



NEWSLETTER

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Inside this issue:

<i>Chairman's Letter</i>	2
<i>Hackfall</i>	3
<i>Climate Change</i>	7
<i>Temple Newsam</i>	8
<i>Book Reviews</i>	9
<i>Jackson's Wold</i>	10
<i>Visit to Malton</i>	10
<i>Committee Round-up</i>	12
<i>Wentworth Study Day</i>	14
<i>Midsummer Picnic</i>	14
<i>School Gardens & YGT</i>	15
<i>Beacon Hill</i>	17
<i>Refugee Visit to H Carr</i>	18
<i>A Day in Malton</i>	19
<i>Wentworth</i>	19
<i>Small Grants Scheme</i>	19

The New YGT Shield Winner

The YGT shield was presented to Tracy Ledger, a full-time student at Park Lane College, Leeds in June 2008 to mark her achievement as student of the Year whilst studying for an NVQ 1 in horticulture. The shield was presented by Christine Walkden, the BBC TV gardener from the 'One Show' at the annual award ceremony for the Horticulture and Conservation students in the Vocational Education Department.

Tracy was given the award to mark her outstanding achievements as a "returner to education", having left school without qualifications or a career goal. Now,

having had a family and decided on a career, she has made the effort to enrol on a practical, starter course to help further her ambitions. Tracy is always happy when she is working. She is enthusiastic, willing and a great team player. She is always willing to help fellow students – even the more challenging ones – and takes a keen interest in the up-

keep of our site. Tracy volunteered for special projects and found a work placement that took her into employment over the summer. Now back at college for a further year to study for a higher course Tracy continues to be an outstanding student. The award was well deserved. Our reward was seeing the surprise and delight that shone in Tracy's face

when she accepted the shield for successfully completing her NVQ level 1. We wish her a very successful career in the future.

Liz Simson



Left to right: Mike Ashdown, Peter Wood, Tracy Ledger and Liz Simson. Mike, Peter and Liz all are tutors in Horticulture and Conservation at Park Lane College, Leeds.

Note from the Editor: I would like once again to thank all those for contributing to this Newsletter and I want to quote from a letter from one of our Members, Wendy Watson, which sums it up: 'I felt that I had to congratulate all concerned with the production of the Summer newsletter. The contents were excellent and I thoroughly enjoyed reading it...I do miss my contact and outings with the YGT but the excellent newsletter helps enormously to keep in touch'.

Wednesday 20th May, 2009 - Harewood House near Leeds

YGT is hosting a special Study Day in the historic Stables Courtyard at Harewood. This will be a unique opportunity to learn about the early varieties of Auriculas and Tulips which were among the popular Florists' flowers shown to perfection during the 18th and 19th centuries. Both the Ancient Society of York Florists and the Wakefield and North of England Tulip Society will be represented. Anne Wilkinson, author of *The Passion for Pelargoniums 2007* is going to lecture on the development of the Pelargonium as a Florist's Flower and Trevor Nicholson, Head Gardener at Harewood and recipient of last year's Professional Gardener of the Year award, will talk about the plants used in the famous Barry Parterre at Harewood. Afterwards we shall have the opportunity to explore the beautiful Himalayan rock garden (officially to be opened on May 15th after its restoration) at a perfect time of year when many rare plants will be at their best. Price £65 to include parking, entrance to the gardens, refreshments throughout the day and a delicious two course lunch. This really is a day not to be missed!

Chairman's Letter—January 2009

This year sees the bicentenary of Charles Darwin who was born on February 12th 1809 and the 150th anniversary of his *Origin of the Species*. Look out for the series of Darwin related lectures in the York Philosophical Society's current programme including one in March delivered by Peter Goodchild, our Vice-President. In 1831 Darwin accompanied Captain Robert FitzRoy as gentleman's companion on board HMS Beagle bound for South America. FitzRoy had been commissioned by the British Admiralty to survey the unknown territory around the Magellan Strait and Darwin, the young naturalist, seized the opportunity for his scientific observations. These observations were to change him from the carefree young man that he was into a questioning scientist edging towards his theory of natural selection.

Although the Galapagos Islands and its finches are generally thought to be the place where Darwin experienced his eureka moment, Patagonia was where he most probably first became aware of it while collecting huge numbers of fossils, creatures and plants. It was not until 1859 that he finally published *Origin of the Species*, a book that would question the very roots of Christianity and transform our thinking on the laws of nature. In autumn of last year, Martin and I spent an amazing month in southern Chile, often travelling through places where Darwin had visited such as the mystical Island of Chiloe and the vast barren plains of Patagonia.

In Vol 111 of *The Voyage of the Beagle* 1839 Darwin wrote: "No one can stand unmoved in these solitudes, without feeling that there is more in man than the mere breath of his body In calling up images of the past, I find the plains of Patagonia most frequently cross before my eyes". In this hauntingly beautiful landscape whose broad horizons stretch to the mighty Andes, I sensed a chilling sadness; perhaps it was the ghosts of the Indian tribes who had lived here in harmony with nature, hunting the Guanaco (a species of camel native to South Amer-

ica) for meat and eating the plentiful wild berries.

Berberis darwinii was a shrub I easily recognized being one of the finest flowering shrubs we grow in our gardens today; we too ate the berries, often marinated in liqueur. With Spanish rule virtually all the native tribes were killed or fell victim to European diseases. Cruelly labelled savages and heathens, they were in fact spiritual human beings whose religious affinity belonged to mother earth 'Pachamama'. Darwin was awestruck by the Fuegians, (the people of Tierra del Fuego) naked primitive men unlike any he had seen before. He pondered the ability between a Fuegian and Isaac Newton: "I believe if the world was searched, no lower grade of man could be found" (note the undertones of evolution by natural selection and what this could imply).

FitzRoy, however, during his previous adventure to South America, had felt a certain respect for the Indians until a group of them stole one of his boats. His revenge was to kidnap four young Fuegians whom he took back to England to be educated. Much to his chagrin Boat Memory (Indian names could not be pronounced by the sailors, so new ones were invented) died of smallpox but Fuegia Basket, the only female, was, remarkably, presented at court. FitzRoy had always promised to return them to their families and this he fulfilled on the second voyage with Darwin. It was hoped that Jemmy Button whom Darwin described as a dandy, could evangelise the rest of the Fuegians but this turned out to be a lost cause.

Having travelled through Peru, Brazil and Chile during the last few years I have never been more aware of the beauty of our British landscape and its great heritage. Yes, we too have felled forests and ploughed up meadows but nothing on the scale as that wrought by Europeans, particularly the Spanish on South America. Where we have repaired our countryside to make it one huge and beautiful garden, they have not; while we are blessed with

an abundance of knowledgeable naturalists and conservationists, they have few and government funding for conservation is not forthcoming in poor countries such as these.

We were fortunate to explore Chile's few remaining natural forests where indigenous trees have survived due to the setting up of National Parks. Close to the Argentinean border, beneath a snow capped volcano, I got to hug my 1,000 year old monkey puzzle tree (*Araucaria araucana*) and see healthy young babies growing beneath its prickly canopy. The trunks of the Monkey Puzzle were used for ships masts and the magnificent Alerce pine (*Fitzroya cupressoides*) to construct shingle houses. During colonial rule forests were ravaged and species like these became virtually extinct.

As an active forward thinking Garden Trust I like to think we are treading new ground - staging lectures such as the recent one on the effects of climate change on our native trees given by Alan Simson at Leeds University, our continued work in schools, educating children in gardening and horticultural science, awarding grants to good causes focused on preserving and beautifying our historic parks and gardens which are havens for wildlife and vital to the well-being of local communities.

In this year of Darwin let us remember his deep love of plants; he was, after all, a gardener himself who studied the biology of orchids and carnivorous plants and was fascinated by the habits of climbing plants. These he bred in his greenhouse at Down House a place he loved, and where his final book (on earthworms) was written. Darwin taught us that through the power of simple observation we too can embrace his elegant theory of natural selection and understand that with change all species, including ourselves can adapt. I wish you happy times in 2009 and thank you for your continued support.

Penelope Dawson-Brown



Ancient monkey puzzle trees in the Chilean Andes mountains. Their nutritious seeds were valued by the early tribes



In Patagonia Darwin was drawn by the guanaco "an elegant animal in a state on nature, with a long slender neck and fine legs"

HACKFALL, 1980 – 2010. Observations on a Historic Park and Garden's transition from abandonment into a major public asset

Hackfall is an English Heritage registered Grade I Historic Park and Garden (1991), it is designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest by English Nature (Oct 1989), Harrogate Borough Council designated it as a Conservation Area (April 1993), and there are 5 Grade II* or II Listed Buildings (June 1987):

- Banquet House II*
- Fisher's Hall II
- Mowbray Castle II
- Rustic Temple II

and also Hackfall Farmhouse II, the home of the writer from where over a period of 25 years the saving and restoration of Hackfall has been observed.

Hackfall as a designed landscape came into being around 1750 following the purchase of land at Grewelthorpe in 1731 by John Aislabie primarily as an investment - farmland to lease out, woodland for timber, quarries for stone and tufa for grottoes at Studley. Following John's death his son William recognised the potential of the delightful secret gorge dropping steeply to the meandering River Ure. He began to develop a romantic landscape and create another garden of international significance. The woodland provided the perfect setting for William's paths and vistas leading to romantic follies, eye catchers, breathtaking water features and cascades.

