



NEWSLETTER

Issue 26

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Winter 2010

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Funding Appeal for Parcevall Hall Gardens Special Project

Since the YGT visit to Parcevall Hall in 2006 further restoration projects have been completed. The walled up entrance to the house terrace from the Camellia Walk has been reopened and the two flights of stone steps to this top terrace rebuilt in spring last year. Recently discovered architectural drawings ensured that this reconstruction was historically accurate. Last August the house terrace looked exceptionally beautiful with an arch of *Eucryphia glutinosa* in full flower framing the top of the new steps. Sir William's classic cross-axial feature, so typical of Edwardian Gardens and so important to the overall design of the terraces can be enjoyed again after having been lost for over thirty years.

The restoration programme for the gardens was started over twenty-five years ago and most of the projects have been undertaken by the gardening staff at Parcevall without any external funding, apart from small grants from "The Friends of Parcevall Hall Gardens".

Like the early days at Harlow Carr, projects at Parcevall are still completed on a shoestring



Current Cascade

A great depth of rubble was dug out entirely by hand by the Parcevall gardeners last year for the steps project.

Tarn Ghyll Wood, near the entrance to the gardens, suffered total neglect after the death of Sir William in 1960 and quickly became impenetrable. The lake started to leak and the waterfall below was destroyed. The huge task of clearing the wood and re-establishing the footpaths

was undertaken by Parcevall's gardeners and was finally completed in 2008. However reinstating the lake and waterfall was beyond even their amazing skills. As funding was difficult to find, the decision was taken to restore the lake but not the waterfall.

Parcevall Hall Gardens Waterfall Project aims to complete this restoration. The project is to build a new waterfall in front of the existing structure using local weathered stone, together with a new naturalistic pool at the bottom of the fall. It will mask the current "brutal" and "austere" utilitarian structure, and recreate a waterfall similar to the original. The design has been approved by the regional landscape architect at English Heritage, Andrew Wimble, and also by the landscape conservation officer, Janet Swailes, for the Yorkshire Dales National Park. The total cost of the project is £13,825.

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Helen Lazenby 1948 - 2010

With the death of Helen Lazenby on Monday, 22nd February, the Yorkshire Gardens Trust has lost one of its most loyal and ardent supporters as well as a true friend. Helen was a founder member of the Trust who played a huge part in setting it up. Her talents as a writer and researcher cannot be overstated. She was also responsible for organizing some of the Trusts most memorable occasions and this she did with meticulous detail and planning. But above all Helen was a lovely person who radiated enthusiasm. Her passion for gardens and historic landscapes has been richly woven into the fabric of the Yorkshire Gardens Trust and this will be her legacy. She loved life, and lived it to the full. She attended almost all our events and it was always a pleasure to be in her company. I can see her now at the Summer Picnic enjoying a glass of wine and being with friends of like-minded interests. It is hard and extremely sad to imagine these occasions without her. Our thoughts are with her family.

Funding Appeal for Parcevall Hall Gardens Special Project cont.

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Sir William played a leading role in the horticultural world in the North of England, becoming the chairman of the Yorkshire Branch of the newly formed Northern Horticultural Society of 1946 and the second Director of Harlow Carr Gardens for the years 1955-60. Completion of this restoration project would be a fitting tribute to its remarkable creator to mark the 50th anniversary of his

death this year.

The YGT considers that the recreation of this waterfall is so important for the overall enjoyment of the gardens at Parcevall Hall and we have been active in attending meetings, offering advice, donating monies and spearheading the fund-raising. We are now getting near the target but still have to raise £3,000. This needs to be in

place by June in order to draw down promised grant. If you could help us achieve this target we could add the final piece to Sir William's most beautiful Arts & Crafts garden.

To make a donation please complete the enclosed form or contact Anne Tupholme on 01274 563216 for further information.

Anne Tupholme

Chairman's Letter

As we emerge from a winter that many of us will remember as one of the severest in our lifetimes, I am sure, like me, you are longing to get into the garden and prepare for spring. With the snow almost gone, gardeners will be assessing the damage caused to shrubs and trees that have snapped under the weight of heavy snow or perished from extreme low temperatures. Recent advice to both farmers and gardeners to grow more Mediterranean type plants has proved that nature is unpredictable. Understanding a plant's behaviour in alien countries is something we have not always got right and this I saw first hand during a visit to Saint Helena and indeed Ascension Island last October.

Our epic sea journey on the RMS Saint Helena, which included 8 days on the Island, took four weeks and ended at Cape Town. This was a story in itself travelling with Islanders returning from England to be with their families at Christmas along with heavy cargo which included a fire engine, a present from Devon County Council! With over sixty crew and under a hundred passengers we were well looked after. You may find it hard to believe but the Royal Mail Ship is the only way you can get to St Helena; there is no airport and plans to have one built have been put on hold. The

RMS leaves England just twice a year from Portland and spends the rest of the time in the South Atlantic offering a ferry service between Cape Town, Ascension and Namibia. Islanders or 'Saints' as they are called, who have serious health problems may have to wait for up to six weeks for the ship to return to take them the six day journey to hospital in Cape Town.

After twelve glorious days at sea our ship dropped anchor off Ascension, the remote volcanic Island where the Americans have their air base. Those of us who wanted to explore the Island were taken ashore in little boats. In 1775 James Cook had sailed into Georgetown Bay in the Resolution to collect turtle meat and you can still see the original holding ponds today: thankfully the turtles are now a protected species. The ships purser had arranged for me to meet the Island's resident botanist Stedson Stroud, a big hearted man who is dedicated to preserving the Islands six remaining endemic plants. I was fortunate to see all of them including Stedson's favourite, the pretty and neat *Euphorbia origanoides*. I also met the newly arrived Kew botanist, Matti Niissalo, a young Dutch man, who was working in the shade houses on Green Mountain. He is specializes in the Island's four endemic ferns of which *Pteris adscensionis* is the most criti-

cally endangered. Green Mountain is a man-made phenomenon and looks incongruous set amongst the basalt peaks and clinker-strewn plains of such a barren Island.

Amazingly this verdant environment was caused by one of Britain's most influential botanists, Sir Joseph Dalton Hooker (1817-1911). His brief visit to the Island was to have a profound impact on it. Hooker was concerned for the British garrison stationed on the Mountain so he proposed the planting of trees and shrubs on its steep inclines in the hope of increasing rainfall. A gardener was appointed and plants from South America and South Africa were brought in abundance to create a pleasing lushness. In 1847 seven hundred packets of seeds arrived from Kew and today Green Mountain is home to exotic plants from all over the world much to the chagrin of conservationists like Stedson and Matti who mourn the mountains natural habitat.

We took on board some new passengers at Ascension including a prisoner accompanied by a senior police officer which, as you can imagine, caused a frisson of excitement on board! As dawn broke two days later we first set eyes on the massive volcanic peaks of St. Helena. It was a spectacular sight and I thought of Charles Darwin, Captain Cook and

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Directory of Craftsmen and Conservation Specialists

With this Newsletter each member will receive the 2009 Directory of Craftsmen and Conservation Specialists thanks to the York Consortium for Conservation and Craftsmanship of which we are now members. It illustrates the work of specialist craftsmen dedicated to conservation and restoration. We hope you find it interesting.

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Captain Bligh who had witnessed this same approach into Jamestown Bay. As there is no pier, passengers are ferried ashore in small groups (cargo takes at least three days to unload and fire engine was something everyone wanted to see). Once on the Island crowds of excited 'Saints' were straining to catch sight of their families and friends eager to welcome them. We too had friends to greet us which made our arrival so much more special. When the RMS comes home everyone is happy and the Union Jack is kept at full mast during her stay. There is even a radio station which plots her course.

St Helena is situated in the South Atlantic 1,200 miles off the west coast of South Africa. It is perhaps best known as the place where Napoleon was exiled and died though this is only a small part of its fascinating history. The Georgian architecture of Jamestown and the Islands coastal fortifications are a vital part of its unique heritage. Between 1659 -1836 when the Island was governed by the English East India Company, St Helena became an important staging post for ships using the old trade routes to Africa and India. After this period it was run by the British Colonial Office and to this day it remains a British dependency. In the second part of the 19th century St Helena received a flood of plants from Kew. This sort of thing had already gone on under the Company's rule (Captain Bligh introduce 10 breadfruit plants with the support of Joseph Banks).

Plants for food and cash crops were vital to the British Colonies but many of the introductions were to cause catastrophic destruction to the Island's eco system and none more so than *Phormium tenax* (New Zealand Flax). St Helena's flax industry took off during the late 1800s and continued till the 1960s when all the flax mills were closed and local people lost their jobs. Flax was used to produce fibre for jute but competition in other parts of the world sealed its fate. Today it is a major environmental problem which has taken over vast swathes of the Island's precious peaks, once the

habitat of its rarest plants and trees such as *Melanodendron integrifolium* (the Black Cabbage Tree),



George Benjamin standing behind *Commidendrum rugosum* (Scrubwood)

Commidendrum robustum (the native Gumwood) and *Dicksonia arborescens* (the lovely tree fern).



