George Forrest, in Western China and Tibet.”*

These are Sir William Milner’s words written in 1932, following the completion of the restoration and extensions of Parcevall Hall in Wharfedale and the laying out of its new gardens. But why did he mention Farrer first? Sir William had sponsored George Forrest’s 7th (and last) expedition to Yunnan (1930-32), which resulted in subscribers receiving many packets of seeds following one of Forrest’s best collecting seasons. A letter from Professor Sir William Wright Smith, Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh (RBGE), to Forrest in November 1931 shows that Sir William was delighted with its “good germination”.

In contrast there appeared to be no evidence that Sir William had known or sponsored Farrer, or been a member of his Plant Club. This was not surprising as Farrer had died in 1920 and Sir William did not buy the Parcevall Estate until 1927, and of course it was before the building of his large limestone rock garden.

Milner was much younger than Farrer and was still at Christ Church, Oxford when war broke out in 1914. He then spent the war years in the Lothians and Border Horse. Farrer did not return to London from China until 1916, then worked for the Ministry for Information under John Buchan, before leaving at the earliest opportunity in January 1919 for Burma with Euan Cox, Buchan’s secretary for part of the war. Thus it seemed very unlikely that Farrer’s and Milner’s paths ever crossed.

But the *Silent Traveller* series of books by Chiang Lee reveals that Sir William certainly knew in later years Sydney Farrer, Reginald’s younger brother, and that he called with Chiang for afternoon tea with Sydney and his wife, Violet. She was a very keen gardener, and together they visited Reginald’s



William Milner (courtesy Walsingham Trustees)

and Sydney’s old home, Ingleborough Hall. However this must have been at least seventeen years after the death of Reginald, but Chiang remembers Sir William and Violet having long conversations about different plants!

Last summer I came across by chance a copy of Nicola Shulman’s short biography of Farrer. There I read that a Derrick Milner was to have been Farrer’s companion to replace Euan Cox in 1919, but pulled out at the last minute. Milner’s family had sometimes called him Derick as a boy. Could this Derrick Milner possibly be the future Sir William? He would most probably have been able to raise the money to fund such an expedition.

Documents in the Farrer archive at the RBGE confirm that Derrick Milner was indeed William Milner. Further letters revealed that he was pulling out of the expedition as his eldest sister, Violet, had just died and not that “a word with Cox put him off” as suggested by Shulman in her book. This early death left four young children motherless. William’s father took this very badly, and maybe especially as his own wife, Adeline, had died when William was only 8 years old. William would have been very close to his sisters as they helped to bring him up along with his father’s sister Edith.

WWI records show William Frederick Victor Mordaunt Milner

as a Lieutenant, Lothians and Border Horse, in 1917. So still young and with war service just behind him, he would surely not have been so ineffectual a companion as Lawrence Johnston of Hidcote, who at the age of nearly 60 was Forrest’s companion at the beginning of his last expedition. Johnston exasperated Forrest so much by his idleness and attitude that he wrote to Wright Smith in Edinburgh “Had I raked G.B. with a small tooth comb I couldn’t have found a worse companion than Johnston”.

Milner must have agreed to be Farrer’s companion for 1920 at least a year beforehand, as he went to Glasgow to see Farrer off before he left for Upper Burma with Euan Cox early in 1919. And Milner must have had no intention of pulling out in the summer of 1919, as he went to meet Farrer’s mother and was “charmed” with her.

The RBGE were expecting to give Milner some “initiation into the plants” that he and Farrer “were likely to come across” and “the methods of their preservation” just before he went out to join Farrer, but the timing was such that this did not take place.

As is well known Farrer continued without a companion on his last expedition. This is vividly described in Euan Cox’s book *Farrer’s Last Journey*. Farrer journeyed north in Burma with a mule caravan for four weeks through “undiluted jungle, jogging it along from day to day through a vast palm-house, blind and dark and frightening and deadly silent, but for the jodelling of the chorusing monkeys” to Konglu. Before eventually arriving at his base, Nyitadi, further days through wilder jungle lay before him and the River N’mai had to be crossed by raft. But his “bungalow” there was no more than a bamboo shack. It had no windows, and no protection from the rain due to open gables. The fire in the middle of the room smoked so much Farrer preferred to wear his great coat to keep warm.

Farrer had to wait until mid May for the snow to recede enough to camp



Reginald Farrer  
(From *The Plant Introductions of Reginald Farrer* edited by E. H. M. Cox, 1930)

at 10,000'. But from there he had the joy of finding several new species of rhododendron. At the end of June he set up camp at 12,000' with "stupendous" views, but the next day and for the following six weeks there "it never ceased to pour with rain but once for an hour, and the fog never lifted at all

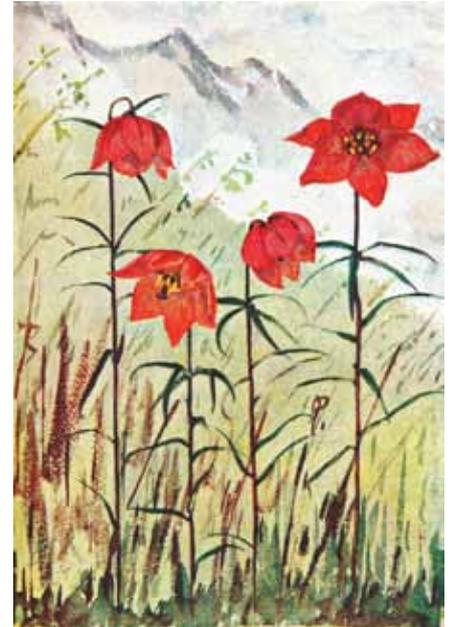
but once, for two hours". August was not much better. Farrer then went to the Moku-ji pass but had to wait a week before returning to the Chawchi as the weather was "outrageous", finally returning to Nyitadi on 9 September. He had written to Cox of getting a fever but soon recovering, but by 1 October he was ill with a cough and chest pains. He worsened on 13th and died on 17th October.

One can only guess how Milner would have found this expedition. He would certainly have delighted in observing the many species of rhododendrons, primulas and the nomocharis etc. in the wild, despite the conditions. He might even have coped with the cold and wet better than an older and possibly sick man. But the death of Farrer and in such a distant place? Milner was a devout Christian for much, if not all, of his adult life. Possibly his faith and his kind nature would have helped him deal with the aftermath of this further tragedy.

*Acknowledgement* I particularly wish to thank Leonie Paterson, Archivist, RBGE, for her most generous help –

her detailed knowledge of their Farrer Archive has been invaluable.