There are many travellers' accounts and guide books of the wonders of Hackfall, Dr R Pococke, William Gil-

pin, Arthur Young, William Beckford, James Plumptre, William Wordsworth to name but a very few who wrote of their travels. Views were painted by Turner, Devis, Dall and Nicholson and others. Catherine the Great, ruler of the Russian empire, commissioned a 944 piece dinner and dessert service from Wedgwood (1773) painted with 1244 views of Britain of which 5 or 6 representations of English Gardens were of Hackfall. In 1792 the Hon John Byng (later fifth Viscount Torrington), stated in *The Torrington Diaries* that 'There is so much to admire, so much to celebrate, that I know not how to proceed in description, or to speak half in praise due to Hackfall' all this despite getting well soaked by the rain that 'began to rattle on the leaves'.



Rev J Swete watercolour (1786) courtesy Bill Barber

Hackfall remained a popular tourist attraction until social changes due to World War I and the Great Depression meant that the owners of the

Studley Estate sold the wood and farmland in March 1933 to a timber merchant John Green (having failed to interest the National Trust who refused it on the grounds of lack of endowment). There now began 50 years of decline after many of the great trees were felled and timber extraction caused much destruction to the elaborate water systems. Four years later in 1937 Hackfall was sold again, this time the woodland was split from the farmhouse and pastures situated between Masham road and the top of the gorge. Hackfall now became a commercial farm and woodland.

Times again changed when World War II broke out, there was no longer an Estate workforce to tend to the visions of William Aislabie and the decline continued, now mainly enjoyed by locals it fell into obscurity and was forgotten beyond the area, nature and wildlife took over. Vandalism increased the deterioration as the lead was stolen from the roof of the Banquet House, a fire was started in Fisher's Hall and the roof destroyed. Landslips gradually filled Fountain Pool with mud and sludge; constant water damage caused further collapses to the cascades on Grewelthorpe Beck and the pools drained away. The tree growth obscured the views and vistas so carefully planned in the valley by William.

The 1980's saw a re-emergence of interest in Hackfall. The campaign

(Continued on page 4)

HACKFALL, 1980 – 2010 cont.

(Continued from page 3)
for Studley Royal Water Gardens
and Fountains Abbey drew attention



Derelict Banquet House 1980's

to other Aislabie creations. In particular the publication 'Mr Aislabie's Gardens' by The New Arcadians in 1981 raised the importance of Studley Royal, Hackfall and Kirkby Fleetham. Patrick Eyres publication in 1986 of 'Hackfall: A Sublime Landscape' describes the awe inspiring piece of untamed nature where William embellished the 'natural Sublime with Picturesque features' in the now almost vanished site. In 1987 once again Hackfall came up for sale with a threat of commercial development.

A group of local businessmen headed by The Rt. Hon James Ramsden formed Hackfall Trust to negotiate with the vendor and to raise funds for the purchase of Hackfall in order to fully restore this important piece of Yorkshire Heritage.



Rt Hon James Ramsden

It soon became clear that a suitable partner must be found, and in 1989 the Woodland Trust was able to obtain a 999 year lease with major funding assistance from the District, County, English Nature and Hackfall Trust. The Landmark Trust became interested in restoring the Banquet House, the principle building of the landscape, as one of their holiday cottages.

The 1990's were the years of progress and setbacks. A working group consisting of Woodland Trust (WT), Hackfall Trust (HT) and Landmark Trust (LT) was backed by officers from Harrogate Borough Council (HBC) and North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC), and specialists from English Heritage (EH) and English Nature (EN).

To an outsider it often seemed like three paces forward and two back as the implications of the SSSI were considered related to the restoration of listed buildings, views and vistas and the reinstatement of water features. As planning permission for the Banquet House to be restored to a LT holiday cottage was obtained the natural economic downturn impacted on their resources that had to be concentrated on a commendable Italian villa restoration project.

The biggest blow was the dramatic collapse of the Banquet House Terrace retaining wall. This had been undermined by rabbit warrens and beech tree roots and over a two week period collapsed down the steep slope towards the remains of Fountain Pond below. Initially there was a fear that the whole hillside was on the move taking the Banquet House with it. However geological surveys removed that fear and funding from EH and HT covered the cost of reinstatement in modern construction. A reinforced concrete retaining wall was constructed with 10 metre piles driven into the hillside. This was faced with rescued original stone which was hauled dramatically back up the hillside.

Basic restoration works to consolidate the buildings were carried out to Fishers Hall and the Rustic Temple, funded again by EH and HT, other

work was carried out by WT to the footpaths, boundaries and tree felling.

The Millennium brought in a new vision for Hackfall with the potential of finance from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF). HT backed by WT ne-



Fishers Hall

gotiated with all parties and the Landscape Agency (LA) was commissioned to produce a Conservation Management Plan (2002). This was approved and the LA was once more commissioned, this time to submit a detailed bid to HLF. A scheme of just under a million pounds was eventually agreed in 2006. Permission was finally granted in 2007 to start the project work, which was basically funded, by HLF, HT, WT and other donors. Almost 30 separate consents were needed to be sought from a wide group of statutory bodies before any works could take place on site.

The Banquet House: The restoration of the Terrace and the upturn in the economic market enabled LT to launch an appeal and the quality restoration of the Banquet House took place. A revised road entrance was agreed and access negotiated across the private farmland for the restoration and long term use by holiday couples. The basic stone structure of the original kitchen was consolidated and a parking place agreed. The first holiday couple arrived in February 2005.

Hackfall Parking and Access: The park and garden had only pedestrian access at the Grewelthorpe and Masham extreme ends of the estate. Detailed negotiations took place and eventually minor modifi-

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)



Restored Banquet House, courtesy of LT
cations were carried out at Grewelthorpe and a new car park for 12 vehicles was negotiated at the Masham end with the adjoining owner.

Views and Vistas: James Ramsden developed everyone's enthusiasm for re-establishing the vistas when he negotiated and implemented the stunning view of the River Ure to the prospect of Masham Church from Limehouse Hill in 2005. This was achieved as it was in the 1700's with the collaboration of the neighbouring Swinton estate.

Within the historic park other vistas and views were gradually established over three seasons: from the Banquet



View from Limehouse Hill

House to the Reflecting Pool (Fountain Pond), Fishers Hall and Mowbray Castle, Kent's Seat view to the Alum Springs is in place as is the view from the Grotto to Forty Foot Fall, and the famous view that Turner painted from Sandbed Hut is now

more evident.

Water Features: These vary from the might and delight of the River Ure and its tributaries to the developed Aislabie creations. In particular



Fountain Pond



View to Mowbray Castle from Terrace



View to Banquet House from Fountain Pond

the Fountain Pond area was re-established, the silt removed and the central fountain island cleared. Forty Foot Fall was cleared and its water course along with the famous Alum Springs re-established. At the Grewelthorpe entrance the series of reservoirs and cascades were re-structured along Grewelthorpe Beck.

Ecological considerations: The

Conservation Management Plan clearly covers important issues re-



Top Pond at Grewelthorpe Entrance



Alum Springs

lated to the importance of the biodiversity of the site.

In all the works planned due consideration was given to the most appropriate season for the work and



View across Fountain Pond

every effort was made to protect and enhance the habitat of the wide variety of species in the semi-natural broadleaved woodland. In

(Continued on page 6)

HACKFALL, 1980 – 2010 cont.

(Continued from page 5)

particular for rare flora including ferns, mosses and lichen, bats and the insect and mollusc population minimum disturbance and natural materials always a priority.

Folly Restoration: Every effort was made to engage traditional craftsmen and carry out work using existing and rescued materials

Mowbray Castle – This was by far the most difficult restoration with the entire Castle swathed inside and out in



YG T Members 'advising' Stonemason scaffolding for over a year, the consolidation work was accomplished by John Maloney and his team of stonemasons and supervised by the conservation architect Linda Lockett. Painstaking work was carried out to stabilise the structure and retain its role as one of the main eye catchers of Hackfall, re-established by removing obscuring trees.



Mowbray Castle Work in Progress

Kent's Seat – practically hidden by ferns and undergrowth the few remaining stones still in place were



Kent's Seat

cleared from the tangle and this once important arbour designed viewing the Alum Springs, was given a new lease of life. The roof has not been replaced for fear of vandalism but enough of the stonework has been rebuilt and a bench seat installed to recreate the concept.

The Grotto – heaps of tufa completely overgrown by hart's tongue fern and moss were hardly recognisable as the Grotto, the gothic cave like structure with the unexpected view of the Forty Foot Fall. The tufa has been dug up from the surrounding ground and the walls rebuilt to roof height, a bench has been designed to the pattern of the one in the Victorian postcards, and the main arch of the roof may be rebuilt in the near future.

The Rustic Temple – earlier consolidation work has now been completed with the restoration of the crenellations to the top of the walls.



The Grotto with new Bench Seat

The view from the windows is now of the clear waters of Fountain Pond and the three Romanesque apses of the Banquet House perched high above on the Terrace. The area is not lawned or manicured as it would have been, nature has been left to recover and rare plants and species can be found such as Toothwort.

Sandbed Hut and the Gate Pillars – near the banks of the Ure and Limehouse Hill the lost footings of Sandbed Hut lurked in the undergrowth



Craftsmen and Rustic Temple

and the once massive stone gate pillars that marked the entrance gates lay broken in the brambles. There is no record of Sandbed Hut apart from its name, so about 4 courses of stonework have been rebuilt to reproduce the footprint and give visitors the opportunity to stand where Turner stood to sketch the scene for his painting. The gate pillars have been rescued and now stand to mark where the gates and fence separated the areas that were grazed from the new gardens.