***Trochetiopsis ebenus* (Ebony)**



Me clutching a rare Bellflower seedling!

Eradicating flax it is no easy task for it is a monster plant which thrives in this tropical climate.

During our time on St Helena, I was privileged to meet the team of botanists and conservationists who are based at the nursery named Scotland and see first hand the great work they are undertaking. Few people visit the Island but those who do will rarely see any of the endemic flora. Trees and plants brought from the homelands of its inhabitants have colonized the country lanes and hillsides; though some may find them attractive it is a far cry the virgin Island discovered in 1502.

I particularly wanted to meet George Benjamin, the Islands greatest authority on its native flora and whom I had read about in Quentin Cronk's *The Endemic Flora of Saint Helena*.

Now quite old with a sick wife in hospital I was particularly grateful for the time he gave me. How privileged I was to hear first hand the story of the ebony plant *Trochetiopsis ebenus* which made him, and indeed his brother famous: Thirty years ago when Quentin was researching his flora on the Island, he and George were out botanising one day amongst the high peaks. To their astonishment they discovered two ebony plants growing precariously out of a steep cliff some many metres beneath them. You can imagine their excitement as this was a plant believed to have been extinct for a hundred years. Quentin asked George if he would descend the cliff on a rope to take cuttings but George replied 'Not for a thousand pounds but maybe my brother would do it'. So the brother, named Charlie was found and all three returned to the site. Iron stakes were hammered into the rocks to lower the rope on which Charlie was suspended; had it snapped he would have fallen hundreds of feet to the rocks below. Mercifully such a fate was avoided and he was hauled to safety clutching a handful of precious cuttings; the rest, as they say is history. Today the Ebony grows in designated conservation areas such as the Ebony Plains as well as in gardens including that of Napoleon.

Never in my wildest dreams could I have foreseen my experience two days later when Lourens Malan, a young South African horticulturist and his girlfriend Katrina took me on a

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Chairman's Letter cont.

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botanical adventure, one that I shall never forget. Lourens is in charge of the propagation of endemic species and their reintroduction to the wild. My six hour day in the blistering heat was finally rewarded when we stopped to eat our picnic. Lourens had chosen the top of a precarious peak with just enough space for the three of us to sit on. Then he handed me his binoculars and told me to look straight ahead at the facing cliff. To my amazement, growing out of it I could clearly see the two original ebony plants discovered thirty years ago by George Benjamin and Quentin Cronk! What a

thrill; what a surprise! But that was not all, for growing close by I spied *Pelargonium cotyledonis*, the only pelargonium endemic to the Island and one that I have always been fascinated by. Its vernacular name is Old Man Live Forever but this may not be true, for like so many other plants on the Island it is on the brink of extinction.

Other highlights included the opportunity to plant gumwoods in the Millennium forest and being allowed to pot on one of the rarest bellflowers *Wahlenbergia linifolia* at the nursery. Lourens told me the seed had come from the last remaining plant on the

Island.

This will be my last Chairman's letter and I want to take this opportunity to thank both members and Council for all the support they have given me over the past four years, and especially to wish Liz Simson, our next Chairman, the happiness and fulfilment that I have enjoyed in this role. I have loved every minute and look forward to continuing my work with the Yorkshire Gardens Trust of which I am so very fond.

Penelope Dawson-Brown

Notes on the Gardens at Mulgrave Castle, Whitby

A party from the Yorkshire Gardens Trust visited the gardens at Mulgrave Castle on the afternoon of Tuesday 11 August 2009. Our guide was Lady Normanby but we were also accompanied by Lord Normanby and Jonathan Parkinson (Head Gardener). It was a most enjoyable visit, full of interest, and with plenty of questions, answers, and general conversation. It finished with tea in the Long Garden. The Trust is extremely grateful to Lord and Lady Normanby for opening the garden to us and for their wonderful hospitality.

Helen Lazenby asked me if I would write up an account of the visit. During the course of the afternoon, Jonathan Parkinson said that he would like to prepare a leaflet about the gardens and their history for future visitors. Taking up this idea, it occurred to me that the YGT could assist him with this if my report were to take the form of a general introduction to the history of the gardens at Mulgrave Castle. I have had a long standing interest in the development of the Mulgrave and its ornamental landscape as a whole, but had not got round to focussing properly on the gardens as opposed to the woods and parkland. It may, in addition, answer some of the historical questions that came up at the YGT's visit.

Introduction

The original principal building of the Mulgrave Estate was the old medieval castle, which lies nearly a mile away to the southwest of the present mansion. The latter is a much later building, which was established sometime between 1706 and 1735, but it too, is called Mulgrave Castle. In 1647, following the Civil War, Parliament issued an order for the old castle to be "sighted and dismantled". Today, its ruins are clearly visible from the lawn at the back of the mansion where they are seen as an intended eye-catcher in the middle ground of an extensive wooded landscape. The woodland is the result of a long campaign of planning, planting and management, that appears to have begun sometime around 1784 and to have involved a 'home team' as well as contributions from leading professional landscape gardeners such as Thomas White in 1784 and the more famous Humphry Repton in 1792-3.

Repton visited Mulgrave Castle in September 1792. In August the following year, he completed his proposals and submitted them in the form of one of his 'Red Books'. His recommendations were mainly concerned with the landscape beyond the gardens. Indeed, his plan shows that the gardens were quite modest in extent and although they were

near the mansion, they were not directly attached to it. Furthermore, they were to be surrounded by protective plantations, which would prevent them from being seen as features in the wider landscape.

The present layout of the Gardens and Pleasure Grounds

Immediately on the northern side of the mansion are the stables, the home farm, and the drive to the village of Lythe. Together with the mansion, they form a spine on either side of which the gardens and pleasure grounds have developed since the 1780s. From an historical point of view, the gardens and pleasure grounds can be divided into the 'Eastern Pleasure Grounds' on the eastern and seaward side of the spine, in front of the mansion; and the 'Western Pleasure Grounds' on the western side, at the back of the mansion.

At the time of Repton's visit, in 1792, the main components of the gardens appear to have been two walled gardens. One of these was immediately on the eastern side of the stables and home farm. This was probably the earlier of the two and can be referred to as the 'Eastern Walled Garden'. The other, was not far to the west of the stables and home farm, and is the present 'Walled Garden'. Historically, the three main features around which

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the layout of the pleasure grounds has developed are: the mansion, which is the main focal point of the whole landscape; the former Eastern Walled Garden; and the Walled Garden.

The Eastern Pleasure Grounds

From the front of Mulgrave Castle, there is a broad vista formed by a lawn between two blocks of trees. The lawn is known as 'The Quarter Deck'. At the far end of it, there is a path and a castellated stone parapet wall, which cuts across the vista. Looking from the mansion, what one sees immediately above the parapet is the North Sea framed by the trees on either side with no intervening land. This is a clever optical illusion because the shoreline is at least half a mile from the parapet and most of the land in between is parkland bounded by trees.

In the plantation of trees on the northern side of the Quarter Deck there is a path, 'The Church Walk', which runs parallel with the edge of the lawn almost as far as the northern end of the parapet wall. At this point, it branches. The northern branch meanders off through 'Church Plantation'. The very short southern branch leads to the path alongside the parapet wall from which can be seen the parkland that intervenes between the Quarter Deck and the sea. Continuing in a southerly direction, one meets the drive from Lythe Bank Lodge and Mulgrave Woods. The drive leads back to the mansion and the circuit walk around the Eastern Pleasure Grounds is then completed.

The former Eastern Walled Garden was on the northern side of the stretch of the Church Walk nearest to the mansion. It may, perhaps, have been built in the early 18th century to serve the new mansion. There is now a tennis court in part of the area that it occupied.

It is not clear when it was that the Eastern Pleasure Grounds became part of the gardens. On his plan prepared in 1793, Repton does not specifically indicate that this area was then pleasure ground or that it was intended to be so. Interestingly,

however, there is a moonlit scene in his Red Book that shows a view of the sea down a broad tree-lined vista and this is very similar in effect to the present view down the Quarter Deck except that Repton's sketch does not have the architectural device of a parapet wall at the end of it. Perhaps it is the construction of the parapet wall and its accompanying path that is the clue to when the Eastern Pleasure Grounds were established. Writing to her husband on 12 July 1806, Lady Mulgrave commented on the good effect of the battlements on the wall of the Quarter Deck, as seen from the Sandsend approach. The implication is perhaps that the battlements, and perhaps the parapet wall itself, were then a relatively new addition.

The tree-lined vista and lawn are shown on the plan in Repton's Red Book but its origin is uncertain at present. Could it be an early feature, perhaps going back to the building of the new mansion in the early 18th century? Was it originally part of a garden layout?