Anne Tupholme



*Nomocharis basilissa*, F.1738,  
from a painting by Reginald Farrer in the field and discovered in Upper Burma in 1920  
(Illustration from *The Plant Introductions of Reginald Farrer* edited by E. H. M. Cox, 1930)

## NOBLE PROSPECTS

### Capability Brown & the Yorkshire Landscape

I am delighted to announce a very special event to mark the tercentenary of the birth of Lancelot 'Capability' Brown and 20 years of the Yorkshire Gardens Trust. Working with the Mercer Art Gallery in Harrogate, the Trust will present an exhibition on the work of Brown within our county. The show will open on 24 June 2016 and continue until 11 September.

Capability Brown is associated with around 20 sites in Yorkshire. Some are very well-known and have been studied in some depth whereas others are documented by nothing more than a sentence in an old history. The trustees have asked me to curate the exhibition, which is a great honour and I am pleased to give my time to such an exciting project. I am currently selecting works and with the support of Jane Sellars, Curator of Art at the Mercer, approaching potential lenders. We already have some very exciting loans agreed.

I am also researching Brown's work in archives and collections across the county and further afield. Our aim in the exhibition and accompanying catalogue is to give the first comprehensive overview of the famed designer's Yorkshire landscapes and to ensure that Brown's work, and landscape design in general, are more widely understood and appreciated.

The landscape garden is often said to be one of Britain's greatest artistic achievements and the designs of Brown and his contemporaries influenced gardens across the world. In the exhibition I hope to feature works from public and private collections that illustrate this eighteenth-century passion and the influences that inflamed it.

In conjunction with the Friends of the Mercer Art Gallery there will also be a programme of talks and visits.

I am enormously grateful to Lady

Legard, one of our Vice-presidents, who has worked incredibly hard to raise the funds to enable this ambitious exhibition to take place. Thanks also to the Mercer Art gallery, run by Harrogate Borough Council, for providing the venue and supporting the project. This is an innovative collaboration between a small heritage charity and a public art gallery and one which will bring the work of the Trust to a new and wider audience. I look forward to keeping members up-to-date with progress in future newsletters.

The exhibition is generously sponsored by Savills, The Landscape Agency, Saffery Champness and Coutts; through a Jonathan Ruffer Curatorial Grant from The Art Fund and by private donors.

Karen Lynch

# Steeton High Hall Visit July 16th



From the busy Keighley to Skipton road in the middle of Steeton, a quiet lane leads to where, tucked behind St Stephen's church and screened by trees, High Hall stands hidden. For the lucky YGT members who arrived there for our visit to the home of Roger & Christine Lambert, the afternoon was to be a fine mix of garden appreciation, art and history.

The Hall, a grade 2 listed building, is one of two ancient manor houses of Steeton. It developed from a medieval timber-framed hall, being re-built and enlarged in the 17th and early 18th centuries by members of both the Curren and Garforth families. Eventually, at the end of the 19th century, Alexander Keighley acquired the property and in 1921 had extensive re-modelling carried out, which resulted in an appealing mixture of architectural features from different ages.

Alexander Keighley was not only a director of the family textile firm, but also an artist who became one of the most influential pictorialist photographers of the early 20th century. His photographs were distinctive; his skill with soft focusing and tonal variations achieving an impressionistic style full of atmosphere. Luckily, in the attic of the Hall, Roger Lambert found a number of these original photographic plates, some of them hand coloured images of the garden we had come to

see. He had made digitised copies and so we were treated to a very enjoyable presentation showing us the history of the building and the garden, much of the latter having been developed during the time Alexander and his wife Lily lived there. What resulted was an impressive garden plan inspired by the Arts and Crafts designs of such as Jekyll and Lutyens, the emphasis being on good workmanship using traditional local materials.

About six years after Alexander's death in 1947, High Hall was sold and during the following years the garden deteriorated but, when the Lamberts arrived in 2000, restoration of the full glory of the Keighleys' garden began. Roger explained that there are four main parts in their two-acre garden: the area in front of the house, the Woodland, the walled Flower Garden and the Kitchen Garden. On entering through the stone gateway and passing along the gently curving drive, we had approached the south front of the house with its distinctive porch in white



Bath limestone which was added in the time of the Keighleys. There climbers clothe the house walls and roses bloom in the flower beds. Nearby are lawns for tennis and croquet, garden sports which will always evoke an atmosphere of long, sunny Edwardian afternoons. One of the old photographs shows the croquet lawn under construction, probably about 1920. Edging this part of the garden, between the Hall and the church, are the mature evergreen and deciduous trees and shrubs of the Woodland through which a path winds and where snowdrops and bluebells bloom in season.

The walls of the Kitchen Garden are built of hand-made Georgian bricks and enclose beds for fruit and vegetables. It is the walled Flower Garden, however, which is the most remarkable and inspiring area, much of it a formal, symmetrical design which is little changed overall since it was first laid out. Entry is through beautiful wrought iron gates which may have been erected in the 1930s. Close to the gravel path which is along the west front of the house is the circular lily pool, with rills leading from it on either side towards two tanks, all surrounded by stone paving. Although these features are typical designs of the arts and crafts era, maps show that a circular pool existed earlier, maybe even pre-dating the Keighleys' time, with the rills and tanks being added later. Roger speculates that it may even have existed during the time of the Currens, in the 17th century. The present fountain in the pool, an ingenious arrangement of three querns, was created by Roger to replace the early 20th century statuette which had been stolen earlier. Four rectangular beds around the pool are filled with roses, lavender and a few pink scabious and are now edged with box, although there are no such borders shown on the Keighley photographs of the 1930s. When the Lamberts took over the garden the box hedges did exist but were tatty and displaced, so they have now had radical renovation.

Beyond the pool area shallow stone steps lead up to the main lawn where, on this central axis, stands a stone

birdbath which first appears on old photographs taken after 1921. Behind the birdbath, was a heavy topiary hedge forming yet a further enclosure within the walls, but this is long gone. However, there is still a certain feeling of enclosure given by the abundant planting of tall herbaceous plants and flowering shrubs in the surrounding beds. Christine Lambert is now the resident plantswoman although her assertion that she just acquires plants and then wonders in which spot to plant them does not do justice to her contribution to the beauty of the garden. She admits to relying upon 'riotous colour with no gaps' and at the time of our visit this garden was certainly awash with colour, lofty blooms softening the formal lines and creating scented corners.