This summer Hackfall and all its restored features should really come into a quality reflection of its original Aislabie concept. The Landscape Agency's team of landscape architects, landscape historians, hydrologists and ecologists have been recognised for the 6 year restoration with the Landscape Award at the RIBA White Rose Awards 2008. The provision of a warden for five years will ensure that it will be appreciated by many into and beyond the next decade. HT and WT as co-lessees are jointly obliged under the terms of the HLF contract

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

to maintain Hackfall for at least 25 years

In conclusion it is fascinating to observe that Hackfall ultimately has been rescued primarily by three charitable/volunteer/professional trusts. Our appreciation goes to the three Trusts of Hackfall, Landmark and Woodland being indicative of the whole Gardens Trust movement in the last century and through into this. Over the last three decades many people have been involved in the saving of Hackfall but none

more so than the Rt. Hon James Ramsden and his wife Juliet (our ex Vice-President). It has been James' persistent love, vision and patience that has given Hackfall a new and extended life for many generations to come and all visitors to Hackfall are greatly indebted to James and his family.

Alison Brayshaw

- HT is building up a maintenance endowment and voluntary contributions for this purpose will be gratefully accepted. Please send them made out to Hackfall Trust

care of: *The Rt Hon James Ramsden – St Michaels House, High St Agnesgate, Ripon, HG4 1QR.*

- LT website for holiday lettings is www.landmarktrust.org.uk
- WT website is www.woodlandtrust.org.uk

Climate Change – will it affect the Trees of our Region

Talk by Alan Simson, Reader in Landscape Architecture and Urban Forestry, Leeds Metropolitan University

Yes, was Alan's short answer to the question; he then went on to explain why and in what way. He based his predictions on two reports, firstly, the Stern Report, 2006, upon which the UK's Climate Change Bill is based and secondly upon the Australian Economist, Garnaut's Report of 2008 which challenges the data upon which the former report is based. It concludes that global warming is inevitable and will be worse than previously thought. A worst-case scenario could see temperatures rise by up to 6%. This picture has led Alan to the conclusion that the world is facing a cultural crisis with huge ecological implications. He pointed out the need for strong political leadership, which is prepared, and able to address these immense changes, which are already taking effect.

Turning to trees, on the home front, Alan described the warmer winters and hotter summers with more storms both in summer and winter which would mean a big rise in pests and the inability of the shallower rooted species of trees to thrive and survive because many would be blown over. The implications would be worse, he considered, in the South of England and in urban rather than in rural areas because of the higher temperatures found in built up areas. The storms also increase the risk of flooding

which may be mitigated by the planting of woodland on the upland areas because this has the effect of restraining and flattening the flood surges that devastate urban areas, such as the City of Leeds, in the valleys below. In recognition of this beneficial effect, some schemes are already being implemented.

He also observed that much prime agricultural land in the North of the country is fetching very high prices because, in future, it will provide the UK with its bread basket. A return to the nineteenth century practice of planting of trees alongside arable would, he thought, constitute good practice, the woodland providing valuable home produced timber, a food source e.g. hazel, a wind break and reduce flooding. Additionally, vineyards would thrive in the South where the climate would be similar to Bordeaux.

Species of shallow rooted trees considered especially vulnerable include beech, birch, hollies, mountain ash/rowan, Japanese maples but that the deeper rooted species such as oaks would probably survive. Alan anticipates urban landscapes will change dramatically over a period of years as new species suited to the changed climate will be substituted for the native species currently planted. Many species of Conifers would fare especially badly. Because of the cooler temperatures in rural areas, he thinks there will be a less dramatic effect as, whilst there may be a need to substitute some species, most will survive and Historic Sites will retain their es-

sential character. An area of concern is the HLF funding criteria, which is still insistent upon original species being employed on restoration projects.

Also stressed was the crucial need to plant a wider variety of species than at present because so doing will reduce the ability of pests to decimate a whole area of woodland. Of special concern is Phytophthora, which hybridises rapidly, causing numerous diseases such as Southern Oak Death. Other diseases mentioned were the return of Dutch elm disease, Bleeding Cancer (Horse Chestnut); Oak Processionary Moth and Red Needle Blight all of which are predicted to worsen.

Alan went on to mention a long list of species small and large that will thrive in changed climatic conditions amongst them are the Judas Tree, Honey Locust, Oleaster, Sweet/Spanish Chestnut, Hickory, Walnut, Olives, Small Leafed Lime and Magnolia.

In conclusion, Alan was keen to emphasize that he was not describing a Domsday scenario but rather a radical change that will require significant culture adaptation in order for the economy of the country to prosper. Alan Simson's talk brought into focus an aspect of climate change and its wider implications that was new to many in the audience in a way that was stimulating and offered much food for thought. It was an evening well spent.

Heather Garnett

Visit to Temple Newsam – Saturday, 7th June 2008

Fifty or so members of the YGT and the Wakefield and North of England Tulip Society joined up to meet at the Lady Hartford Suite in the Stable courtyard for a remarkable and memorable day out. To someone who was living in Leeds 50 years ago Temple Newsam was a well-known name but the house was empty, no visitors allowed inside. The grounds were pleasant to walk in but nothing special – except when Henry Moore's Reclining Figure arrived. How that has now changed!

Our day began with a fascinating tour of the Tudor-Jacobean mansion, our group being shown round by Margaret Waugh whose knowledge was incredible. The name is derived from 'Neuhusum' (new houses) as it was known in the Domesday Book and the fact that in 1155 it was the property of the Knights Templar. Only the central block remains today from the house built between 1500 and 1525 by Lord Darcy. Following his beheading in 1537 for his part in the Pilgrimage of Grace, Henry VIII granted the estate to his niece the Countess of Lennox, granddaughter of Margaret Tudor and Henry VII. Their son Lord Darnley was born and brought up here before his disastrous marriage to Mary Queen of Scots in 1565 and subsequent murder.

On 14th June 1622 Sir Arthur Ingram bought the manor and estate of Temple Newsam from Ludovic, Duke of Lennox for £12,000. His descendants lived here for the next 300 years becoming the Viscounts Irwin after the Civil War. Following the deaths of the 9th and last Viscount and his widow, the house passed through the female line. Substantial alterations were made in the mid-18th century. Isabella, daughter of the last Viscount, was for a time mistress of the Prince of Wales (later George IV) and in 1806 he visited Temple Newsam and presented her with Chinese wallpaper and the Moses tapestries. In 1922 the Hon Edward Wood (later Earl of Halifax) sold the 917-acre park to Leeds City Council for £35,000 and the house came free.

Most of the contents had already been removed or sold. Lord Halifax subsequently returned much of the historic picture collection while great masterpieces of furniture, silver and ceramics have been acquired for the collections from a variety of different sources. During the 1980's and 1990's many of the impressive interiors were restored to their historic appearance culminating in 1996 with the total redecoration of the Picture Gallery to mark the 250th anniversary of the room. Many of the rooms have been redecorated with replica wallpapers, scraps of the originals having been found during the restoration process. The original furniture including a suite of twenty chairs, four settees and a daybed, has been returned to the Picture Gallery with the original floral petit point covers (all worked by the ladies of the house) intact. So many pictures to admire but not enough time!

Finally we viewed a marvellous selection of items of silver and silver gilt, but again not enough time to appreciate them properly. Margaret had kept us entertained with so many anecdotes and tales of the various incumbents that the morning had passed all too quickly. A return visit is a must to do justice to so much history. Following a tasty buffet lunch we met up with Martin Walker, Recreation Partnership Manager, who gave us a most entertaining tour of his treasured domain, his enthusiasm for his job shining through! Fifteen hundred acres of parkland, gardens, two golf courses and farmland only a few minutes drive from the centre of Leeds. Once a huge coalfield, the only piece of land said to still contain coal is where the house stands! The farm is now the largest working rare breeds farm in Europe and has many species of cattle, sheep and goats. One breed of cattle, Vaynol, was obviously not a favourite of Martin's! However, later in the tour he did admit that their manure was an important ingredient in the walled garden and they did, therefore, have something to contribute! A traditional herb garden has been created on the west side of the house with a spring garden. To the south there is a grassless Italianate garden with formal flowerbeds, box yew and

beech hedges, pleached laburnum walks and a clipped hornbeam stilt hedge. Our tour began with a view of the parkland landscaped by 'Capability' Brown, who was commissioned in 1762 to prepare an ambitious plan for improving the park. Beech plantations screened the agricultural land beyond and sunken fences – ha-has – that could not be negotiated by deer or farm animals conveyed the impression of the landscape coming right up to the walls of the house. Part of the remaining ha-ha can still be seen today alongside the rhododendron walk. The famous rhododendron walk started at the imposing Sphinx Gateway, once the main entrance to Brown's park, via the North Lodges. George Knight, Director of Leeds Parks in the 1960s/70s, was the main instigator of this wonderful show, many of the original plants coming from Mr. William Hasteley of Parcevall Hall. Martin explained how these had been pruned and thinned out over the last 4/5 years, obviously a great achievement as they made a wonderful show. The walk wound its way through expanses of lawn and broad beds of azaleas to the lakes. At the lakeside were delightful gardens full of candelabra primulas, irises and hostas.