The Western Pleasure Grounds

The Western Pleasure Grounds sweep round the southern and western sides of the mansion taking in the Gardener's House, the Walled Garden, and adjoining areas. The different components of it lie on either side of a notional 'central line' that runs approximately from east to west. Starting at the western side of the mansion, the central line takes the form of a walk that leads from the mansion to the 'Long Garden' (i.e. the garden on the south side of the Walled Garden). The walk is referred to in these notes as the 'Walk to the Long Garden'. About halfway along, the walk alters direction and goes off at an angle to the Long Garden which has the central line as its long axis. The central line then passes between the iron gates at the far end of the Long Garden and becomes the axis of the Statue Lawn where it terminates at the statue. The latter is an allegory of youth and old age*.

Starting on the western side of the mansion the main component areas of the Western Pleasure Grounds are as follows. On the north side of the central line are first of all 'The Gar-

dener's House Plantation', then the Walled Garden, and then The Woodland Garden. The Gardener's House, itself, is on the northern edge of the plantation named after it. The area between the mansion and the Walled Garden is thought to have been known, at one time as, 'Bucks Field'*.

Immediately on the northern side of the Gardener's House, there is a track that in one direction leads to the drive to Lythe, and in the other to the service yard at the back of the Walled Garden. On the northern side of this track is a belt of trees that continues round the northern sides of the service yard and the Woodland Garden. This belt shelters the Walled Garden.

On the south side of the Walk to the Long Garden is what might be referred to as the 'Western Lawn'. At one time there were flowerbeds on the part near the house but in recent years the whole lawn has been managed as a garden meadow.

On the southern side of the Long Garden, behind a yew hedge, there is a separate enclosure, which retains traces of a former water garden. On the south side of the Statue Lawn is part of the shelterbelt that protects the Walled Garden on its western side. This belt, known as 'Sandpits', stretches northwards along the western side of the Woodland Garden to Low Lane

At the heart of the Western Pleasure Grounds is the Walled Garden. This is rectangular in plan and is located on a gentle slope, which falls to the south. Along the northern wall is the glasshouse range. Immediately outside the range is part of the perimeter path that runs all the way around the edge of the garden and parallel with its walls. In the centre there is a small circular pool with a fountain and an accompanying 'Fountain Garden'. The main north-south axis and the main east-west axis of the Walled Garden cross at this point. The east-west axis is represented by a simple path. The north-south axis is has four gardens along it. Starting at the northern end these are the Winter

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Notes on the Gardens at Mulgrave Castle, Whitby cont.

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Garden; the Strawberry Steps; the Fountain Garden; and the Rose Garden. On either side of the Winter Garden and Strawberry Terraces are grown fruit, vegetables, and flowers for cutting. On the western side of the Rose Garden is the 'Autumn Garden', and on the eastern side is the 'Spring Garden'.

The box volutes of the Fountain Garden were designed by Oswald, 4th Marquess of Normanby. The Spring Garden and the Autumn Garden were laid out for his wife, Grania, Marchioness of Normanby*.

Another component of the Western Pleasure Grounds is the area immediately on the south side of the mansion. To the south and west of this, and at a lower level, is an area of grass and trees with a long concrete pond in its south-western corner. On the western side of the area with the pond, is part of the Western Lawn. The southern boundary of each is marked by a track called 'The Gallop'.

Thomas White's plan of proposals of 1784 shows all the area that is now occupied by the Western Pleasure Grounds, as being part of the park. So it would appear that around 1784 there was probably no definite intention to establish a pleasure ground here. White's plan does, however, include a location for a proposed new walled garden but this was much further to the south of the present Walled Garden. It would seem that this idea was not pursued and instead the present site, which is very much closer to the mansion, was selected. The decision to do this must have been made in or fairly soon after 1784, and work on the new garden would appear to have been started by March-July 1787 (MCA XI.2/51, XI.4/38).

The year 1787 was a significant one for Constantine John, 2nd Baron Mulgrave (1744-1792), for whom White had prepared his plan, because it was the year in which he was married and when his thoughts were likely to have been on the setting up of a home for his future fam-

ily. The wedding took place on 20 June 1787. His bride was Anne Elizabeth, the daughter of Nathaniel Cholmley, M.P. of Howsham and Whitby. Tragically, she died on 22 May 1788, within a year of their marriage. The walled garden that the 2nd Baron established is the one that features in Humphry Repton's Red Book. It was the 2nd Baron that commissioned Repton and for whom Repton originally prepared his proposals.

It would appear that Repton's intention was that the Walled Garden should be surrounded and hidden within a plantation that would extend eastwards as far as the line of the drive to Lythe and the mansion. However, the 2nd Baron died before the Red Book was delivered and it was his brother, Henry (the 3rd Baron and later the 1st Earl, 1755-1831) who received it. Despite the change of ownership, Repton's proposal to surround the Walled Garden by a plantation, appears to have been followed. In so far as can be judged from the plan in the Red Book, this plantation would have been approximately on the land now occupied by the Gardener's House Plantation, the northern shelter belt, the Woodland Garden, the Statue Lawn, and the former water garden. Very roughly, its southern boundary was on the line of the present Walk to the Long Garden and the southern edge of the former water garden. Repton intended that everything to the south of this line should be part of the park, including the area that was later to become the Western Lawn.

Between the Walled Garden and the drive to Lythe, and within the plantation, Repton indicates an open space. It is not clear whether or not this space, or indeed parts of the plantation were intended by him to be pleasure ground. It is not unlikely that they may have been, but in the Red Book there is no evidence either way. The estate map of 1814 indicates that by that date the area suggested by Repton had been established as a plantation. The 1853 Ordnance Survey (6" scale) shows that by then part of it was a pleasure ground and that there was a separate compartment on the site of the present Long Garden. Also, it would seem that by 1814

Western Pleasure Grounds included two other areas which are shown in a little more detail on the 1853 Ordnance Survey; one of these was the garden immediately on the south side of the mansion; the other was the eastern part of the Western Lawn, i.e. the part that is closest to the mansion.

Sometime in the next half century, the Western Lawn was extended westwards to link up with the area of the former water garden. On the 1913 Edition of the Ordnance Survey (25" scale) the water garden and the Long Garden are shown as being one united compartment rather than being two separate ones. A pool is shown in the water garden.

After the Second World War, Oswald, the 4th Marquess and his wife, Grania, brought Mulgrave Castle and its gardens and grounds back to life. They took a close personal interest and discussed their ideas with others. One of these was Lanning Roper, who was a personal friend of the 4th Marquess. It is sometimes said that the gardens at Mulgrave Castle were laid out by Lanning Roper, but this was not the case. His contribution was that of a friend who, when visiting from time to time, took part in discussions about the gardens and their development*.

The 4th Marquess invited (Sir) Geoffrey Jellicoe to advise him about the area between the Fountain Garden and the glasshouse range. The result was the 'Strawberry Steps', the levelled ground at the top end of them, and the balustrade. Since 1994, when the present planting scheme was put in place, the levelled ground has been known as the Winter Garden*. The Statue Lawn and the Woodland Garden were both made at the same time for the 4th Marquess and his wife. They were advised by Major Daniell.

Essentially, the Western Pleasure Grounds took on their present layout and form during the time of the 4th Marquess and his wife, but their evolution continues. His son, Constantine, 5th Marquess, and his

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wife, Nicola, have for example extended the Western Lawn southwards and are taking in the area with the concrete pond. In the Walled Garden, the Winter Garden and the Rose Gar-

den have been replanted to designs by Arabella Lennox-Boyd (1994). In the Long Garden, the main border has been replanted to a design by Penelope Hobhouse (1999).

*personal communication from 5th Marquess of Normanby

Peter Goodchild

The Apple Orchards at Ampleforth Abbey - 10th September 2009

Yorkshire was basking in glorious sunshine with not a rain cloud to be seen in the sky on the afternoon we visited the apple orchards of Ampleforth Abbey. These commercial orchards were planted at the beginning of the 20th century and extend over about five acres. From the gateway there were trees planted in rows as far as the eye could see. The windbreak of leylandii on the north side was the tallest I have ever seen. Someone said it was fifty to eighty feet high and I could quite believe it.

The orchards have changed in character over the years. One member of the party remembered when the ground under the trees was bare and weed-free. Now there were nettles and grass growing right up to the roots of the trees. Father Rainer, who was to have shown us round, was unfortunately unavailable. However the day was saved by Peter Blackburne-Maze, an expert in the cultivation of fruit and one of the authors of the Northern Pomona who stepped in and gave an interesting, amusing and informative talk.

In answer to a question we learned why Golden Delicious would not grow as well in the North of England as it does in France. We were also told about the two different methods of training. Training apple trees as spindle bush trees as they do in commercial orchards seemed so utterly sensible I wondered why most of the reference books for home gardeners that I have read recommend keeping an open centre to the trees. Possibly weighting the branches down at the end of the first season to make them grow horizontally may be more challenging in practice than in theory. I think I need to do some more research before I grub out our trees and replace them with maidens that I can train as spindle bush trees but I do like the idea of an apple tree that is only seven to eight feet tall.