Also appearing in the old photographs is the pergola which stands at the top end of the main lawn. The stone piers originally supported solid oak beams, but these latter had to be replaced with something more economical so now attractive iron arches support the climbing roses and clematis. Beyond the pergola once stood yews which were clipped into the shape of candles in ornate holders; not surprisingly they no longer light the way. What Alex

Keighley termed the 'Patriarchal Yew' still stands, however. It is said that it is from this tree that twelve men of Steeton cut their bows for the battle of Flodden in 1513.

Enclosing all this, the boundary wall itself contains interesting features created in the time of the Keighleys. There are decorative embrasures and on one corner is perched an ornate dovecote which, in one old photograph, is complete with white doves. The most unusual feature, however, must be the belvedere, a raised gallery from which there is a grand view of the flower garden. This was designed by a local architect, inspired by designs of Lutyens. The undercroft of the belvedere served as a grotto and also a gateway to the upper garden beyond, which is now in separate ownership.

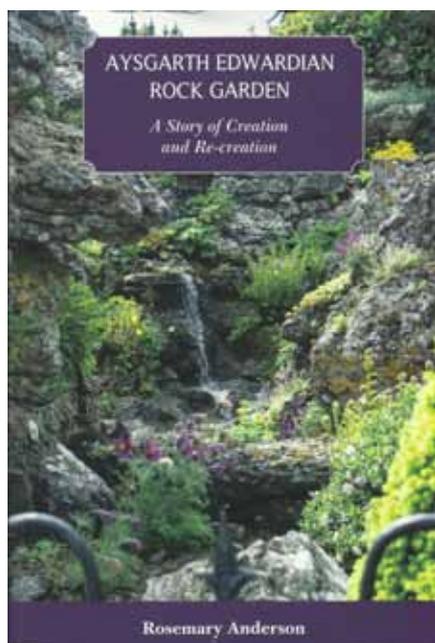


High Hall was one of the first gardens to be opened, in 1927, under the aegis of the National Garden Scheme, raising money for the Keighley Victorian Hospital. By the 1930s the Keighleys were holding 'Open Garden Sundays' with open air concerts, after which the concert performers were

treated to refreshments. We too were treated to delicious cakes and scones, served in a summer house which has stood between the croquet lawn and the flower garden since Edwardian times. It is fortunate that the Lamberts are continuing the practice of welcoming visitors into their garden and are active in conserving the heritage of this special place. Our thanks to them and to Susan Kellerman for arranging our visit.

*Margaret Waterson*

## ***Aysgarth Edwardian Rock Garden – a Story of Creation and Re-creation by Rosemary Anderson.***



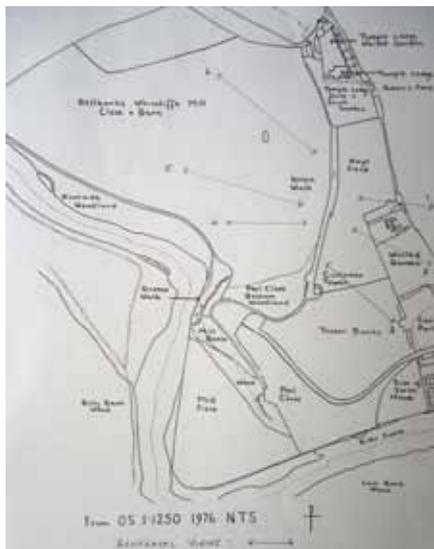
The Grade II Listed Edwardian Rock Garden in Aysgarth, Wensleydale is a rare surviving example of the work of James Backhouse and Son of York, and is of national significance within the history of horticulture. Since 2012 it has been owned and maintained by YGT members Adrian and Rosemary Anderson.

In this new book, Rosemary reveals the history of the garden via two stories separated in time by around one hundred years – that of its creation in the early twentieth century by Frank Sayer Graham of nearby Heather Cottage, and that of its re-creation after restoration in the early twenty-first century by the then owners, Angela and Peter Jauneika.

Rosemary also discusses the nineteenth century fashion for rock gardening and explains how James Backhouse and Son came to prominence as a nursery firm specialising in alpines and the construction of rockwork. Throughout the book the stories are brought to life by eighty illustrations, many in full colour, and a detailed descriptive guide to the garden, written by Adrian, is provided as an appendix.

*Aysgarth Edwardian Rock Garden*, price £8.99, is available from retail outlets in Wensleydale, Yorkshire Dales National Park Centres and the on-line bookshop at York Publishing Services via a link from [www.aysgarthrockgarden.co.uk](http://www.aysgarthrockgarden.co.uk)

# THE RESTORATION OF THE GREEN WALK at TEMPLE GROUNDS, RICHMOND



1. Map showing landscape areas, Temple Grounds drawn from OS 1976.

*Val Hepworth*

The last time Yorkshire Gardens Trust members had their Midsummer Picnic at Temple Grounds in Richmond was in 1998. Since then much has been achieved in repairing and returning the designed ornamental landscape to its eighteenth century form. In particular there has been a huge project to restore the Green Walk, so we thought that it would be interesting to return and picnic once more either on the Walk itself or in the garden of Temple Lodge. The choice will be yours.

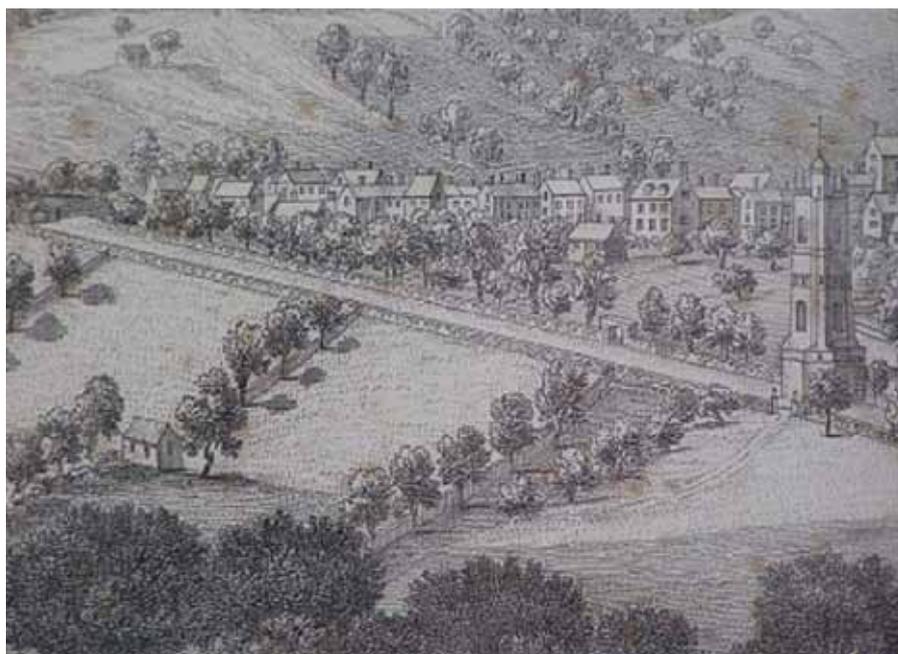
For those of you who have never visited, Temple Grounds sits within the Richmond (Town) Conservation Area. It's a remarkable surviving assemblage of outstanding scenery, listed buildings, unimproved hay meadow and pasture, ridge and furrow, and features of a mid 18<sup>th</sup> century *ferme ornée* (ornamental farm) and a later Picturesque landscape. (See Map Image 1.) It is owned by Richard and Morven Lawson who unexpectedly inherited it in 1991.