Temple Newsam is home to five national collections of plants and we were given a tour of the delphinium Elatum group of cultivars, not open to the public for another couple of weeks. The others are *Phlox paniculata*, *Aster novi-belgii* (Michaelmas daisies), chrysanthemum and coleus. We then found ourselves in the huge walled garden and the famous herbaceous borders, over 800 yards long, maintained by 8 gardeners. They have kept to a very traditional style and combination of plants and everything was looking almost at its best. A quarter of the border is re-planted each year. In the centre is the rose garden, but Martin's long ambition is to return this section to traditional vegetables, if finances ever allow. Also within these borders a children's sunflower competition was taking place, encouraging the next

(Continued on page 9)

(Continued from page 8)

generation in a love of horticulture. Our tour ended in the long conservatory, a replacement set against the original tall fire wall built in 1788 pierced by flues which once conducted hot air to ripen pineapples and other soft fruit. It now contains a fantastic collection of geranium

'towers', hydrangeas, foxgloves, bougainvillea, strelitzia and proteas stretching for nearly 300 years. A truly magnificent sight. Martin had also entertained us with many amusing anecdotes and tales from his own long career in horticulture, and his obvious enthusiasm for his work made us realise how much we owe to

these people who are so happy to pass on their expertise and knowledge to the next generation. A very big 'thank-you' to him and to Margaret and the other guides, and indeed all the staff at Temple Newsam who helped to give us such a very special day out.

Dorothy Chiverton

Devon Gardens Trust

This very early branch of the Gardens Trust movement was formed in 1988 with the encouragement of several local organizations, not least the *National Council for the Conservation of Plants and Gardens* (NCCPG) set up under the auspices of R.H.S. Wisley who had quickly realized that their own remit was far too wide and that they wished to concentrate on the plants only. This small booklet starts by setting the background to other garden organisations that already existed on the national stage, including the two earliest Garden Trusts, Hampshire and Avon. It then goes on to record section by section, all the different members who have served the Trust since its inception, giving their dates of office and a paragraph or so about their achievements before going on to record the work of the sub committees and their chairs. An enormously important event took place in the mid 1990's when two brothers left a legacy of nearly £150k to the Trust. The Trust made the immediate decision to commission a business plan to ensure that the legacy should be properly used and this freed the committee to look to their charitable role from an early date. One of the ensuing benefits was the ability to publish, another was the many school and small building projects that the Trust has proceeded to grant aid.

Their first book had been *Devon Gardens: an Historical Survey* edited by Steven Pugsley which had first been discussed in 1989 and this was followed by *The Garden History of Devon - an illustrated guide to sources* by Todd Gray in 1995. Interestingly this led to an investigation of Devon's sale catalogues and they were able to lodge their results with the Devon Record Office. The transcription of the Swete Journals *Travels in Georgian Devon - the illustrated Journals of the Reverend John*

Book Reviews

Swete (1789 - 1800) was published over a four year period as a limited edition although the actual work involved took twelve years.

Devon Gardens Trust has also just published a first issue of their Journal (No 1 September 2008). This luscious A4 publication has stiff covers and a wealth of small colour photos, which add real value to the wonderful articles within. The subjects range from the history of the NCCPG in Devon, to county bath-houses and C19th allotment gardeners. As a northerner who can rarely make the time to visit this area I really appreciated the added benefit of the photographs not to mention the footnotes for places I have not yet visited. Both publications are an extremely valuable résumé of the Devon Trust's hard work over the past 20 years and an excellent record for future historians.

Copies of these publications can be obtained from: Clare Greener, Chairman, Devon Gardens Trust, 26 Linden Road, Dawlish, Devon EX7 9QA; claregreener@tiscali.co.uk *History* £3.50 including p&p; *Journal* £6.00 including p&p or the two together £9

Wood and Ingram A Huntingdonshire Nursery 1742 - 1950 by John Drake

John has produced that very rare thing an eminently readable book from the tens of dry business ledgers that survived by some miracle from this firm. As luck would have it they remained in a cold unheated room throughout the latter half of the C20th until their unique value was recognized. There are remarkably few horticultural firms whose account and letter books survive in such quantities and the number of those whose work has been assessed and transcribed is even

rarer. As John Harvey's early books on the horticultural trade pointed out this is a Cinderella branch of garden history and this new publication adds immeasurably to our knowledge.

John Drake is an acknowledged expert on Aquilegias, opened his garden to the public and also happens to be the chair of Cambridgeshire Gardens Trust. His new book is full of historical detail sorted into a roughly chronological time frame and he picks out several amusing letters to quote from. There are records of plants supplied for Capability Brown at Wimpole as well as for other aristocrats in the eighteenth century through the firm's Rose heydays of the later C19th and early C20th when they supplied Buckingham Palace amongst many others, to its closure and sale in 1950. Family pedigrees and lists of plants in stock, often with their current nomenclature printed helpfully alongside, make this a fund of useful information and somehow the 'missing' letters from clients and other nurseries, some from abroad, make keeping the thread of Wood and Ingram's correspondence with clients more intriguing still. There are a clutch of black and white photos of important pages in the middle of the book and two atmospheric colour photos on the covers, one of the Shooting star, *Dodecatheon meadia*, named after Dr James Mead and the other a collection of the wonderful ledgers that have been distilled so effectively to create this book.

The book costs £14 inc.p&p see www.cambsgardens.org.uk or by post from: Cambridgeshire Gardens Trust, The Grange, Easton Huntingdon PE18 0TU

Jane Furse

Jackson's Wold Garden, Sherburn, Malton – 3rd July 2008.

We drove through an absolute cloudburst to reach this charming garden but it was well worth the effort as the sun came out and we were able to see the garden under perfect conditions.

Jackson's Wold is a working farm about 480ft. up on the edge of the Yorkshire Wolds with spectacular views across the Vale of Pickering. The garden extends to approximately 3 acres of chalk land and has been created over the last 20+ years by enthusiastic and knowledgeable owners Richard and Sarah Cundall, who made us very welcome. Only plants that thrive in alkaline conditions are grown and the garden blends beautifully into the surrounding countryside.

As we approached the garden, we felt there was a lovely atmosphere and the smell of roses and honeysuckle was quite intoxicating. We were soon to discover lovely vistas in every direction. The South Facing Garden comprises a long mixed herbaceous border planted for colour and texture with many unusual plants, e.g. *Morina longifolia* (thistle-like with pink and white flowers hanging like small trumpets) and

phlomis, intermingled with familiar old favourites.

The roses are mainly in the Walled Garden where old-fashioned roses such as "Gardenia" and "Souvenir du Docteur Jamain" grow up the walls. There are also bush roses and herbaceous plants, e.g. various achillea, astringia and salvia, and a lovely *Crambe cordifolia*, its feathery white foliage gently swaying in the breeze. We then went through to the Courtyard Garden, which is at the heart of Jackson's Wold. Here there are fastigiated yews planted around a box-edged pool and underplanted with *Hosta elegans* and a lovely deep pinkish-purple *Salvia mainacht*.

In the Kitchen Garden we were accompanied by a number of dainty little Lavender Pekin hens. Here the paths are edged with box surrounding beds of vegetables growing in orderly rows with roses at the corners. Dahlias, sweet peas and sweet william were growing amongst the vegetables and there was an asparagus bed. Another pleasing feature in this area was a small Elizabethan knot garden, planted in front of a Victorian greenhouse.

We walked through the Wildflower Meadow planted with chalk-loving grasses, scabious and ox-eye daisies and then along a lime walk to a magnificent viewpoint over the Wolds – passing on the way a couple of small Duroc X pigs snuffling in the (enclosed!) undergrowth.

This beautiful garden is evolving all the time and the newest area is the Woodland Garden still in the making. Here there are paths and many specimen trees suitable for growing on chalk. After spending a couple of pleasurable hours exploring this delightful garden and eagerly buying plants from the Nursery, we were entertained to tea and delicious cakes. As we left Jackson's Wold the heavens opened and we drove home through a tremendous thunderstorm.

N.B. If you missed the YGT visit to this lovely garden, Jackson's Wold is usually open in May and June for the National Gardens Scheme. It has also featured in "The English Garden" and only days before our visit photographs had been taken for a future article in "Country Life".

Gypsy Nichol

Visit to York House and 'Castle Hill' Malton - 22 October 2008

Introduction

The purpose of this visit was to look at two of the historical landmarks of Malton, namely 'Castle Hill' and York House, and their associated gardens in particular. Both are important in the history of Malton, having long, complex and interesting histories. The gardens or parts of them have been subject to recent neglect and both are in the process of being rediscovered and finding new roles. They are capable of making significant contributions to the life of Malton as both are good examples of interesting historic gardens in an urban setting and need conserving and sustaining. During the course of the day we discussed in situ many of the historical and conservation issues that are connected with the two places.

Historical background

'Castle Hill' is on the eastern edge of Malton at the eastern end of the line of the former town wall. As the name implies, it is the site of Malton's medieval castle, very little of which obviously survives above ground level. Around 1600 a new and very grand mansion was built for the Eure family. This was largely demolished in 1674-5, leaving only the gatehouse, which became a much smaller residence known as 'The Lodge'. The latter was extended around 1856 by the addition of two small wings on either side. On the eastern side, further additions were made around 1878. Together, these provide the core of the present building, which is now the 'Old Lodge Hotel'.

'The Castle Garden' is the name

that has recently been given to the southern part of the land that formerly belonged to The Lodge. It includes earthworks that may be surviving features of garden layout that is shown on the birds-eye view of Malton c.1735 by John Settrington. These in turn may be remnants of the early 17th century garden. The Castle Garden is the property of Ryedale District Council and is being brought back to life by a local group, based in Norton, called 'The Derwent Riverside Project', of which Dinah Keal, a local Councillor, is the Secretary.

York House is located at the western end of the line of the former town wall and on the inner side of it. Recent investigations carried out by Nigel Copsey, suggest that the core

(Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 10)

of the present house was constructed sometime at the end of the Middle Ages or in the 16th century, in the time of the Tudors. Significant alterations and additions were made around the early 18th century.