Peter answered people's questions about their trees clearly and informatively. We learned why you prune at certain times of year, how you deter codling moth, when to thin,

the differences between fruit buds and growth buds, how to deal with canker, why knowing whether your tree is a tip bearer or a spur bearer is only important if you are growing them as espaliers or cordons. We looked at the old variety Orleans Rainette that has a huge eye and is therefore prone to rot. This means it is not commercially viable.

There still seemed so much more to talk about and so much more of the orchard to see when we had to break off to walk back to the Abbey tearooms for tea and the promised cider apple cake, which was as delicious as it sounded. We had the opportunity to examine The Northern Pomona at this time. It is a superb book with lots of recipes and some wonderful illustrations of varieties of apples. It was a very enjoyable afternoon with a fascinating insight into the world of commercial apple growing.

Kit Wherrett

Reginald Farrer at Ingleborough Hall, Clapham, North Yorkshire

Study Day, 19th August 2009

This event clearly demonstrated the advantages of a study day that disseminated the work of one of the YGT's research projects. As a result of their explorations in the Dales, Helen Lazenby and Moira Fulton organised a stimulating day which additionally benefited from a full-some information pack, benign weather and the scrumptious homemade cakes and biscuits of the caterers at Ingleborough Hall.

Through his plant collecting and prolific writing, Reginald Farrer (1880-1920) became renowned as 'the Patron Saint of Alpine Gardening'. He had dedicated his life to plant study, travelling in Japan, Ko-

rea and Ceylon (Sri Lanka) between 1902 and 1907; later, 1914-1920, he famously explored remote, mountainous areas of China, Tibet and Upper Burma returning with many new species of rhododendrons, shrubs and alpenines.

Tragically, he died at the premature age of forty from diphtheria contracted during his expedition to Upper Burma. The study day not only presented us with an overview of his extraordinary career, but also revealed the extent of his surviving imprint in the garden of his childhood home, Ingleborough Hall, and in the limestone dale above where he planted a 'Chinese Garden' in between plant collecting expeditions. It also became apparent that

this Yorkshire landscape is also a memorial to the achievements of Reginald Farrer.

Moira Fulton introduced the day with an outline of the Farrer family's presence in Clapham, as well as a carefully elucidated survey of Farrer's bibliography which was illustrated by the numerous books she had brought with her from various libraries: some authored by him, others written about him. The Farrers were settled in Clapham by 1716, but their focus gradually shifted to London where the family's legal firm, Farrer & Co., had evolved by 1770; the firm prospered and continues to this day.

From 1780 the Farrers began to ac-

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Reginald Farrer at Ingleborough Hall, Clapham, North Yorkshire cont.

(Continued from page 7)

quire the land in the village of Clapham and on the surrounding fells that now comprises the Ingleborough Estate. Between 1807-1833 the pre-existing house was enlarged into Ingleborough Hall, which became the centre of the London-based Farrers' shooting estate. The lake was also floated by construction of the monumental dam above the village and the grounds transformed into a sublime landscape garden whose concluding feature was the epic Grotto, situated to command views of the imposing limestone cliffs that bound the far side of Clapdale.

The organisers pulled off a coup by inviting Annie Farrer to speak. It was her career as a freelance botanical illustrator that stimulated her interest in the 'black sheep of the family'. Farrer, after all, had pursued his adventurous love of plants rather than settle to the life of a metropolitan solicitor – much to the chagrin of his father. Annie Farrer brought her relative's character of to life by reading extracts from his writings, particularly from the plant collecting expeditions. She pointed out that he had collected as a horticulturalist, preferring to hunt for garden plants suited to the English climate, rather than as a botanist whose priority would have been to catalogue the plants of a region.

Comparing then and now, she also pointed out that the botanical survey has become the favoured approach in order to catalogue the plants of the world before many are rendered extinct. Annie emphasised that Farrer had travelled in regions noted for brigands and revolutionaries, and regretted that the Upper Burma of his final expedition is now impenetrable due to the minefields laid in the region's struggle against the Burmese military dictatorship. She also cast a professional eye over his ability as a botanical artist, noting his skill at the problematic task of on-the-spot recording through drawing and watercolour painting – and illustrated her talk with examples of his paintings as well as photographs of Farrer in the Himalayas.

Both talks set the scene for our guided tours, which again indicated the diligent preparation of the organisers; for example, the day was well timed because the head gardener, John Eaton, was retiring at the end of the week. John took us round the Victorian gardens, the icehouse and the derelict stables as well as the three tunnels constructed when the Hall had been completed in 1841. These ensured that the family was not disturbed by the delivery of provisions to the service end of the building. Other high points were the Peckham Rye garden fountain that Farrer had fulminated against as 'bestly', and the memorial garden created by his grieving mother, Bessie, in 1928. The centrepiece is an inscribed column topped by a winged figure (now absent). Moira Fulton had surmised that this statue was a type of 'Winged Victory' so readily available at the time due to the profusion of memorials erected in the wake of the First World War.

The inscription reads:

In Loving Memory of Reginald John
Farrer
Born Feb 17 1880 Died Oct 17 1920
In Up[er] Burma
Author, Traveller, Botanist and
Flower Painter
Eldest Son of James Anson and
Elizabeth Farrer
Of Ingleboro
He Loved God's Works & Blessed
The World -
By Many Glorious Flowers Named
After Him

Nearby stands another memorial, this one resembling a wayside shrine. Beginning 'In Loving Memory Of ...' it elaborates on Farrer's resting place, 'Died at Nyitadi ... Buried at Kaunglangphi', and concludes with the text of the plaque that Bessie had arranged in 1932 to be placed on his Burmese grave: '... He died for love and duty in search of rare plants'. This memorial is situated above the substantial vestiges of the rock garden he had designed at the age of fourteen in 1894 and which had been constructed by estate workmen.

Although born in London, Farrer had grown up at Ingleborough Hall where he was educated. He was spared the trauma of boarding at public school due to a speech defect consequent upon his hair lip and cleft palate. At Ingleborough he not only learnt to speak fluently but also embarked on his lifelong fascination with plants. The condition of the wooden memorial belies its age. It is probably a replica of the original erected by Bessie before her death in 1937. Nevertheless it was in situ before the land was bought by the current owners. It was courtesy of Irina Bowes that we were able to access her property to see the rock garden, which she has excavated and now cherishes as an icon of Farrer's achievements. Through her dedication, the rock garden and memorial survive to encapsulate the beginning and end of Farrer's career.

It is salutary to note that Ingleborough Hall is one of the many country houses saved after the Second World War through purchase by a local authority. It continues to serve as an outward bound centre for schools and is run by Education Bradford. It was also in 1947 that the estate sold off part of the gardens as building land. While the walled garden is now the public car park of the Yorkshire Dales National Park, we are fortunate that the Bowes were subsequently inspired to buy their property because of the presence of Farrer's rock garden. However scant evidence survives of the Craven Nursery that he had established in the village as a mail order business and which had also achieved success at the Chelsea Flower Show.

The landscape garden in Clapdale was retained by the estate and it was there that we were led by Helen and Moira after lunch. The rockwork that dams the lake is monumental and transforms the functional structure into a mountain cascade. The walk beside the lake is redolent of Farrer mythology; notably, and perhaps apocryphally, that he had rowed across the lake to pepper the crevices of the limestone cliff with seeds fired from his shotgun. It seems that his

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father would only tolerate his exotic
Farrer memorial beside his 1914 rock garden, now in Irina Bowes' garden

gardening in remote parts of the estate.

Thus it is that his 'Chinese Garden' was planted in the deep, rocky defile above the lake gouged out by the fast flowing Clapham Beck. Nonetheless this 'garden' is equally



Farrer memorial garden with inscribed column, Ingleborough Hall

a tribute to Farrer's canny eye; situated astride the Craven Fault, his bamboo and rhododendron plants benefited from the acidic soil. However it is likely that the 'garden' would have been overwhelmed by wanton overgrowth had it not been for the heroic labours of Charles Graham during the 1970s and 1980s. Fortunately Graham was prepared to abseil into the gorge to clear the overgrowth and to replant the seedlings he had rescued and nurtured at home in Skipton. His tribute is that the estate's recent removal of the problematic *Rhododendron ponticum* has confirmed that Farrer's 'Chinese Garden' remains intact. Despite the persistence of overgrowth, we were able to gaze into the gorge to 'eye spy' his plantings.

The path leads up the dale to the Grotto, which is as monumental as the dam and has benefited from recent consolidation. Alas though, the prospects across Clapdale to Thwaite Scars that the Grotto was built to enjoy have vanished behind leafy curtains, as also have those of the cliffs across the lake lower down the dale. All these views would benefit from re-opening in the spirit of the vision of the Farrers who created this sublime landscape garden in the early nineteenth century. Even though the path continues to Ingleborough Cave – and onwards through Trow Gill up across the spectacular limestone terrain that rises to the 723 metre summit of Ingleborough, one of the majestic Three Peaks of the Yorkshire Pennines – we peaked at the Grotto and were lured back to the Hall by the prospect of tea and more of those homemade cakes and biscuits.