When I wrote the first management plan for Temple Grounds in the mid 1990's we included a 'wish' list of major works that needed doing but which would take huge amounts of money. The most significant of these was the Green Walk; the terrace that runs north-south in the centre of the estate and connects Temple Lodge,

built as a menagerie in 1769<sup>1</sup>, with the Culloden Tower or Temple built in 1746<sup>2</sup>. The latter is on or near the site of the 14<sup>th</sup> century Hudswell Peel Tower<sup>3</sup>, and Green Walk is likely to have been the medieval access route from the town to the Peel before being incorporated into their landscape design by the Yorke family. Survival of such an early garden/designed landscape feature is not common and so is of considerable significance. Beginning in 2009 with funding from the Higher Level Environmental Scheme managed by Natural England on behalf of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, (DEFRA); research, archaeology, surveys and assessments were carried out to underpin the informed decisions necessary for the restoration. The final result that you will see at the picnic is the Green Walk as we think John and Anne Yorke would have known it in *c.* 1750 - see the Close up from Samuel and Nathaniel Buck South West Prospect, 1749<sup>4</sup>, Image 2. The comparable photos of Green Walk taken in 2009 and 2012 give some idea of what has been achieved. Images 3 and 4 (overleaf).

When the work on Green Walk started

it was in a parlous state; encroached upon by large self-seeded and planted trees, landslip due to the loss of most of the stone walling along its east side and a collapsed west retaining wall. The overall restoration approach was to be as minimal as possible in order to conserve the historic fabric and archaeology, wildlife habitats, species rich grassland and the trees of great landscape value, whilst carrying out work of historic quality that had a reasonable chance of long term survival. The three veteran Common Beech trees, remnants of the old beech avenue<sup>5</sup> that can be seen on the Buck Prospect were pruned and retained, as were some of the trees in the belt along the north east boundary. However all the self seeded trees immediately adjacent to the walls of the Green Walk including the large Yews of the former nineteenth century hedge were felled in order to construct the walls and to restore the historic character of the Green Walk. The reinstatement of grass surfaces used the local hay meadow/wildflower seed mix, the replanted young Common Beech trees were grown by Richard from the beech mast at Temple Grounds and the remaining



2. Close up from Samuel and Nathaniel Buck South West Prospect, 1749.

*Courtesy of SouthernGreen.*

planting followed that of the 18<sup>th</sup> century *ferme ornée* period.

As we don't have any specific idea of the detailed planting used by the Yorke's apart from what still exists at Temple Grounds and may date from their time, the philosophy behind the planting scheme was to follow what is known of the type of planting in the 18th century during both the *ferme ornée* and later Picturesque periods<sup>6</sup>. We also had to take into consideration the aesthetic qualities required here, growing conditions, wind direction, topography, shade, flowering, fragrance and the future management. I knew from a letter written by Anne Yorke on March 31st 1736<sup>7</sup> that she patronised the well known plant nursery, Telfords of York, so felt that it would be useful to look at their early catalogues and fortunately had access to one from 1775 which although later could be used to compare with plant introduction dates. This I also cross referenced with a 1777 catalogue from William and John Perfect's nursery in Pontefract<sup>8</sup>, who were also famous nurserymen of the time. We decided on a mix of evergreens including *Daphne laureola*, *Osmanthus decorus*, *Phillyrea angustifolia*, Box, Privet, Portuguese Laurel, Butcher's Broom, Holly and Yew to add to the existing hollies, also planting three Oaks, a hawthorn hedge on the east boundary and scattering honeysuckle throughout the planting. Five thousand snowdrops were planted. Unfortunately, as we later discovered, the winter of 2010-11 was not the best time for new planting. Extreme and prolonged cold and snow not surprisingly took its toll, although amazingly the vast majority of the plants survived. This gave an opportunity to review the planting and how it might look when more mature and so in the winter of 2011-12 we put in some largely floriferous plants to climb and mingle amongst the evergreen and other structural planting including *Spirea hypericifolia* ssp *obovata*, *Genista*, *Cytisus multiflorus* (White Spanish Broom), Persian Lilacs, *Syringa x persica*, *Syringa x persica Alba*, Common Lilac, *Syringa vulgaris*, and Mock Orange (*Philadelphus coronarius*). We also added some *Viburnum tinus*



3. Green Walk looking North to Temple Lodge, January 2009 before the work was started. *Courtesy of Simon Green, SouthernGreen.*

(*Laurustinus*). This follows the mid 18 century ideas such as at Rousham (Oxfordshire), where William Kent's romantic planting delighted Horace Walpole<sup>9</sup>. 'You see deferant sorts of Flowers, peeping through the deferant sorts of Evergreens, here you think the Laurel produces a Rose. The Holly a Syringa, the Yew a Lilac and the sweet Honeysuckle is peeping out from under every Leafe.' Jessamines (jasmynes) were also favoured but were not included in our scheme due to the colder weather and winds

that the Green Walk planting will have to withstand. The *Syringa* is what we now call *Philadelphus coronarius*. Honeysuckles and roses were planted for fragrance so we added *Rosa eglanteria/R rubiginosa* (Sweet Briar), *Rosa x alba* – 'White Rose of York' and *Rosa x alba* var – 'Maiden's Blush Great'. As the Telford catalogue of 1770's lists many different honeysuckles we added some more of those; *Lonicera x americana*, *Lonicera periclymenum* 'Belgica', and *Lonicera caprifolium*. The last of the climbers



4. Green Walk looking North to Temple Lodge, August 2012. Val Hepworth

I planted in February 2012 balancing somewhat precariously on the slope and supporting myself against the wind with a fork— it is a windy spot!