It would appear that the history of York House is very closely connected with that of the Talbot Hotel, its neighbour on the western side. The Talbot is thought to have been established as a hotel around 1740 and the present building straddles the line of the former town wall.

A plan of Malton prepared in 1730, suggests that much of the land that is now attached to the Talbot was then attached to York House. The histories of the two properties are interwoven, and in order to understand one it is necessary to understand the other. Many aspects of their histories are unclear at present and further research is needed to sort them out.

At some point, probably in the first half of the 19th century, a villa was built in between the main body of the Talbot and York House. It survives and is now part of the hotel. It is not currently known whether it was built as a separate property or whether it has always been linked to the Talbot. At the back, it has its own garden taken out of land that was once attached to York House. The gardens of York House and the Talbot are terraced and their present main lines are to be seen on the 1730 map. So, the present basic layout would appear to have been in place by 1730, but this of course, does not mean that it might not be earlier. Also it may not all be of the same date.

At present, what is known about the history of the gardens and grounds at 'Castle Hill', York House and the Talbot Hotel is based mainly on observation of what exists on the ground and the evidence provided by maps. The earliest of these is the 1730 map of Malton, which belongs to the Fitzwilliam (Malton) Estate, the present owner of York House. Other information comes from N. A. Huddleston, 'History of Malton and Norton', (Scarborough 1962). In both cases we would seem to be dealing with high status gardens that need to be

viewed in the historical context of Yorkshire and the North. Any additional information on their histories would be very welcome.

The visit

Some 40 people attended the visit. It began at The Old Lodge Hotel at 10:00 hrs with talks by Trish Leach (landscape architect for the Castle Garden Project), and Peter Goodchild (a Vice President of the YGT, and Director of GARLAND). These were followed by a guided walk around the gardens of the hotel and the adjoining Castle Gardens led by Trish Leach. The Castle Garden Project team, working mostly on a voluntary basis, are in the process of rescuing it for low-key public and communal use. The central compartment of the garden has been cleared of nettles etc, new paths have been laid, and a lawn has been prepared.

Elsewhere, woodland paths have been laid, a boundary fence erected and specially made wooden furniture (by Mark Bennett from Malton) installed. One of the features that attracted special attention was a new metal gate at the eastern corner of the garden. It was made by James Morris of Sculpsteel, Terrington and presents the viewer with a beautiful open screen of overlapping leaves made of metal. Further work on the garden is planned. Two of the unexpected issues that have arisen during the course of the project are that the eastern compartment has a colony of badgers, and secondly the high retaining walls on the western and southern sides, which are connected with the former castle, are in need of attention.

After lunch, we progressed to York House where Nigel Copsey (project manager for the repair of York House) explained the nature of the basic repairs and conservation work that he has been carrying out. The structure is now sound and weather proof but the finishing of the interior awaits a decision about the future use of the house. The recent work has revealed a great deal of fascinating evidence about its history and its evolution. Much of this evidence is currently still visible and Nigel interpreted it for us and ex-

plained its significance.

The history and use of a house and its garden are, of course, closely interlinked and after we had looked at the house, Peter Goodchild led a group round the gardens of both York House and the neighbouring Talbot Hotel. As explained above, the two are closely connected from an historical point of view. On their southern side, both are terminated by the river Derwent.

At present, the garden at York House is not cultivated but the grass is being kept under control. It too awaits a decision about its future and this is linked to that of York House. For the time being, the house and garden at York House are only open to special parties or for occasional special events. The upper terrace of the garden at the Talbot is maintained for use by visitors to the hotel but below this, maintenance has ceased and it waits for active gardening to return. In the meantime, Nature is reasserting her claim to the lower garden.

The day concluded with tea, cakes and discussion at the Talbot. During the discussion, Eric Blades provided some personal reminiscences of the firm of Longsters where he was once employed. They were nurserymen and market gardeners in Malton in the 19th and 20th centuries, having at one time extensive orchards. They also occupied the 'Derwent Nursery', which was a little further downstream from the Talbot.

Penelope Dawson-Brown (Chairman of the YGT) closed the day by thanking everyone who had contributed to it, saying how impressed we had all been by the work and achievements of the Castle Garden Project and the York House project, and confirming the continued support of the YGT for both of them. In particular she was delighted that this year the YGT had been able to award a grant of £1000 to the Castle Garden Project, a project, which it feels, is of huge benefit to the community.

Peter Goodchild

Committee Round-Up

Research and Recording Report January 2009

Shandy Hall, Coxwold, North Yorkshire, was one of the four finalists for the *Country Life's* search for *England's finest Parsonage*; it was the winner for the North. The overall winner was The Old Rectory, Farnborough, Berkshire. (See *Country Life*: 17 September 2008, for more details). We were delighted that a Yorkshire Parsonage was in the finals, especially, as Moira Fulton was researching Shandy Hall for our Vicarage project.

Following our meeting at the North Yorkshire County Record Office in April, Keith Sweetmore, principal archivist, had kindly offered that at a future visit we could have a session on accessing information via the Internet. A date of 22 July was arranged, but as we had few takers we re-scheduled it for the 21 October 2008. Margaret Bousfield, archivist, kindly showed a still small group of us how to use the Internet as a research tool. It was a very useful morning. On the 15 September, the Parks and Gardens UK (P&GUK) project, had laid on a day for the YGT researchers, to show us how the website worked and how to enter information. We had a good turnout for the day, but only one or two have found time to try further input for the P&GUK.

Dr Jon Finch has decided to retire from the R&R group because of pressure of work. Because the Vicarage Garden Project was originally his idea, Moira and I are struggling to keep up the momentum because of other commitments, and because only a few of the Vicarages looked at have information about the gardens themselves, we have decided not to further this project at the moment. We will be arranging a meeting to draw this to a close. Instead, we are to research one site each year and produce a booklet for a YGT visit. This year we are to visit Clapham, the home of Reginald Farrer, the plant-hunter, at the end of the summer. Any information or help would be most welcome. Finally, we had a very good evening at the Dales Countryside Museum in July, when Moira gave an excellent illustrated talk on the *Gar-*

dens of the Yorkshire Dales, which some of the R&R group had been looking at for three years.

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Conservation and Planning

The most significant changes affecting the historic environment for many years, Heritage Protection Reform, has been researched and developed by English Heritage (EH) for the Department of Culture Media and Sport (DCMS). The Association of Gardens Trusts (AGT) commented on the draft bill on behalf of all the county gardens trusts earlier last year and you will remember that I wrote of our deliberations in the last newsletter. We fully expected that the bill would be in the Queen's speech to Parliament in December but the financial crisis intervened and the bill was one that was dropped and hence is not featuring in this government session. If you would like further information and briefing on the Queen's Speech and the implications for the Heritage Protection Reform programme it is available at: www.english-heritage.org.uk/server/show/nav.20038. The web page explains what can and cannot be achieved. Our understanding is that about 80% of the content of the bill could be delivered by regulation anyway and that the main focus now is to replace Planning Policy Guidance 15 (PPG 15) *Planning and the Historic Environment* and also PPG 16 *Archaeology* with Planning Policy Statement 15 (PPS 15). The Gardens and Landscape team at English Heritage is working closely with the EH Policy Department in drafting the new PPS and its good practice guidance, and the Heritage Protection Department will be doing further work on selection criteria including parks and gardens. The AGT will be consulted on the draft, which is due in April. It is important for the future of our parks and gardens that the new PPS gives them their due protection, and

that local authorities have the resources to implement that protection. Sally, Kate and I will comment on the draft for the AGT but would as ever, welcome input from gardens trusts' members.

We seem to be in a constant state of flux, and another major change in the pipeline are the powers in the Marine Bill with its scheme to improve access around the whole English coastline. In the deliberations around the draft bill – and which the AGT highlighted as a potential problem – we were very pleased that the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Select Committee recommended that parks and gardens should be exempt from the scheme, as they are under the Open Access Scheme. The thrust of the suggested exemption relates to privacy around dwellings. DEFRA and Natural England are still reviewing whether such an exemption would be possible, and if so, what the impacts on the scheme would be. While EH can identify those coastal parks and gardens on their Register, they are also concerned with those of local and regional historic significance, particularly where they contribute to local character and distinctiveness and where new access could adversely impact on their historic significance and design qualities. If you have local knowledge of parks and gardens that extend along the coastline and/or go down to the shore in our county then please let me know.

During my chairmanship of the AGT we put considerable energy into trying to remove gardens from the definition of brownfield sites. A definition which makes gardens easy targets for developers. We were therefore delighted that last November the House of Lords voted for an amendment giving greater protection to gardens and green spaces during the final stages of consideration of the Planning Bill. Earl Cathcart said that his measure sought to "increase protection for gardens and small urban green spaces. It does so by leaving it to local communities

(Continued on page 13)

(Continued from page 12)

to decide, not to higher authorities and least of all to remote central Government. It does not take away the householder's right to extend their house by permitted development. It does not prevent local authorities setting frameworks that are more permissive. But it does prevent the wishes of local people being undermined; unless in the specific case it can be shown that development is essential to achieve housing targets. Even in such cases, full consideration would have to be given to the importance of green space." However the Government considered that the amendment was "unnecessary".

A Communities and Local Government spokesperson said, "Local authorities have always had the power to turn down applications for inappropriate housing development in back gardens and new planning rules (Planning Policy Statement 3) that came into force in April last year have strengthened those powers further." We have been pleased to learn that despite the Commons overturning the Lords amendment to the then Planning Bill the Government has decided to carry out a review to see whether action is needed to tackle 'garden grabbing' by developers. This is due to begin this month (January 2009).