It is abundantly clear that this Farrer exposition has created a model for future study days based on YGT research projects. As for Farrer's Yorkshire landscape, one



Grotto overlooking Clapdale, with viewing platform above (recently restored)

cannot fail to conclude that its sustainability is questionable. It appears that the vacant post of head gardener at Ingleborough Hall is not to be filled, and the future of Farrer's 'Chinese garden' depends on whether the Ingleborough Estate has the resolve to maintain it. Nevertheless, although Farrer's Craven Nursey is long gone, his youthful rock garden and wooden memorial are safe for the time being in the care of Irina Bowes.

Patrick Eyres
 New Arcadian Press



Ingleborough Hall, with 'beastly' Peckham Rye garden fountain in foreground

Visit to Sleightholmedale Lodge Gardens 21 July 2009

Gathering clouds threatened as we drove down the aptly named Green Lane. However a tantalising glimpse of tumbling roses, *Rosa gentiliana* (previously *Rosa Polyantha* var. *grandiflora*) cheered us and we arrived at the entrance of this silvery gritstone house built for Lord Feversham in 1889. We were invited through the house by Mrs James to the farmhouse kitchen where she explained that the property had been given to her grandmother Ulrica Duncombe on her marriage to Everard Baring in 1904. The one acre walled garden that lies on the slope above the house, is 'The Garden' of the house and was completed in 1907. Since that time the site has been gardened by three generations of women gardeners passing from Ulrica to her daughter Helen in 1935 and then on to Rosanna, our hostess.

Mrs James told us that the garden has been a member of the National Garden Scheme for 63 years. The original Paradise Rose Garden was inspired by Everard's time as Military Secretary to the Viceroy of India and much of the symbolic layout is owed to him. Terracing of the steep site was masterminded by Rosanna James' mother and Mrs James herself is experimenting with new methods of planting perennials in established grassland, and allowing controlled self seeding of desirable species.

As we moved out onto the south-facing terrace the variety of this garden with something for all seasons and tastes became apparent. The skies began to clear and the lovely

border of repeating blue (lavender, *Clematis jaquemontii* and 'Perle d'Azur' - a particular favourite), silver (*Senecio* now *Brachyglottis* 'Sunshine') and golden punctuation of an unnamed Kniphofia provided a perfect foreground to the conifer forest on the opposite slope of the steep gorge. Mrs James had advised us to take a circular route around the site moving down the slope to take in the Lily pond, Mediterranean bank and Woodland garden before rising up to 'The Garden', warning us to take care on the slippery paths. In the banks of the lower terrace starburst flowers of *Astrantia major* are naturalised in the long grass and mixed orange poppies tumble over the lichen-covered stones of the lily pond terracing.

Blue sky was appearing as we moved along the *Viburnum opulus* lined path below the tennis court and up to a meadow slope of knapweed, harebell and wild alchemilla. At this point hundreds of spent *Tulipa sprengeri* with their sculptural seed heads reminded us to call back next Spring. As a confused cockerel heralded the dawn we stood beneath the magical 'singing' lime tree alive with the drone of intoxicated bees, their siblings happily expiring in the grass beneath.

On entering 'The Garden' via the central axis, one is presented with various options. Either side of the path, which rises up to the summerhouse, are brick paved Octagons where in alternate octants Dierama drips with flower. Around the edge and throughout the borders an abundance of *Clematis*, *Verbascum bombyciferum*, and lovely lemon *Digitalis grandiflora*, soft *Salvia sclarea*, and spiky

Eryngium all glowed with health in the damp evening air. The combination of lemons, blues and silvers sit so well with the gritstone and even the vegetable beds which now occupy the two top quarters of the garden display the robust health that we lesser gardeners can only dream of.

The roses are the thing at this time of year and have enjoyed the early summer heat, tumbling over the trellis, which transects the garden. Here is 'Gardiner's Pink', whilst 'Hiawatha' and 'Minnehaha' are reunited as they race back towards the house. At the top of the slope we admired the 'liquorice all-sort' coloured hollyhock border in company with discretely staked Macleaya and Gallega. Finally, as the rain took hold we took the drive route back to the south terrace to enjoy a glass of wine. We were all charmed by the lovely plant combinations and tumbling ebullience, which evidence a discrete maintenance culture. Rosanna James' methods and choices reflect contemporary approaches to companion planting and naturalistic groupings. A willingness to try new combinations and varieties has resulted in a garden that goes on developing and inspiring while keeping faith with the history of the garden.

For additional material see Nigel Dunnett in *The Garden*, Volume 127, Part 9, September 2002, p678 and Stephen Lacey in *The Telegraph*, 7 June 2008

Trish Leach

A Walk Around The Historic Town Of Knaresborough

'The invisible vision is the art of seeing' - this phrase is set into the ground of the gateway to Henshaws Arts and Crafts Centre. We were met by David Rhodes and Ray Blyth who took us around the sensory garden. This project was set up 10 years ago, with funding from Harrogate Borough Council and Lottery grants, to restore and use the walled garden for use and enjoy-

ment by people with visual impairment. It is an unusual sensory garden involving the use of textures, shapes, scents and sounds, combining the artwork of Henshaws students and the work of artists such as Colin Welbourn whose carved tree trunks impressed us all.

After lunch David Rhodes gave us a brief talk about the Nidd Gorge, which was formed when the Ice Age re-

ceded and flooding resulted in the formation of the three-mile long gorge. In 5000 B.C. Iron Age man settled in the Bilton area, the magnesium caves were useful to medieval man. Knaresborough was affiliated with Alborough in Roman times; the market town developed later with country estates around it. The mill here on the Nidd produced good quantities of linen and cotton

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goods. After the Enclosures Act and in the 18th century Harrogate grew in importance and in the post-war era Knaresborough and Ripon faded into historic towns second to the fashionable spa town.

From Henshaws our walk took us to a viewpoint overlooking Conyngham Hall (previously known as Coghill Park). It was bought in 1796 by Countess Conyngham and built in the style of John Carr. Basil T. Woodd added the portico and extended the house in 1856 aiming for the grandeur of Scriven Hall, the home of the Slingsby family. Sir Henry Slingsby married Mary Aislabie in 1729 and was probably influenced by the Aislabie gardens at Studley Royal and the layout at Hackfall. He formalised the Long Walk in about 1739 planting what have become impressive beech trees of great height in their sheltered position along the south side of the river. The famous Petrifying Well and Mother Shipton's cave are on the beech avenue, the earliest known tourist attraction where water has been sampled since 1638. Here the river is crossed by the railway viaduct (described by Nicholas Pevsner as the worst intrusion into the landscape) and there are pleasant views across the river of chequerboard houses and interesting gardens, Knaresborough Castle, the old flax mill and the weir.

At the end of the Long Walk there is the Museum, which has a display of the petrified objects from Mother Shipton's well (it takes three months to turn an object into stone). We then crossed the bridge and were shown the quarry that produced the stone for the building of Knaresborough and the fascinating House in the Rock. Four stories high, one room in depth, built originally by a weaver for his family. Nearby there is also the Chapel in the Crag, which with St. Robert's cave is now owned by Ampleforth Abbey. The peninsular

of rock high above us is probably where Turner sat to sketch Knares-



Viaduct View

borough in 1826. Walking back along the riverside we then climbed



Chapel in the Crag

up the steep steps to the Castle, this is the route the flax mill workers would have used to get into the



Bebra Gardens

town. Here we visited the old moat gardens where Councilor Andrew Willoughby told us about the restoration over the last five years. With

the help of volunteers this neglected part of Knaresborough is now a pleasant garden with a rockery of water-washed limestone, re-turfing and planting affording play and sitting areas for visitors. Renamed Bebra after Knaresborough's twin town in Germany, this garden has been here since 1931. Future plans include the planting of flowerbeds, restoration of paths and the building of a paved viewing area and the repair of the children's paddling pool. Jenni Howard thanked Andrew and presented him with the membership of YGT.

We then continued up the path round the old castle moat, past the sallyport exit which is the end of a tunnel right into the castle itself. Here David gave us the history of the Castle from Henry I spending £11 on repairs, the monks of Fountains Abbey being given food and shelter, the involvement of the knights of the castle in the murder of Thomas a Beckett and the carving out of the ditch to prevent invasion. We were shown the barbican and told there used to be twelve towers all round and we were shown where the link across the moat would have been with the drawbridge and portcullis. The sallyport tunnel comes out in the centre of the castle's grassy lawn, one of possibly three sallyports in the castle. The medieval layout of the old castle has been restored using cobbling and stone flags to mark the primary gateways and original walls. It is 800 years next year since King John gave the first Maundy Thursday money here in Knaresborough Castle.

On to the Market Place and the statue and story of Blind Jack the famous Knaresborough road builder. The market has been held here since the 12th Century and it is now much improved with a pedestrian precinct. On down Kirkgate to the station where the end of the viaduct comes between Georgian houses, the railway line then goes into a tunnel un-

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A Walk Around The Historic Town Of Knaresborough cont.