The restoration of the Green Walk is a spectacular achievement which could not have reached fruition without the staunch support and vision of Dr Margaret Nieke, Historic Environment Lead Advisor, Natural England in York. We know that many visitors came to see Mr Yorke's gardens in the 18th century, so do come and do the same in 2015 and be transported back to c.1750. We hope that you will enjoy it much as Anne Yorke did when she writes on June 12th 1753:

'I am never absent from this place three or four months but it appears the most charming of any I see at my return. I now, when alone, live in my Gardens where the works now going on afford me greater pleasure than ever they did...'

[A future article will discuss Temple Grounds and the history of Green Walk in more detail.]

Val Hepworth  
December 2014

(Endnotes)

- 1 The word menagerie is derived from the French "Menager", meaning "connected with the house", however in the eighteenth century it was also related to the keeping of animals (OED). Christopher Clarkson describes the menagerie in his *The History of Richmond in the County of York*, Thomas Bowman, 1821, p328.
  - 2 Ashley Cooper, Anne, *Yorke Country*, published by A Ashley Cooper, 1988, p148.
  - 3 Clarkson, Christopher, *The History of Richmond in the County of York*, Thomas Bowman, 1821.
- 'Hudswell twr' is marked on Speed's map of Richmond, 1610, and the ruins shown schematically on Robert Harman's Plan of Richmond, 1724. Harman, Robert, *A Plan of ye South Prospect of ye Ancient Borrough of Richmond*, 1724, Richmondshire Museum and NYCRO (North Yorkshire County Record Office), ZS.
- 4 Samuel and Nathaniel Buck, *South West Prospect of Richmond*, 1729, Richmondshire Museum.
  - 5 In England avenues denoted the dawn of the Renaissance in the early 16<sup>th</sup> century and might be several km. In length, forming a notable feature in the landscapes illustrated by Kip or Knyff c.1700. With the triumph of the Natural

Style by the middle of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, avenues with few exceptions were swept away. At Temple Gounds a short avenue was retained to complement the nature of the Green Walk.

- 6 Invaluable sources: Harvey, John, *Early Gardening Catalogues*, Phillimore, London & Chichester, 1972; Laird, Mark, *The Flowering of the Landscape Garden English Pleasure Grounds 1720-1800*, University of Pennsylvania Press, Philadelphia, 1999.
- 7 Yorke Family Archive held at Halton Place, near Settle, LXIX/4.
- 8 For both catalogues: Harvey, John, *Early Gardening Catalogues*, Phillimore, London & Chichester, 1972, pp83-99, 100-116. My thanks to Peter Goodchild for the loan of his copy.
- 9 Batey, M, 'The Way to View Rousham: by Kent's Gardener', *Garden History*, 11:2 (1893), pp126-132. Horace Walpole (1717-97) was the youngest son of Sir Robert Walpole. In 1747 he acquired Strawberry Hill, a small villa on the Thames at Twickenham, which he transformed into a Gothic castle. Between 1750 and 1770 he wrote his essay *On Modern Gardening*, hailing William Kent as the founder of the English picturesque tradition of park design.

## Autumn Social and Lecture by Val Hepworth, 18<sup>th</sup> November 2014

The Christmas lights were just coming on in York's streets as members arrived for the autumn social and lecture. Members were greeted with tea and home baking before settling down to hear Val's "History of the Cottage Garden", illustrated with her selection of slides.

Val's initial research was into the style of cottage garden which would have surrounded Captain Cook's mid 18<sup>th</sup> century home in Great Ayton North Yorkshire, which was dismantled, shipped to and reconstructed in Melbourne, Australia in 1934. This followed a request from Melbourne in 1992 to find out what style of planting would best reflect this period when they were redesigning the existing garden. Quite a challenge when you consider the differences in soil and climate!

This research, in fact, took Val back to

the middle ages when the first cottage gardens appeared, initially as simple enclosures to contain livestock, fruit, vegetables, herbs, and subsequently flowers. It is wonderful to think that in the 17<sup>th</sup> century gardeners were breeding flowers purely for beauty. Carnations, auriculas, hyacinths, ranunculus, anemone, polyanthus and tulips were much sought after for their strange forms and varied colours. As they were difficult to obtain, it was artisans with a degree of income who sought them out and bred them; peasant gardeners certainly could not afford them. Interestingly, the cottage garden did not become gentrified until the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

After the flowers listed above came pansies and dahlias, which in turn were followed by chrysanthemums and hollyhocks. And, of course, what made these evolving gardens unique

were the vegetables interplanted with the flowers. Broad beans were an absolute staple to dry for the winter because potatoes were very much the preserve of the wealthy until the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Alongside the broad beans could be found scarlet beans, peas, cabbages, onions and leeks, plus gooseberry bushes and espaliered fruit trees of plums, apples and pears. Some of the original varieties from the 17<sup>th</sup> century can still be found today.

It was a fascinating lecture with many new insights and a different approach to the subject. Finally, Captain Cook never lived in the house which was rebuilt in Melbourne, although he certainly visited it once in 1771, as it was his father's cottage and garden, but his father only built it in 1755 after Cook went to sea!

Fiona Barlow

# Small Grants Scheme and Conservation

Todmorden Civic Society applied to our grant scheme in 2011-12 but due to the complexity of the project it has taken about three years to pull together all the funding and to carry out the restoration of the **War Memorial in Centre Vale Park** so only recently has the Trust paid our grant of £1,000. Sometimes we have to be patient. Interestingly we had a similarly long time scale for the resculpting of the dolphin at Yorke Gate and here at Todmorden there has been the resculpting of the two statues; the Lamp of Memory and the Shield of Honour.



Todmorden War Memorial, The Lamp of Memory. *Image Val Hepworth*

The Commemoration Parade and Re-dedication service of the Lamp of Memory and the Shield of Honour took place on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> October; a lovely sunny day which showed the memorial and gardens at their autumn best. The date was chosen to coincide with the loss of the first Todmorden born and bred soldier, Pte. William Nelson, who joined the army at 16 years of age in 1912, serving with the 2nd Manchester Regiment. He was killed in action on 13th October 1914 whilst taking part in a general attack on Richebourg l'Avoué. William saw action at the Battle of Mons, the first major engagement of the British Expeditionary Force which began on the 23rd August 1914. Anne Tupholme, my husband Ian, and I were honoured

to attend the service and delighted to see the finished work, not only of the sculptures set on plinths in the historic positions within the flower beds, but the re-pointing of the memorial wall which we had helped to fund. 'Todmorden in Bloom' had planted primulas in slightly elevated beds at the two end of the memorial wall completing a very fine and fitting remembrance of so many lost lives.