In addition to informing the AGT responses at national level, the YGT Conservation sub-committee continues to bat for Yorkshire's parks and gardens. We have written objecting to two planning applications for wind turbines where they would adversely impact on historic designed landscapes; Bolton Abbey and Gledstone Hall. The application for five turbines adjacent to Brightenber Hill, Craven and in sight of the north front of Gledstone Hall has been refused. In Sheffield, the housing development proposal on 19th century villa gardens, partly developed for Sheffield University halls of residence and animal and plant research in the second half of 20th century, and where we gave advice to a local group has been refused by Sheffield CC and refused again on appeal to the planning inspectorate. Also in South Yorkshire we made comments on the draft Wentworth Woodhouse Conservation Plan for the landscape and we were invited to a workshop on the draft

conservation plan for the buildings. Having last visited Wentworth Woodhouse on a bleak January day in 2000 at the invitation of the new owners, it was a great pleasure to see all the wonderful restoration work on the main house carried out by the family since then. Wentworth Woodhouse is an epic landscape, very important regionally, nationally and internationally and we hope that the landscape can benefit similarly.

Anne Tupholme has been steadfastly keeping abreast of several sites in West Yorkshire. At Whinburn, the new owners are now installed and trying to get the house in order. Anne has been to see them and has had useful discussions. The plight of Whinburn and the gardens was highlighted in last summer's regional Heritage at Risk Survey with quite a lot of regional press coverage. However the national Landscapes at Risk Survey has still to be completed. So despite the regional coverage of the gardens at Whinburn there was no information on gardens and landscapes at risk in the national Heritage at Risk Survey published by EH, which is a great pity. Whinburn's upper garden pavilion has now been listed but there are inaccuracies that Anne is following up. St Ives, Bingley is still in our sights and we continue to contact EH about its Registration. A bound copy of the research on St Ives by Anne is to be deposited in the YGT archives at the Borthwick Institute. On Dobroyd Castle, Todmorden, two planning applications for an activity centre have now been passed. Through the secretary of the Fielden Society, Anne has tracked down retired architect John (Jack) Taylor who lives in a flat in Stansfield Hall, another former Fielden property and who has accounts for some of the trees that were planted in 19C. Anne has also discovered that Edward Kemp's book includes a plan for a "small nook in the grounds of Joshua Fielden Esq. Of Stansfield Hall". Anne has met John P Marshall of Todmorden a botanist, who is also interested in the trees at Dobroyd and has been meeting with the new owner. We are however concerned that the local authority ecologist has recently suggested that non-native trees in

the pleasure ground woodland to the east of the house should be felled and Anne is hoping to meet him on site with the owner and arboriculturist to explain the historic significance of the designed landscape, the tree planting and the links with Edward Kemp.

As you know the Conservation sub-committee is concerned about the design of the reconstructed waterfall at Parcevall Hall. We think that the way forward is for YGT to give practical help in altering it and that includes funding. We have had one small donation but we need to raise a good deal more. Anne has been spearheading enquiries to get practical assistance and quotes. Many of you will recall our visit to Kiplin Hall in 2007, and we continue to try and help the charitable trust there. Last September we wrote to the Heritage Lottery Fund in support of Kiplin's application for a Your Heritage grant for the peninsula pleasure ground woodland. We are delighted that the grant has been awarded which means that there will be a tree survey, woodland management, the growing of trees from the seed of existing trees, and considerable community involvement. Well done!

Some other good news, EH now has a trainees programme. Trainees from various backgrounds will have two years internal training with EH to equip them with a broad range of experience and expertise. It is hoped that they can then work with local authorities. YGT has offered parks and gardens assistance to the EH York office. Finally, in case you don't know - English Heritage produces guidance and policy on all aspects of managing the historic environment. It is most easily accessible through www.helm.org.uk. A full sub-section of the website is dedicated to climate change and this can be reached through the 'Managing and Protecting' link at the top of the home page. Alternatively, from the home page, click on the 'Guidance Library' link on the left hand side, then choose 'English Heritage' guidance. This will take you to a full alphabetical list of all current guidance and policy.

Val Hepworth

Wentworth Castle Study Day, AGT/YGT 15 May 2008

After being embroiled in the massive development plans for the south of England, and my patch in Hertfordshire in particular, it was a breath of fresh air to travel north to find a little miracle. Not only has Wentworth Castle survived in industrial South Yorkshire but it has found doughty champions in the form of the Wentworth Castle Trust. Their exemplary restoration of the landscape should hearten all those of us who feel that we are fighting a mighty battle for preservation of our historic landscapes. They are fighting and winning. The day the YGT organised was the usual format of talks in the morning and landscape walks after lunch. And it didn't rain on our parade - first miracle. And parade it was, though not up to military standards. Walking this formal garden with its Union Jack wilderness and formal vistas was an object lesson in how to respond to the ravages of time and accommodate the needs of a modern garden with its 12 month opening period, without compromising the design intent. Everyone was impressed, firstly with the depth of knowledge our guide, Jane Furse, possessed and then with the system of restoring the landscape as and

when funds become available so we saw the very high standard of the consolidation of Stainborough Castle - rather more ruined than when Strafford built it. This was contrasted with the little gem of a Gun Room, which has had an equally high standard of restoration outside, but inside still awaits sufficient funds for internal treatment so has been made safe but no more.

This followed a fascinating morning with 4 excellent speakers: Jane on the 18th Century, Erika Petersen from Hilary Taylor Landscape Associates on the Victorian development, Liz Smith, the Archivist, on the 20th century archives and interpretation and Patrick Eyres on the political connections which are as interesting as those better-known ones at Stowe. The talks were held in the beautifully converted church and not only did we have oodles of information and illuminating images to digest, we had some audio clips from interviews with people who had worked on the estate in the early 20th century. I particularly like the South Yorkshire woman who found a North Yorkshire accent difficult to

understand - how would she have managed with Estuary English! These talks and a delicious lunch were held in the Visitor's Centre, a lovingly converted building holding shop, café and the conference 'church' and function room upstairs. There was not time to do more than view the park from the mansion so a return visit to Barnsley beckons to explore the temples, obelisks and views and, not least, to see the progress on the restoration of the gardens.

The AGT's thanks go to YGT and especially Jane Furse for the organisation of this Study Day. If and when the Wentworth Castle team finally finish the restoration, I can think of many more sites, which would benefit from their can-do approach backed by meticulous research and deep understanding.

Website links

www.wentworthcastle.org
Hilary Taylor Landscape Associates:
www.htla.co.uk/wentworthcastle.htm

Kate Harwood

Midsummer Picnic, Old Sleningford, 24 June 2008

Some years ago I organised an evening visit to Old Sleningford for YGT members. Unfortunately, the balmy evening of my dreams was replaced by torrential rain, and some members rather uncharitably christened such conditions 'YGT weather' – you know who you are... So it was with great relief that I peeked through the curtains to find that Tuesday 24 June had dawned bright and clear and promised perfect conditions for a picnic. The midsummer picnic is now a firm fixture in the YGT calendar and it was good to see a large crowd of members assembled outside the house to be welcomed by Tom and Jane Ramsden. Tom told us a little of the history of the house and garden. The house was constructed as a speculative scheme in around 1810 but the garden we see today is largely the creation of Tom's parents, James and Juliet (our Vice-President) who moved to Sleningford in the 1950s. Their greatest achievement was the restoration of the old millpond and mill

buildings to create a tranquil and picturesque setting that also incorporates a kitchen garden. Tom and Jane, who have only recently taken on the estate, are making small changes such as the new paving in front of the house and the clearing of trees and shrubs to reopen views out into the landscape.

Tom encouraged us all to visit the 'forest garden' – a concept that was entirely new to me. Above the mill garden Rachel Benson and Martin Baker are creating an organic, practical and productive landscape. Four winters ago this land was set-aside and as it had not been farmed for five years it was a free from chemicals and a perfect spot to establish an organic garden. The forest garden, of roughly 1½ acres, has a mulch of card or carpet, manure and straw which is doing a pretty good job of suppressing weeds and enriching the soil.

Every available space is used to grow produce of some kind and because of the mulching and ground cover, there is relatively little maintenance. Just as in a natural woodland, the ground feeds itself and the plants are beneficial to each other, either bringing nutrients from deep in the ground or attracting beneficial insects. The multi-layered planting ranges from a low carpet of strawberry plants to the relative loftiness of young apple trees, with other fruit and vegetables of varying heights in between according to the seasons. Produce is grown all year from the first rhubarb to the herbs that grow throughout the winter and the informal layout replicates a natural forest. Rachel and Martin were very much in demand as members were keen to learn more about this fascinating garden and I hope we can return to Sleningford to see it develop.

Karen Lynch

School Gardens and Gardening – what is YGT doing to help?

Introduction

The short answer is 'Quite a lot!' The longer answer, from a personal viewpoint, began with my article four years ago in the Trust Newsletter, 'Kirkby & Great Broughton School: bringing the landscape into the grounds'. At that time the design phase of the project, involving the whole school from oldest to youngest, had been completed; as we were going to press, news came in that we had won a national award that would allow us to implement the design.

There followed a flurry of activity at the school, with the Head teacher, myself and the children of the School Council, heading off to London to receive the award at the British Museum (Natural History). The Spring was spent getting quotes in for landscaping work and the summer holidays saw contractors on site putting in pathways, a timber footbridge, fence, stile and building a 'round house' shelter (see Figs. 1 and 2).