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der the town. We paused to admire the viewing platform and garden area created by the George Moore Foundation and then walked into the churchyard surrounding the 12th Century Parish Church. The churchyard was landscaped in the 1970's by Dame Sylvia Crowe (perhaps best known for her design for the Scottish Widows root garden in Edinburgh). Ray Blyth told us about her ideas of naturalistic planting, easy maintenance and use of relatively unskilled labour. Finally we crossed the park back to Henshaws viewing the Rectory built in 1768 by

the Rev. John Collins. This lovely house built in the style of John Carr is now the offices of Knaresborough Town Council and the walled garden is now a residential home.

Thank you to David Rhodes, Ray Blyth and all who organised the fascinating walk around this lovely old town.

Bridget Dawson

Award for Friends of Bebra Gardens

Knaresborough Civic Society recently awarded their prestigious CIVIC

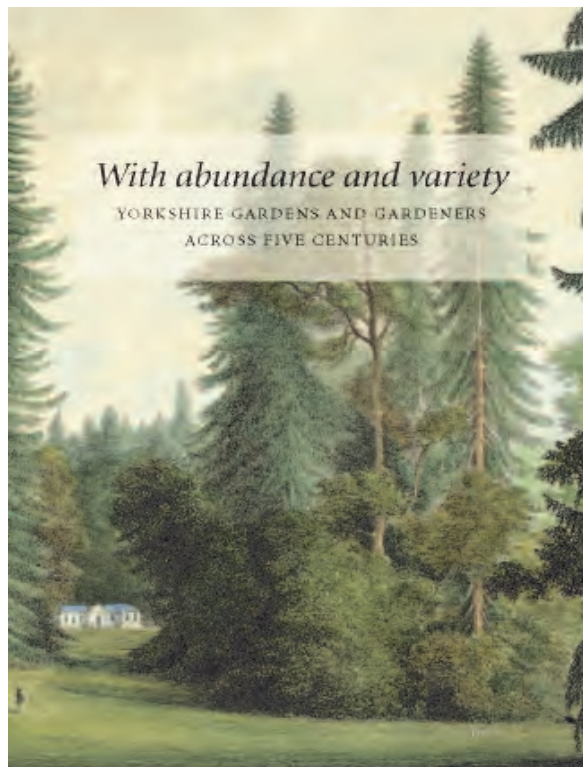
ACHIEVEMENT AWARD for work in the gardens during 2009. At the award presentation on 12th February the work of the volunteers was highly praised and photographs of the garden past and present were shown. Althea Farmer presented Andrew Willoughby with the certificate. The statue of Blind Jack in informal pose sitting on a bench by the Market Cross also received a Civic Achievement Award from Knaresborough Civic Society on the 12th Feb 2010.

With abundance and variety: Yorkshire Gardens and Gardeners across Five Centuries

The title of the Trust's first book comes from the Yorkshire gardener William Lawson's *A New Orchard and Garden*. Not only does the quotation summarise the diversity of the contents, but it also links to the Trust's logo, which is also taken from Lawson. *A New Orchard and Garden* ran into many editions after it first appeared in 1618. Let us hope that *With abundance and variety* sees similar success.

Publishing a book to this standard is not a quick or easy process. It has taken almost two years from Susan Kellerman's initial idea until the books were ready and offered to members. The first task was to find papers of a suitably high standard. This proved quite simple – Yorkshire abounds in fascinating unpublished research – and there are already authors asking when volume two goes into preparation. Actually, that wasn't the first task. That was when Susan convinced me I wanted to dedicate months to the project as her not-very-glamorous assistant. Getting the papers into a uniform format ready for the designer is by far the most time-consuming step. Many readers are probably unaware of the work that Susan put into making sure that quotation marks were used correctly, that dates were in the necessary form or that the correct distinction had been made between

long and short dashes. Editors can choose to follow conventions laid down by a number of bodies; we used the Modern Humanities Research Association's Style Guide – 80 pages of 'dos and don'ts' that must be rigor-



ously applied. Then there is the onerous task of checking that references to pictures are in the right place, that cross-references are correct and that the whole paper is grammatically correct, factually correct, free from spelling errors and readable.

Drafts pass back and forward between editors and authors until every last question mark in the margin has been addressed and then the papers go off to the designer. The typescript sheets are then turned into the elegant layouts seen in the finished book. Colour printing adds heavily to costs so there is much juggling of words and images to allow the most cost-efficient use of colour images. Final errors are amended (how can two people read a paper at least 20 times and still miss the occasional howler?) and at last the text reaches the printer.

It's a tense wait until the finished publication arrives and we can relax. Yes, the cover does work as well we hoped, the production quality is superb and if there are any tiny errors we are certainly not going to point them out to anyone.

Now Susan can put her feet up and her dreams are no longer full of hyphens, ellipses and parentheses. I have mothballed my assistant editor's hat and have been promoted to Marketing Director. And on that note, please buy the book!

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Midsummer Picnic, 23rd June 2009 — Skipwith Hall

Those of us, many of us, driving to Skipwith from the west, sallied forth in depressing drizzle. But by the time we left our motorcars, the sky had cleared and a lovely day lay ahead for our Midsummer Picnic outing. From the car park field we were treated to an expanding view of the fine Queen Anne house, its front lawn outlined by the sort of English borders that combine a satisfying blend of colour, shape and form that is 'right' just as it is, yet makes one want to move in and observe each finely grown plant in its own right. Centred on an ancient White Mulberry (*Morus alba*) the borders were a happy blend of the familiar (*Alchemilla mollis*, *Geranium* in variety, luscious peonies), with even more interesting tall white *Iris sibirica*, *Libertia formosa* and accents of skilfully paced bamboos and lollipop Bays.

So much to see, so much to savour, no hurry to move round the house for welcoming coffee and too-yummy biscuits. But, as the hum of conversation rose so more and more of the around sixty strong party formed and re-formed into clusters catching up on news of summer doings so far and plans for the months to come until all were assembled for Penelope's introduction to the day and to our kind hosts Charlie & Ros Forbes Adam.

Charlie Forbes Adam sketched in the history starting across the estate at Escrick Park, once the family home and now Queen Margaret's School. His grandparents purchased Skipwith Hall to extend the estate, then moved across from the Park when Queen Margaret's were released from exile (evacuation actually!) up at Castle Howard and took over in 1949. The Hall had fallen on hard times but his parents set to and lovingly brought it back to life. But, more than restoration, Nigel & Malise Forbes Adam added wings both north and south to create the handsome, balanced, façade we see today, and added a

rearward extension too. During the course of all this work and up-



Penelope introducing the event

heaval, evidence of an even earlier house was revealed; possibly Tudor or older with estate maps showing the mediæval three field system pattern of agriculture (indeed Skipwith was one the last parishes to be enclosed).

Charlie & Ros took over in 2002; Charlie focussed on 'hard projects' whilst freely deferring to Ros in matters of garden planting. And what



Walled Garden

planting! The major borders were re-done; 'back' in 2002, 'front' four years later. An intriguing collection of *Acer* was inherited and awaits comprehensive identification and cataloguing even though it is still being added to. Against the south

wall of the house, a splendid broom, *Cytisus battandieri*, wafted the scent of pineapple over those who approached for a closer inspection. Across the lawn, a magnificent *Liriodendron* led us on to further delights: its distinctive leaves are easy to appreciate, but I've never understood why its flowers (it was in full fig at the time of our visit) are likened to tulips?

Beyond the Tulip Tree, a gate in a boundary of warm and ancient brick drew us into what for many was, I'm sure, the *pièce de resistance* — the Walled Garden. Centred on a gentle, but eye-catching, fountain, a circular maze spread out to still more luscious borders along the walls, drawn up into architectural plantings filling the spandrels in each corner; fennels and artichokes and standard roses caught my eye. The design of the maze itself was a cause of much wonder: a thought-provoking mix of flowering plants (roses, veronicas, delphiniums), herbs (mints, sages) and vegetables (potatoes, leeks, and stately run-to-seed onions ranking round the outer circle), kept in place by low hedges of box. But the source of the most exclamation was the pathways — you'll rarely see it, let alone hear it, in a garden, but there's nothing quite so evocative of childhood summers as the crunch of seashells underfoot, brought by the ton from distant shores!

Those of us that could tear ourselves away from this mazy treat, went on to explore the Italian Garden. Very much Work In Progress but the bones are there even now: a walled enclosure, banks waiting to be brought to life with more colourful planting, the central area still a blank canvas but with corners already emphasised by mature Weeping Silver Pears (*Pyrus*

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Midsummer Picnic, 23rd June 2009 — Skipwith Hall cont.

(Continued from page 13)

salicifolia pendula) and views out into the park through exquisite gates of patinated ironwork.

Rumbling tums nudged us back into the fold of the main south lawn where shamianas (tents without sides) stood ready to provide shelter from either sun or rain whilst we chattered some more, tucked into picnics, drank our rosé, and indulged in that Old English delight of summer — strawberries and cream.