After a very moving service, Paul Clarke who had masterminded the project for Todmorden Civic Society with assistance from Calderdale MB Council, introduced Anne, Ian and I to sculptor Nick Roberson from Manchester who said what a great honour it had been to step into the shoes of Gilbert Bayes, a foremost sculptor in the Art Deco period. Nick had started the work in 2011 initially making clay models. The only information that he had was single photographs of the two statues taken when they were first completed in 1921. There are some later photographs but the images are blurred. This meant that Nick only had one angle view of each statue to work on to produce a 3D sculpture. He looked at Gilbert Bayes other work and tried to get into the spirit of the sculptor in order to produce new statues which as nearly reflect the original Art Deco design as possible. After experimenting with clay he worked to produce maquettes using a huge number of point measurements (about 200) to get the figures correct. The final sculptures are in Portland stone as the original, and he and his wife went down to Portland to select the stone and bring it back to Manchester. Nick spent the final few weeks polishing the sculptures to give them the patina of the originals. He also cleaned all the memorial tablets along the back wall and the remaining original Bayes statue of St George. We were all very touched to see the figures, rather child-like and so symbolic of a lost generation. A most worthwhile project.

The work to restore the **Ionic Temple at Duncombe Park** is proceeding well, with ten of the new columns now cut, and four of the capitals also ready.



Ionic Temple, Duncombe Park October 2014  
*Image Peter Pace*

The Contractor is dismantling one column at a time, and replacing with the new, before moving on. As you might imagine the work is not without its problems and following the removal of a capital, the column below was found to be exceedingly unstable and had to be lashed to the scaffold. With a close up view from the scaffold it was possible to discern subtle changes in the carving of each capital, where different masons in the 18th Century had given a slightly different interpretation. This of course makes for difficulty in deciding which capital best represents the intentions of Vanbrugh so the tradition of slight variations is to be continued having first established the base model to follow. Fortunately the column and capital chosen for first removal is very representative and a good model. The first three columns are being completed as I write and the whole Temple should be completed by March 2015. The Ionic Temple seems to have been in a more precarious condition than was thought so in July we were delighted to pay our £1,000 grant towards its restoration. This is the last grant from the 2012-13 scheme year.

In July of 2014, we paid £216 to **Abbey House Youth Hostel Physic Garden, Whitby** to improve the planting and labelling. There is a lovely photograph of the workers and details of the planting in our last newsletter. The other application that we agreed

to fund this year is for the **Scampston Conservatory Richardson Exhibition**. This is progressing well and during the restoration of the Bothies immediately behind the Conservatory, three different boilers were discovered under the stone flags, one of them a Greens Boiler, from Leeds. This is in relatively good

condition and will be on display in situ once the Conservatory is opened to be public in April 2015. The exhibition on Richardson will be available from April 2015 together with some evening lectures and workshops, guided walks and events. Full details available in the New Year. Please see: [www.scampston.co.uk/conservatory](http://www.scampston.co.uk/conservatory)

or <http://scampston-conservatory.blogspot.co.uk>.

*Val Hepworth*

## Grant scheme 2015

The economies the Trust has had to make for our 2014-15 financial year means that funds have not been available from the budget as has previously been the case but thanks to a generous donation from anonymous donors, we can still go ahead. Rest assured that the donors have no influence on either the assessment process or the way the money is spent.

This year we have had four applicants for the grant scheme: from Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty for conservation of the ice house in Fishpond Wood, Beverley, near Pateley Bridge; from The Follies of Youth collective who are aiming to bring attention to folly structures in West Yorkshire and who need funding for a minibus to transport audiences to follies in out of the way places; from the Friends of Prince of Wales Park, Bingley, a Grade II registered park, towards the preparation of a management plan; and finally from Ripon Community Link in Ripon Walled Garden for new signage to increase awareness, capture history and portray the range of activities and events they run. Members of the YGT Conservation Committee are busy visiting these application sites and will be reporting to the next meeting in January, when recommendations will be made for subsequent approval by Council of Management.

You may have noticed that two of the applications are from West Yorkshire local authority areas. It is becoming an area of increasing concern for the committee because local authority cuts are having a significant impact in this area where there are many public parks in the management and ownership of cash-strapped local authorities. We have noticed this impact from the planning lists, which show that land is being disposed of

for redevelopment or improvements are being made to provide revenue-raising public amenities. Rarely is the historic layout, planting or view taken into consideration when drawing up the proposals and our advice is vital to provide a historic view. Sadly, our advice does not always sway the planners but we can at least be sure we have done our best for the park. Anne Tupholme and our new committee member Kath Gibson, as well as Susan Kellerman, are working hard to respond but it is time-consuming and hard work so any other sharp-eyed and diligent YGT members are very welcome to get in touch if they have any time to offer on this.

A piece of good news has recently been received from English Heritage which has put Hornby Park near Bedale in North Yorkshire on the register at grade II. Hornby has been known about for some time, and I was fortunate to have been able to advise on its historic interest about twenty years ago when the owner applied for Countryside Stewardship. A report was commissioned from Land Use Consultants which showed a long history starting in the sixteenth century up to the early twentieth century when parts of the associated Hornby Castle was demolished for portions of medieval architecture to be shipped to America. Some was brought back and is displayed in the Burrell Collection in Glasgow. The park has swung round the compass, starting in the south-west and now the major design elements are in the north-east. To give you a flavour of the design, this quote from the register entry is worth repeating:

Hornby Castle Park clearly meets the criteria for registration just by considering the range of surviving features and design elements within the pleasure grounds and the more open

parkland. Although it is unfortunate that the castle was reduced in the 1930s, the principal range still survives, along with the C15 tower. This not only forms a strong landscape feature within the park, but makes it easier to understand the design, as the castle forms the principal viewpoint, the focus of the landscape. Probably the most impressive aspect of the design is the extensive string of ponds which were created out of a very modest stream: an excellent example of a Brownian landscape in that it suggests that the park featured a meandering river. The summer house and Bowling Green Bridge are also particularly notable features which, although only Listed at Grade II, have a particular significance as part of the overall landscape design. Currently tentatively attributed to John Carr, these structures may instead have been designed by 'Capability' Brown, perhaps in collaboration with William Mason. Although Carr was clearly the better architect, he was prolific: an attribution to Brown would make them rare surviving architectural examples of a different "great man's" work.

YGT Conservation Committee was consulted on the potential of Hornby for designation, which we supported noting the connections between William Mason, Brown and the 4th Earl of Holderness. We felt it was important to flag up the William Mason connection (author of The English Garden) because he was a promoter of Brown and the Earl of Holderness was his (Mason's) patron so there may have been subtle influences on the design. Altogether, this is a splendid new addition to the register and the Brownian connection makes it particularly appropriate in the lead-up to his tercentenary in 2016.