Fig 1 - Before work commenced in grounds of Kirkby & Gt Broughton School



Fig 2 - After, showing the bridge, fence, stile and round-house

The following November, during National Plant a Tree Week, great

numbers of parents, children, aunts and uncles arrived at school and between them planted fifty trees in a morning! Plaques were bought for family trees – the first steps in creating and caring for our school grounds had begun.

In the Spring of 2006, I and a couple of interested parents, set up a lunch-time club, 'Wildlife & Wellies', to keep the children involved in caring for and appreciating their fantastic school grounds. It has been running weekly ever since, and during that time we have done everything from planting snowdrops to sowing a wildflower meadow, making scarecrows, to building a 'Thankfulness Cairn', harvesting our own produce for the Harvest Festival to making willow stars for Christmas. It has been wonderful!

YGT Schools Education

At around the same time as setting up Wildlife & Wellies, I was asked to lead Schools Education work for the YGT. The first step was to understand the context:

- what other agencies were doing to support schools in using their grounds and gardens - the Royal Horticultural Society, County Wildlife Trusts, Learning through Landscapes and others;
- national initiatives such as the national campaigns for Healthy Schools and Eco-Schools, not to mention the many aspects of the national curriculum, which encourage schools to make good use of their grounds;
- the approaches taken by the Association of Gardens Trusts and other County Gardens Trusts.

Against this background the YGT for Schools scheme was developed to provide unique support for Yorkshire schools developing and learning from their grounds and gardens. It was decided to pilot the scheme in the North Yorkshire area local to this particular YGT member and to widen the area as resources allowed.

Under the scheme, schools are invited to become members of the

Trust, and in return, they are entitled to:

- copies of the YGT Newsletter
- advice, ideas and support to create/develop a school garden or gardening club
- enter any YGT for Schools projects, competitions or award schemes.

The two awards that members can currently apply for are the YGT for Schools Gardening Club awards which include a selection of high quality junior gardening tools and YGT for Schools Garden awards of £200 (increased from £100 in the first year) to help create or develop a garden area.

In the two years that the scheme has been running, the Trust has been able to help around 15 schools; at least half of which have been outside the pilot area and as far apart as Leeds, Bradford, Harrogate, Masham, Norton, York and Sheffield. £700 has been presented to schools in cash awards during this time and £725 has gone into schools in the form of junior gardening tools and other gardening supplies. By far the largest investment in these schools, however, has been members' time, to provide advice, support and expertise.

Activities have included –

- working with children to look after and explore their own grounds
- surveying new school garden sites
- supporting parents setting up gardening clubs
- working with the Northern Fruit Group to introduce fruit trees into schools
- drawing up action plans for development and maintenance of garden areas
- producing planting plans
- liaising between schools and grounds maintenance teams
- identifying sources of funding
- advising on health and safety issues

(Continued on page 16)

School Gardens and Gardening cont.

(Continued from page 15)

Most recently, the YGT has been able to organise its first exchange visit between local school gardens and parent-gardeners, as a way of sharing ideas and spreading the support network. This was well received, and is hopefully just the start of another way of inspiring and encouraging gardening in schools.

Highlights

There follow a selection of the recent projects the YGT has been involved with in the school gardens around our county.

Allerton (formerly, Archbishop Cranmer) CE Primary School, Leeds, where students from Leeds Metropolitan University have been redesigning the school grounds. The YGT provided mentoring to one of the students to help set up a successful school gardening club; advising on suitable activities and establishing links with other organisations, such as Marie Curie Cancer Care to encourage sponsored daffodil-planting - helping both the school and the charity. The children were harvesting their first crop of radishes and spinach



Fig 3 - Harvesting radishes at Allerton Primary school, Leeds

(Fig. 3)

on the day I visited to present the children with a new set of tools and gardening club recording box (Fig. 4).

St Pius X RC Primary School, Middlesbrough was put forward by the Heagney family as particularly worthy of receiving our support. We have been delighted to work with the school to supply them with tools and gloves to allow them to set up a gardening club; advise on health and



Fig 4 - Children from Allerton gardening club receiving tools from YGT

plants and man-power to plant up a special garden area in memory of one of the pupils from the school. Class-mates were keen to help design and plant out the area for their



Fig 5 - Children from Pius X school, planting out a bed in memory of their class-mate

lost friend (Fig 5).

Carlton & Faceby CE Primary School, Carlton-in-Cleveland asked for our help when an enthusiastic group of parents wanted to restore the school's overgrown wildlife area, but were not sure how to go about it (Fig 6). The Trust were able to carry out a detailed survey of the area; give advice on what should be cleared and what should be left to provide valuable habitats for wildlife, but at the same time, making the area accessible for children and teachers to safely observe and study nature; produce plans for the newly developed area and an associated action plan to allow them to achieve and maintain their aims.

The school received a £200 award

safety aspects of school gardening; producing a planting plan for a wildlife border and latterly, providing



Fig 6 - Before work began to clear wildlife area at Carlton & Faceby school

from the Trust to help with new seating, pathways and planting. The area has now been sensitively cleared and children have been involved in sowing seeds, planting bulbs and finally, being able to make use of the area for nature



Fig 7 - After work to improve wildlife area, for both children and nature!

studies and science lessons (Fig 7). Inspired, the school are now planning to create a productive garden in the grounds.

New Park Community Primary School, Harrogate received one of the Trust's cash awards to help develop the 'Secret Railway Garden' in their grounds as a quiet area for children to draw, paint, read and chat. The garden recalls the time, around 100 years ago, when a narrow gauge railway emerged from a tunnel next to the playground and supplied coal to the local gas works.

Greenhill Primary School, Sheffield have far-reaching plans to develop their grounds into a number of 'sustainable learning zones' including sensory, environmental, wildlife, reflective, inspirational, recreational and allotment areas. Val Hepworth has visited the school and we have

(Continued on page 17)

(Continued from page 16)

carried on to provide advice and practical support to further this project, in the form of a cash award that has been used to purchase children's gardening tools.

Kell Bank CE Primary School, Healey has been supported hugely by Ray Blyth who has created designs for the school grounds, liaised with parents, planted hedges, laid pathways and secured the support of the Northern Fruit Group to plant apple trees.

Norton Primary School, Helmsley have visited Penelope Dawson-Brown's farm where, with the help of Peter Woods, the children have collected wild crab apples and planted up the seeds. The school hope to return to plant the young trees in a small plantation near the mother tree. The same school have also previously planted junipers with Penelope and Peter.

Marwood CE Infant School, Great Ayton was keen to develop their one green space around the front entrance, as a quiet space for small groups of children to enjoy under adult supervision. YGT were able to help with this, advising on design plans; liaising between the school, the arboricultural officer and the grounds maintenance team; presenting a £100 cash award and a set of junior gardening tools. Links with the Northern Fruit Group have meant that advice on fruit tree planting has also been

made available to the school. Marwood are now moving on to explore areas for including a raised bed for growing vegetables. YGT has been able to assist in this by arranging a visit to another nearby school (Swainby & Potto Primary) that has recently created a highly successful vegetable garden.



Fig 8 - Swainby & Potto vegetable garden

Swainby & Potto CE Primary School, Swainby have had an amazing gardening year. During that time, an enthusiastic group of parents, have designed a vegetable garden, obtained funding for it, built it, run gardening clubs throughout the summer with the children and harvested their first produce (Fig 8). YGT was delighted to assist in this with the donation of a £200 cash award and a set of gardening tools for the children. The school are now seeking advice from the Trust to

design an 'eco-friendly entrance'. I will be working with a group of children in the New Year to help them think through some of the design aspects.

Conclusion

We have achieved so much in the last two years, helping a good number of schools to create gardens, set up gardening clubs and simply encouraging schools to allow the children to make the most of their outdoor spaces. During this time, the Yorkshire Gardens Trust has reinforced this by signing up to the Learning Outside the Classroom Manifesto and encouraging the Association of Gardens Trusts to do the same. The latest venture whereby YGT is putting local school gardening clubs in touch with one another and arranging exchange visits is very exciting, and hopefully one that will be beneficial all round!

The YGT is on the verge of creating an Education Sub-Committee to allow it to expand this work. As always, if you are already supporting your local school in its gardening endeavours, or would like to, but are not sure how to start, please get in touch and we will try to share our experiences across the county. The YGT is already 'doing quite a lot' to support school gardens and gardening; in the next two years, we hope to be able to do even more!

Nicola Harrison

Beacon Hill

Described by its' owners Humphrey and Josephine Boyle as a 'romantic garden', Beacon Hill House is essentially a woodland garden of approximately 9 acres, rising from 900 to 1200 feet above sea level just below the summit of Beamsley Beacon in the Yorkshire Dales.

With spectacular views across Wharfedale towards the village of Addingham, the south facing house and gardens were originally constructed in 1848 by the philanthropist, Benjamin Popplewell Briggs, whose family had been in the area for over 200 years. The location was chosen as a sanctuary for his son whose ill



House and Front Garden

health was thought to benefit from the altitude and fresh bracing air of the Dales.

Surrounded on 3 sides by moorland, the entire garden is enclosed by an 8 - 10 feet natural stone wall and on the south side by a thick holly hedge through which we squeezed via a narrow style designed to prevent unwanted guests - the local Swaledale sheep that graze the surrounding countryside. Once through the style a spacious lawn surrounded by shrubs and a natural area strewn with marguerites opens on to a view of the house fronted with a colourful herbaceous border of mainly perennials and roses.

(Continued on page 18)

Beacon Hill cont.