What an outing! The Almighty provided the weather, but Charlie & Ros provided the setting for a most enjoyable Midsummer Picnic. Penelope expressed our deep-felt thanks on the day itself, but this article echoes those sentiments from all of us lucky enough to have been there and taken part.

Malcolm Hand



Gates of Walled Garden

2009: A Busy Year helping Yorkshire's Historic Parklands

Late in 2009 I was able to review all the of the engagement Natural England has had with Historic Parks and Gardens in Yorkshire over 2009; this confirmed what a busy and exciting year it had been. So much so that I felt it important to share news with fellow Yorkshire Gardens Trust members.

Along with a wide variety of other work Natural England delivers Environmental Stewardship grants to land owners across the region. This is an agri-environment scheme that provides funding to farmers and other land managers in England who deliver effective environmental management on their land. Protection and better management of the Historic Environment, including historic parkland, is one of the 5 key objectives of the scheme. During 2009 we were able to help several major parks across the region under the Higher Level Agri-Environment (HLS) scheme launched in 2006. Additionally we were also able to support new works within parks still in the earlier Countryside Stewardship Scheme (CSS).

Higher Level Scheme:

Beningbrough Hall (Grade II) came into HLS early in 2009. Working closely with the National Trust and their farm tenants we funded a new Management Plan for the parkland, this reviewed our knowledge of the history of the site whilst also providing a comprehensive account of management issues and chal-

lenges. On the basis of recommendation in the Plan we have funded restoration of grassland across most of the park. In 2010 we will be working with the tenant to open up footpaths which will allow visitors to walk around the parkland for the first time. A programme of extensive tree works will assist the better management of existing plantings whilst also funding some appropriate replacement trees. Archaeological work will also help us better understand the earlier house and gardens on the site.

At Temple Grounds in Richmond we have funded an appraisal of restoration options for the Green Walk, a key element of this Grade II parkland. This work reported late in 2009 and we have now agreed to fund the actual restorations. This work is beginning early in 2010.

At Dalton Park (Grade II*) in East Yorkshire we are funding the first Parkland Management Plan and also aim to support restoration of the walled kitchen garden there. At Burton Constable Hall (Grade II) near Beverly we are funding an update of the Management Plan originally put together under an earlier Countryside Stewardship Agreement. We are also funding archaeological survey to investigate and properly record the medieval village and Elizabethan garden remains known to lie close to the main house.

Risby Hall (Grade II and Scheduled Monument) near Hall is also coming

into HLS early in 2010, specifically to help us understand and manage the important Jacobean and later parkland remains. Archaeological survey work there will start in early summer.

At Wentworth Castle (Grade I) we have paid for several arable fields to be reverted to grassland. This winter we are funding sections of ha-ha restoration whilst in 2010 we will begin to consider whether we can help with plans to help restore the serpentine lakes there.

Countryside Stewardship Scheme:

Several major parks across the region remain in the older Countryside Stewardship Scheme. Several of these are beginning the process of migrating over to the new HLS system. In advance of this we are helping with urgent or preparatory works where we can.

The Castle Howard (Grade I) parkland was placed on English Heritage's 'Heritage at Risk' list in June 2009, largely because of the declining condition of many major built features across the park. As the site is in CSS we were invited to consider what help we might be able to offer. As a result we are funding a major restoration project on the Stray Walls – Grade I listed ruined walls which form a key landscape element of the original park design.

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Bretton Hall (Grade II), encapsulated within the Yorkshire Sculpture Park, was also placed on the 'at risk' register; again we were able to respond by funding a Management Plan which will provide the basis for future management of the site under HLS when it enters the scheme later in 2010. The funding this plan has already allowed English Heritage to confirm that the site will not stay on their 2010 list.

At Bramham Hall (Grade I) plans are afoot for us to fund a major

pond restoration project when the site comes into HLS later in 2010. This will improve flow across the internationally significant water gardens and may allow some original cascades to be re-instated. To help plan with we are funding some small scale restoration works and archaeological survey under the existing CSS scheme.

The above is a quick summary of key projects. Overall several million pounds are already committed to conservation and better management of historic parks across the region. 2010 promises to be just a exciting and

busy with several new projects already under consideration. For further information on environment stewardship please see the Natural England website at: <http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/farming/funding/es/default.aspx>

Dr. Margaret Nieke
Historic Environment Adviser
Natural England

Cowesby Hall

On a typically unsettled evening in June 2009, YGT members met at Cowesby Hall, near Thirsk for a tour of the restored 5-acre gardens.

Approached by a long avenue of lime trees, Cowesby Hall nestles on the western slopes of the Hambleton Hills, with stunning open views to the south and west.

The elegant, Tudor-style stone mansion house was built in 1832 after the design of Anthony Salvin, on the site of an older house. It was sold in 1947 to the Camerons, the Hartlepool brewing family, who lived here until 2000 when the Hall was purchased by Robert and Lucy Adair. The Adairs set about renovating the Hall, and the gardens, which had been neglected for some 20 years.

Mike l'Anson joined them as their full time gardener in Jan 2001, answering a two-line advertisement in a local free magazine. Mike told me how it was a complete career change for him. He'd always had a general interest in gardens and studied for the RHS General Certificate while still with the North Yorkshire Police, where he worked for 25 years. He had commenced an HND at Askham Bryan College and had been involved with the building of a wildlife garden in Thirsk, when he saw the advertisement for his job. And, as they say 'the rest is history'.

Initially Mike was working alone, but he built up a team of four full-time and two part-time gardeners to work

on the 3-year project to rebuild the garden at Cowesby. It was designed by Mike and the Adairs with the aim to sit in the landscape and to feel seamless when walking from one area to another. Local companies were employed, plus a master dry-stone waller (Keith Ledger). He built the walls within the terraces, using existing stone from old dry-stone walls in the wood at the back of the garden.

As the Adairs enjoyed entertaining, holding regular weekend shooting and house parties, the creation of a productive garden was a priority. Renovations started on the Victorian kitchen garden, which had been full of Christmas trees, to provide fruit and vegetables, as well as cut flowers and houseplants, for the Hall.

Our visit coincided with a transitional period in the history of the garden. Sadly, the Adairs had split up 18 months prior to our visit, and so the demand for fresh produce for the Hall was no longer there. After a wonderful three years, with two full-time and two part-time seasonal gardening staff, Mike's challenge now is to build a garden that can be managed by reduced staffing levels, presently Mike plus one student (Mark).

The gardens we saw were a complete transformation from the pictures Mike showed me in the Garden Office. They had been redesigned, and restored, retaining remnants of the original Victorian features

My first impression was of the wonderful use of colour. I loved the 'yellow' garden with its combinations of *Ligularia* and *Achillea*, *Euphorbia griffithii* 'Fire Glow', *Alstroemeria* and honeysuckles (*Lonicera*); the drifts of pinks and purples on the terraces; and the vibrancy of the blue garden, created in another walled garden in front of some old greenhouses.

I love walled gardens so was particularly interested in the Victorian walled kitchen garden: the twelve raised beds of strawberries protected with 'enviromesh' (a stiff material so it doesn't blow away); the fruit trees dating from the Camerons' time, which had come from Rogers at Pickering and are all identified. I just felt sad that it looked rather neglected (*and having missed Mike's introduction didn't understand why this was until later that evening when he was showing me the garden plans, and some of the historic documents and pictures of the garden prior to restoration.*)

I love the strong fragrance of old English roses, and there were many to be enjoyed here, all supplied by David Austen Roses. The pink roses at the back of the house with their exquisite flowers were particularly beautiful and included: the medieval rose, Eglantyne; 19th-century Louise Odier, Gertrude Jekyll, and Brother Cadfael.

It was lovely to see the traditional orchard and I was interested to see

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Cowesby Hall cont.

(Continued from page 15)



Members admiring roses



Terraced Garden

a new orchard, which had been planted in 2002/3. An experiment to create a wildflower meadow, by leaving the grass to grow and cutting it once a year, had not been successful as unfortunately the grass was the particularly aggressive Perennial Ryegrass (*Lolium perenne*) which is used to produce hard-wearing sports pitches and play lawns. I was pleased to learn that numerous new hedgerows and trees had been planted on the 500-acre Estate under the Countryside Stewardship Scheme.

As I'm passionate about ancient trees and enjoy seeing specimen trees that have been allowed to grow unrestricted, I was delighted to see the evergreen Holm Oak (*Quercus ilex*), the Persian Ironwood (*Parrotia persica*), the Cedar of Lebanon (*Cedrus libani*), and the Japanese Maple (*Acer palmatum*).

Although our visit started in sunshine, and we had a lovely walk around the enchanting garden, a heavy rainstorm drove us into the swimming pool complex where some welcome refreshments were waiting.

We were so lucky in the timing of our visit to Cowesby Hall gardens as, sadly, Mike l'Anson is no longer there. Having spent the Summer of 2009 cutting grass, which is not what he wanted to do, he resigned, and left in December. After losing the summer staff, the gardens had continued to decline and in September Robert Adair confirmed that he wished to see the gardens reduced, with the request to no longer produce vegetables or cut flowers for the hall. The vegetable area is to be planted up with low maintenance

plants, probably shrubs, and a very limited amount of vegetables will be grown in some raised beds by the fruit cage, just enough for Mr Adair's own use. The two greenhouses in the blue garden have been pulled down and will be replaced with shrubbery. We can only hope that Mike's inspired work will not have been in vain.