*Linda Smith*

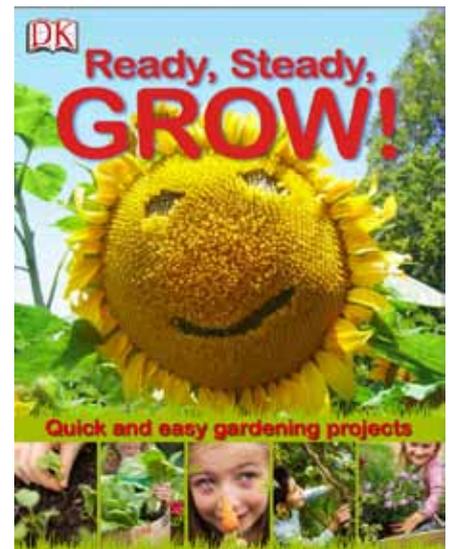
# Schools News

Over the Summer of 2014, each one of our 39 member schools received a hardback copy of the lively and informative RHS publication, 'Ready, Steady, Grow!' as a gift from the Yorkshire Gardens Trust. The book contains step-by-step, illustrated instructions for around 30 different projects. This term, member schools have been encouraged to make use of the book by embarking on one of the featured projects – growing their own 'Windowsill Watercress'. All the schools were sent watercress seeds from the Trust to help them make a start.

After careful budgeting throughout the year, we were in a position to open one of the £200 YGT Schools Grounds Development Awards this summer. All YGT member-schools were invited

to apply and we were pleased with the response. It was great to receive applications from a wide geographic spread across the county – from schools as far apart as Skipton, Northallerton, Sheffield, Whitby and Hebden Bridge. The enthusiasm and dedication to school gardening demonstrated by all the applicants was impressive and hugely encouraging, even if it did make for a difficult decision! The award was granted to Old Town Primary School in Hebden Bridge, to support their imaginative growing project which will be accessible to all the children in the school. Congratulations to Old Town Primary and we look forward to hearing how the project progresses.

*Nicola Harrison*



# Research and Recording

## East Riding Project

The East Riding of Yorkshire is perhaps one of the less well known parts of the large historic county of Yorkshire, although recent paintings of the Wolds area by David Hockney have alerted a wider audience to its beauty. In the 18th century, however, leading figures in the cultural world such as Lord Burlington with his estate at Londesborough and William Kent, born in Bridlington, provided the inspiration for local landowners to create estates with many fine landscaped parks and gardens. Primarily dominated by agriculture and with a relative lack of industrial development seen elsewhere in the county, has enabled many of these designed landscapes in the East Riding to survive largely unaltered. It was this combination of factors that determined this region would be the pilot for a long term project for the YGT to identify, research and record significant, mainly unregistered, parks and gardens.

In 2012, we started on the first phase by working with the two leading landscape historians in the area, David and Susan Neave, to identify potential sites. Twenty sites were chosen, deemed locally significant by us and in consultation with the East Riding Conservation Officer. All were

unregistered, except Thwaite Hall Gardens in Cottingham that was already on the English Heritage Parks and Gardens Register, but it was felt more information could be added. We then developed a format, based on the Parks and Gardens UK model, to research the history and record features of each site from documentary evidence, which the Neaves completed. The historic reports were put on the YGT website ([http://www.yorkshiregardentrust.org.uk/east\\_riding\\_yorkshire\\_research\\_project](http://www.yorkshiregardentrust.org.uk/east_riding_yorkshire_research_project)) and the information incorporated into the Parks and Gardens UK database.

The second phase, which started this year, was to visit the sites to record what survives on the ground and complete a 'Statement of Significance'. We were aided in the format of the latter by an excellent workshop run by the AGT's Historic Landscape Project. After completing some draft Statements of Significance, we called for volunteers to help with the site visits. A workshop was held to develop skills in using maps, plans and aerial photographs to help recognise and understand the layout and design elements of these historic landscapes.

The volunteers have quite a variety of sites to visit. Although many are

18th century landscaped parks, we have a number of medieval deer parks with surviving boundaries, a former monastic site, possible 17th century formal gardens, together with 19th and 20th century gardens. Perhaps one of the more curious is the remains of 'Carnaby Dutch Farm', created by Lady Strickland in the 1780s possibly in the spirit of the infamous 'Hameau de la Reine' near the Petit Trianon at Versailles. While there are a few famous designers linked with these landscapes (Brown possibly at Rise Park, Thomas White at Grimston Garth and William Emes linked to Cave Castle), the owners may well have drawn inspiration from their neighbours (who were also often their relatives).

The impetus for their creation was varied. In some cases, enclosure of common land and open fields provided opportunities to buy adjacent land and expand their estates giving a wider canvas to develop the designed landscape, such as at Cave Castle. Elsewhere it was a change of ownership either through a sale or inheritance that led to work being carried out. For some, it was more than an aesthetic exercise. The Constables of Everingham were devout Catholics and their faith had a direct impact on the way their

grounds were landscaped. In contrast, Christopher Sykes used Brantingham Thorpe Hall and its grounds to entertain the then Prince of Wales (later Edward VII) and it is said to curry favour with the future monarch!

Many remain as private houses and grounds, often owned by the descendants of those who commissioned the landscaping with some, such as Burton Agnes, open to the public to appreciate. Others have been converted into hotels (Cave Castle), event venues (Rise Hall and Saltmarshe Hall) or places of meditation (Kilnwick Percy). Sewerby Hall is now a well-loved local green space for the people of Bridlington. In fact, eight of the parks and gardens are in designated conservation areas and contribute significantly to the local character of the varied landscapes of the East Riding of Yorkshire.

Thanks must go to all those who have helped with this exciting project and in particular the core team of Jenni Howard, Yvonne Boutwood, Caroline Kernan and Helena Anderson.

## Next phase – Selby district (North Yorkshire)

Although the East Riding project has taken slightly longer than anticipated, we have learnt a lot and refined our methodology. With that in mind, we have now starting looking at the next phase. Ruth Benson, the Landscape Architect at North Yorkshire County Council, has suggested we look at the Selby district. Sandwiched between the East Riding, West and South Yorkshire, it offers not only a potentially interesting group of designed landscapes from an historical point of view but also ones, particularly in the southern half, under threat from development and potential neglect. Two of the sites, Moreby Hall and Nun Appleton, are already on the English Heritage Register. There are also two sites where Lancelot Brown prepared plans, Stapleton Park and Byram Park, which may fall under the remit of the CB300 project.