(Continued from page 17)

We were each given a printed layout of the garden and were free to wander at will through a series of small enclosed spaces and grottos, an orchard with stove and heated wall, a fernery, greenhouse, and even the remains of a Maid's loo and piggery! At one point we passed through a tunnel, the entrance adorned with naturally sown white foxgloves opening on to a rose garden and pottager. Around every corner was some new delight with an unexpected splash of colour as with the scarlet flowers of *Tropaeolum speciosum* cascading down an evergreen hedge or the bright peach shades of *Tropaeolum majus* 'Margaret Long'. Now very much a mature garden Beacon Hill has a Victorian air about it, especially the Fernery near the shrouded greenhouse and the



View through gate to main house

pond with its secluded seating. Various pathways link and criss-cross through the woodland which is mainly Beech and Conifer with the occasional Ash and underplanted with Rhododendron - some with a random bloom - even in July.

When it was first built the garden

employed 11 gardeners but now has one part-time gardener and of course the never ending attention of Humphrey and Josephine, who since moving to Beacon Hill House in 1976, have spent a great deal of their time redesigning various parts of the garden including establishing the current lawn to take advantage of the splendid views across the dale.

Fortunately, we were blessed with a rare warm and sunny afternoon during an abnormally wet and overcast summer and were rewarded with tea and cakes on the terrace at the culmination of a fascinating walk that provided some new aspect around every corner and made for an enjoyable and fulfilling afternoon.

Richard Passmore

Visit to Harlow Carr for the Refugee Council, 10th September 2008

Following a successful visit to Bishopthorpe in May another visit was organised with Leslie Dean of The Refugee Council in Leeds to bring a small group to Harlow Carr Gardens in September. The group and a few YGT members were greeted and briefed by Deidre Walton of RHS Harlow Carr. She described the layout of the gardens and introduced descriptive words such as: ornamental, stream, alpine, scented and herb gardens. Dressed for a grey day the group meandered through the damp garden. Aiming for the display vegetable garden was a priority as the Council has an allotment in South Leeds. It provided much to talk about and compare: different shapes and colours of herbs & vegetables, many of which are known worldwide. At that time there were a variety of courgettes, beans, salad crops and tender & perennial herbs. We looked at a small shade tunnel that the allotment holders would like in order to extend their

growing season. Unfortunately there does not seem to be much



YGT members and refugee group enjoying Harlow Carr

continuity in the refugees using the allotment in Leeds or in joining these visits

The Gardens Through Time were a more difficult concept and very detailed so a break was organised in the School Room, it not being picnic weather. The group was small due to it being Ramadan, the only

woman being in the family of 4 who have already got their status. The remainder of the group were men from Iran, Afghanistan and West Africa. They could not be tempted by the delicious cakes brought by the committee and the sandwiches brought by Leslie Dean. However some food was willingly taken home for consumption after dark! Climate is a perennial subject for discussion and brings people together as does the subject of growing food. The Refugee Council and its volunteers do much to support and raise awareness of those arriving in Yorkshire. These visits are very worthwhile for all concerned and give an opportunity for general discussion between the parties.

Footnote: planning permission has been granted to RHS Garden Harlow Carr for their new eco friendly Education Centre to be built where the Kitchen garden is. Look out for the new one www.rhs.org.uk/harlowcarr

Jane Ingham

A Day in Malton

If you have ever had to man a stand at an event and hand out leaflets, then you will know that it is not always clear if your efforts will be worthwhile and the response from visitors is what you would wish. But when I did my stint on the Yorkshire Gardens Trust stand at the Ryedale Conservation and Heritage Fair held in York House, Malton, it was everything and more. Val and Penny had manned (or womaned) the stand on the Friday, which proved to be a busy day, with allied professionals and the public visiting the lectures and viewing first hand the restoration-in-progress throughout the house. It was down to Ray and myself to face what would be over 400 visitors on the Saturday.

What was so heartening was the various responses from the public to the work going on in Malton – remember the Trust has awarded a grant to the Church gardens project in Malton – and the keenness with which they wanted to know more about us – the YGT. People had a genuine concern for the heritage, the future use of such buildings as York House and especially the gardens to the rear of the house, sloping gently down terraces to the River Derwent. Peter Goodchild's tour of the garden along the mown grass path swathed between the neglected garden, got as much attention from visitors as the house.

Once people began to appreciate the heritage, see the work gone into the restoration and the potential of an historic building on their main street with a unique garden, they were interested to know more and many took leaflets with membership slips inside!

I came away thinking this had been a good day – for the Trust showing its diverse support for the green spaces, for me to meet people who cared as much, if not more, than me for the heritage conservation of gardens and buildings and to see the project in action.

Jenni Howard

Wentworth

The Trust is setting up a whole series of new events to draw visitors to the site and a series of outdoor events is planned for the forthcoming season. YGT members will be able to find details on our website www.wentworthcastle.org

Patrick Eyres, a fellow Trustee and also a YGT member, is continuing to beaver away in the archives and has uncovered all sorts of new evidence about the architect and craftsmen who built the Baroque Wing here. All will be revealed in his article on Wentworth Castle which is to be included in the new YGT publication edited by Susan Kellerman.

Our new playground has been an immediate success, greatly increasing our popularity and bringing family visits of all three generations to our site, which we are so keen to encourage.

One other new addition has been more complicated. We now have both fallow and red deer herds in the parkland and whilst immensely attractive to all who see them, the fallow deer have caused us quite a few headaches. Despite early research, no one seems to have realised quite how partial to sweet chestnut bark these animals are and we have needed rapid changes to have any hope of retaining this species in any numbers for the future. Lime, willow and ash bark are also popular and a new section on management of all our young trees is being added to our conservation plan.

We have recently learnt that Yorkshire Forward has offered us the substantial sum of £776,000 towards several smaller projects this year and the Trust has gratefully accepted. We intend to consolidate the Orangery,

increase the deer fencing round the parkland and Serpentine bridge in particular, to repair more of our old stone walls and conduct further research into aspects of this unique site for further projects we have in mind.

Future plans still focus on the Conservatory in particular. We are looking at ways of combining the restoration of this fabulous structure with an increase not only in visitor numbers but also in the variety of audiences who visit our site. It would provide us with a much-needed space for large groups to assemble regardless of the weather, and enjoy all that an historic glasshouse could provide in highlighting the site's heritage, from worldwide plantings to its pioneering electricity.

Jane Furse

Small Grants Scheme

Stone balls, tools, plants, a plaque, community groups and volunteers; some of the ingredients making up the applications for this year's (2008-9) small grant scheme which closed at the end of last November. Members of the Conservation sub-committee have been busy visiting and debating. We try to make our scheme known via local authorities,

societies, garden and landscape organisations, mailing and websites in order to support Yorkshire's historic parks and gardens. However we feel sure that there are many worthy places that don't know of the YGT and the grant, so you can help us by spreading the word where you can for the next schemes.

The 'rhubarb and ginger jam' of the last newsletter has been potted or rather our grant of £385 for outdoor display cases for *Dales Plants and Gardens 1990-1960* has been taken up and can be seen at the Dales Countryside Museum (Hawes). The cases have been designed to be robust, secure and short enough for

(Continued on page 20)



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(Continued from page 19)

children to read but tall enough for adults not to get sore backs and the garden related items inside are easily changed. The display is seasonal to reflect what is happening in the garden and to relate what has been learnt from the interviews and memories – currently it's bastard trenching using fallen leaves in the base of the trench. Incidentally the garden includes Marie Hartley's gooseberry bush.

Of the other grants in the 2007-8 scheme, £1,000 has given to the Castle Garden Project – Derwent Riverside Project at Malton, North Yorkshire for the maintenance & management of the existing trees on land which is becoming a public park.

Work for the other three grants is still in progress; £500 to the Friends of Beaumont Park, Huddersfield, see www.fobp.co.uk, £750 for York Gate Garden, at Adel near Leeds and funding to the Friends of Whinfall Quarry Garden, Sheffield towards the replanting of rhododendrons.

In November David Jordan from the Friends of Whinfall Quarry Garden wrote, "From 2009, the view, when one enters the garden will be

STOP PRESS...forthcoming events

Thursday 26 February

Visit to Ling Beeches, Shadwell Leeds

Tuesday 3 March

YGT/YPS Joint Annual Lecture by Peter Goodchild - *The Garden of Eden: a story for our time*, Tempest Anderson Hall, York

Saturday 7 March

The Harewood House Estate: A tour of the 18th century landscape

Saturday 28 March

AGM, Swinton Park

Wednesday 29 April

Middlethorpe Hall, York – Gardener's Tea

Saturday 2 May

Japanese Garden Society, Harlow Carr: AGM and talk on new Japanese garden at Harlow Carr, contact deliacoburn@hotmail.com

Wednesday 20 May

Floriculture Conference, Harewood (see details in box on front page and insert)

Thursday 28 May

Visit to Pennyholme, 10 acre country garden at Fadmoor

Tuesday 23 June

Midsummer Picnic, re-created walled garden at Skipwith Hall, near Selby

Tuesday 30 June

Evening visit to Cowesby Hall near Thirsk



One of the outdoor display cases at the Dales Countryside Museum, Hawes

changed forever, thanks to the generosity of the Yorkshire Gardens Trust in providing £750 towards the purchase of 93 rhododendrons which are being sourced from Western Scotland.

These will be in a variety of colours and will bloom from December through to August. The oldest plant dates from 1814, and another one has received an Award of Garden Merit. We have liaised with Parks and Countryside, Sheffield, to arrange for land preparation and planting to take place, and all the action will occur in late November/December 2008. The last year has seen a great change in this Grade II registered garden, starting with the Heritage Lottery Award and ending with the rhododendron bed supported by the YGT."

Val Hepworth