From an initial ‘long list’ of about 30 sites, it is proposed to choose between 10 to 15 where the research and recording work we will undertake, will

help planners and other professionals. It is important that we do not repeat previous work and at this stage, I am trying to gather together what has been done already with regard to historical research. This will form part of the proposal that I am putting together to present to the Council in early February to undertake this next phase. So it would be very helpful if you could let me know of any research you know of, which was undertaken on sites with the Selby district.

The main difference between this project and the previous one is that it is envisaged that members of the YGT will undertake the majority of the work. Volunteers will choose one of the sites and will carry out both the historic research and the site recording. If this is something that you are interested in, then please get in touch with me on 01977 663471 or [louise.wickham@btopenworld.com](mailto:louise.wickham@btopenworld.com). I and the other members of the R&R team will help you in the technical aspects if needed and the idea is to start in Spring 2015.

*Louise Wickham  
Research & Recording Group Chair*

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## FROM THE EDITOR

Thank you to those members who contacted me following the publication of the last Newsletter, your comments were greatly appreciated as it was a most daunting task taking over from Louise. Thankfully the designer and printer both know what they are doing and here we are with a second edition which seems to have crept up so quickly.

Writing this on a bitterly cold January morning the events planned for 2015 herald warmer weather with a wide variety of gardens to visit. Last summer I was fortunate to have two major excursions to gardens, firstly my annual pilgrimage to the London Open Squares Weekend in June and then a visit to Dublin the following week. The Dublin visit was to attend the World Association of Floral Designers flower show which takes place every three years in a different host country. Following a full day at the flower show I visited eight gardens in the Dublin area during a week of glorious

sunshine, each was quite different, from the modern small garden of plantswoman Helen Dillon to the grand estate of Powerscourt with some of the largest roses I have ever seen. Corke Lodge, Hunting Brook, Killruddery, Mount Usher, the Dublin Botanic Gardens and the garden of June Blake all offered something different.



Helen Dillon's garden

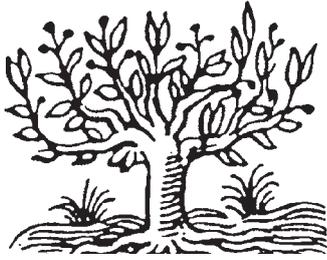
I have been visiting the London Open Gardens Weekend for over ten years and with over two hundred gardens to visit I don't think I will ever see them all. Last year I spent

the Saturday exploring some of the London Squares all with a Yorkshire connection, Bramham Gardens, Collingham Gardens, Gledhow Gardens and Wetherby Gardens. The names derive from the Yorkshire connections of the Gunter family who bought and developed the land in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Their Yorkshire home was in Collingham and their fortune came from a successful confectionery business in London. Gledhow Gardens are named after the family home of Miss Jane Benyon who married landowner Captain James Gunter.

I have already bought my ticket for a visit to the snowdrops at Tudor Croft and am looking forward to seeing this magnificent garden in the early Spring, having previously enjoyed it at the height of summer.

I hope to see many of you at this first Yorkshire Gardens Trust event of 2015.

*Tony Cleaver Editor.*



YORKSHIRE GARDENS TRUST

Registered Company Number:  
03256311

Charity Number: 1060697

## From a new member

A little under a year ago, my husband and I became members of the YGT. I cannot believe how welcome I have been made to feel, having been allowed to observe a Council of Management meeting and having attended three excellent workshops run by the research committee. I have also joined a small team to organise events for 2015 and beyond. When I look at the costs of supporting other (much larger) charities, I am really impressed by what our team of trustees achieves for its membership. The two annual newsletters are of such high quality and contain so much of interest – well done Tony for continuing this work.

Before taking early retirement I was



a Sales Director of a high turnover enterprise and I could tell you all about costing products to within fractions of a penny. So I was pleasantly surprised to learn just how tailor-made the pricing for each event is. Clearly the YGT is a charity which is run by

## For your Diary

**Sunday 15 February 10am Tudor Croft Guisborough. TS14 8DL**  
£10 Galanthophile Heaven!! This is a superb five acre Arts and Crafts style garden complete with a stream and a magnificent brick pergola. Each column is a different type of brick, the original owner was a brick manufacturer and the pergola was his 'catalogue'. Come and enjoy the snowdrops.

**Saturday 21 March AGM 9.30am** Pool in Wharfedale with visit to Farnley Hall, a Jacobean house extended in 1786 by John Carr of York. Various options available.

**Thursday 30 April 2pm Drointon Nurseries, Norton Conyers HG4 5EF**  
£9 including tea. Auricular specialists. RHS Silver Gilt Award Chelsea 2014.

**Tuesday 19 May 2pm Beacon Hill House, Longbar, Ilkley LS29 0EU**  
£7.50

**Saturday 20 June Summer Picnic, 11am Temple Grounds, Richmond DL10 4RE** £12 see article on page 9 for details of this site.

**Thursday 25 June 6pm Old Rectory, Scrayingham, YO41 1JD** £10 garden visit. For details of this garden see article on page 3

**Wednesday 8 July 2pm Littlethorpe Manor, Ripon HG4 3LG** £12. Four acres of formal gardens plus seven acres of parkland.

**Thursday 23 July 2pm, The White House, Hushwaite YO61 4QA** one acre country garden

**Thursday 13 August 10.45am Friarwood Valley Gardens and historic Pontefract** details later

**September, Shibden Hall and Dove Cottage, Halifax HX3 6XG** details later

volunteers, but there are still highly justifiable running costs involved, with the mailings and bookings which go on for each event. And being in Yorkshire, the charity is very careful with its funds – I can say that with admiration, coming from Scotland! But what I love is the transparency with which each event is costed to make it friendly, stimulating and affordable for everyone, whilst ensuring that we neither overprice tickets nor underfund our administration support. Some places charge more than others for us to visit and that is reflected in the prices which are offered to you.

It is not just pricing that is studied carefully: geographical spread is much debated to give a balance to all members, wherever they live in this beautiful, large county. So too, the types of event are carefully balanced so that we can learn as much from an undiscovered urban visit as we can

from a study day. Urban visits can be very exciting with the opportunity to see what Friends Groups achieve in maintaining and repairing parks, often with the help of a YGT grant. Look out for a special one coming next year! We also have unique opportunities to visit plant specialists as well as grand designed landscapes and amazing gardens. I'm just the new kid on the block, but I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible because there is so much more I want to learn about this fantastic county, its gardens, landscapes and parks.

*Fiona Barlow*

### Newsletter Autumn 2015

Deadline for next edition Monday  
18 May 2015

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