Mike plans to extend his teaching and has the opportunity of working with Askham Bryan College in Thirsk and Bedale. Northallerton Adult Education has also asked him to present some classes. He hopes that his, together with some individual garden coaching, landscape design and specialist pruning, will keep him busy enough. (I am sure we all wish Mike every success.)

Denise Carter



Yellow Garden before restoration



Yellow Garden

New areas on the YGT website

If you now log into the Members' Area you will see a new format, which includes a Members' Forum. This is designed to allow you to communicate with your fellow Yorkshire Gardens Trust members.

There are four areas:

- **Getting started** – this tells you about the forum and how to use it
- **General** – this is for queries you may have that other members can help you with or other general information you wish to disseminate
- **Gardens and gardening** – this

section is particularly for non-YGT garden visits and openings, talks and events

- **YGT Events and Visits** – this is self-explanatory as it will list upcoming events but it will also be used to update information such as an event being full

As the system for log-in works on a surname and membership number, you may initially have a problem if there is another member with the same surname. If that is the case or indeed you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me at **webmaster**

@yorkshiregardenstrust.org.uk or 01977 663471

I hope that you find this of use and would welcome any feedback on it!

We also have a new Publications page that initially will advertise our new book 'With Abundance and Variety'. It will also feature book reviews on gardens and gardening. If you would like to submit a review then please send to me at the above email address.

Louise Wickham

Visit to Borthwick Institute for Archives – 4 December

December is not the best month for visiting gardens. It is, however, a good time for both retrospection and planning ahead; the long dark days provide plenty of time and space for reflection and contemplation. With this firmly in mind, 30 Trust members organized by Penelope Dawson-Brown, visited the Borthwick Institute for Archives on 4 December, hosted by Chris Webb, Keeper of Archives, and Alex Mould, Archive Assistant. The Borthwick is the home of the Trust's own seedling archive, and provides increasingly fertile ground for other garden archives, largely because of the preparation and planting work of Trust members.

The Borthwick's first garden archive acquisition was the nationally important archive of the garden designer James Russell. Not only did Trust members help to influence the choice of the Borthwick as a home for the Russell Archive, but they were instrumental in raising enough money to pay for the appraisal, sort-

ing, arrangement and cataloguing (with a published catalogue) of this important material.

The Russell Archive formed a large part of the display that was prepared especially for the Trust's visit; Russell's detailed planting scheme for Ray Wood at Castle Howard in the mid-1950s had pride of place, but more modest and less well-known schemes for private houses were also on display, illustrating the wide variety of schemes worked on by Russell in a very creative lifetime.

The Trust's recent project to record the garden of Philippa Rakussen at Ling Beeches, in the form of contemporary slides, coupled with Rakussen's own invoices that document the formation of the garden over several decades, formed another set of material. Chris Webb explained the intention to make the slides widely available, after digital imaging, via the Internet.

The records of the oldest floricultural society in the world – The Ancient Society of York Florists – were the

earliest records on display, starting half way through the 18th century with the first records of the Society's annual shows, now conserved and sympathetically rebound by recently-retired Borthwick conservator Trevor Cooper, again work funded by YGT.

The evening also included a tour of the Borthwick's normally hidden facilities, as it were the potting shed of archival work. Members visited the modern strongrooms (equipped with computer controlled mobile shelving) designed to keep the records at stable temperature and humidity. From the strongrooms we visited the staff areas (with rooms for confidential consultation) and the large and spacious conservation workshop. The evening concluded with wine and nibbles in the Borthwick's exhibition area, where recently-acquired material on display included photographs of the gardens at Heslington Hall in the years around the First World War.

Chris Webb

Romancing the Stones

Just over one mile south from my study window a rounded wooded hilltop hides Druid's Temple, a mock pre-historic monument almost dismissed by writers as a kind of job creation scheme by a benevolent landowner. The facts of just why it was built are stranger than fiction. What interests me is the period two hundred years ago when the Grand Tour had been unavailable and Britain's sublime picturesque scenery admired, painted and enhanced.

For some time now I have been researching and recording sites in Yorkshire landscapes and gardens where rocks have been used to form decorative features. Druid's Temple is an example but there are hundreds of small sites that are of interest. If you know of such a site or would like to be involved in researching and recording stones used in the Romantic period, do please get in touch.

Ray Blyth 01765 689289 or email: linblyth2002@yahoo.co.uk

The Council of Management Away day, Summer 2009

Although I know that I see more of my colleagues who sit on the YGT Council of Management than some of my own family, it is rare that we have a chance for a leisurely conversation or to talk about matters incidental to the immediate business of the council at our quarterly meetings.

These meetings are so full, usually brim-full and overflowing - with news, views and questions, that we often end up finishing in a most hurried, and a less satisfactory way than we would desire.

It was to try to relieve the sheer amount of business in these quarterly meetings that an "Away day" was proposed. It was envisaged that it could be a relaxing day, with time for a walk in the fresh air, a chance to walk and talk amongst some new sights, a leisurely lunch, then a discussion regarding the future direction of the Trust, a "Strategic Discussion".

A suitable venue was sought - accessible, with ample parking, yet interesting and meeting all the above criteria. This was provided at the Horticulture and Conservation Department, Horsforth Campus, Leeds City College. Sited off the Leeds Ring Road and offering most of the needs on our list!

Everyone managed to find the place, although it was not without incident for some, and after coffee and pastries, a tour of the site took us out into the fresh air. Although we only covered a small part of the whole site we still managed to walk and talk for longer than perhaps we ought to have done.

So it was with the adroit chairmanship of Martin Page that we re-convened in our base room, laid an agenda for the meeting and realised we could only achieve this by condensing lunch into a working lunch session with a meeting combined.

The assembled members, Penelope Dawson-Brown, Martin Walker, Martin Page, Val Hepworth, Ray Blyth, Helen Lazenby, Nicola Harrison, Jenni Howard, and myself all had burning issues which we felt would be useful to review, discuss, or note for

future reference.

These ranged from the Business Plan for the YGT, through fulfilling our aims in respect of the Charity Commission; thence to expectations of the membership both in the short and long-term; promotion of the YGT; communications both with members and the Association of Gardens Trusts; our role in education; possible tourism links; and onto resolving the problems of over-booking at events and the need to have helping hands for a continued successful events programme across the whole of the county.

There was little of this which we could resolve in one afternoon, but there were points which it was felt we should address and some which it was good to air and share at this time. There was a general consensus amongst those present that this initiative should be taken forward, perhaps as an annual event, to discuss the future direction and size of the organisation and its strategic goals.

The day was briefly interrupted in the nicest possible way, when the LCC student, Sally Clough, was presented with the YGT Trophy for Outstanding Horticultural Achievement 2009, in recognition of her completing the Foundation Degree with brilliant marks and for her dedicated efforts in helping her team achieve a Gold Award at the Harrogate Spring Flower Show. Penelope presented the trophy along with an honorary year's membership to the Trust, outside in the gardens. Sally was delighted and thanked everyone for the tribute.

Returning indoors to the meeting was difficult and again we came up against the clock, running out of time before we had made much headway. Martin Page, in his chairing role suggested that perhaps the 'Strategic' issues could be taken individually to a quarterly meeting, with a split timetabling for the general business and strategy - however without all council mem-

bers present, this was taken as a suggestion for the next quarterly meeting.

Regretfully, here once again, a very full agenda with the publication of the book to discuss, the AGM to finalise and reports from the seven sub-committees meant that time was again extremely tight, so that the meeting decided against such a division.

The future of the Yorkshire Gardens Trust is important. It is an organisation which can voice concern for our historic gardens and landscapes, it can contribute to the quality of restoration work, encourage interest in horticulture (great and small) and through the efforts of our members seek out and share some wonderful gems which enhance all our lives and hopefully saves these for the wider public enjoyment and the enjoyment of future generations.

The many different skills needed and the generosity of our members requires strategic planning to ensure these successes continue long into the future, maybe revising some of our roles, maybe changing some aspects temporarily, but this 'strategy' needs to address how we can best set our efforts to achieving this.

We have come through our first decade with some notable achievements and I would like to think that the YGT can go from strength to strength and that all its members can enjoy the discoveries, the challenges and the successes.

Hopefully we shall hold another Away day in 2010, perhaps with a more structured and limited agenda, but still a gathering where all the council and some invited 'specialists' can share their enthusiasm and ideas.

Liz Simson
Secretary to the YGT Council of
Management

Robert Compton VMH 1922 - 2009

Robin, as we always thought of him, was a member of the Yorkshire Gardens Trust from its earliest beginnings. A consummate plantsman, the gardens at Newby Hall, North Yorkshire are a horticultural paradise that he developed and embellished for over thirty years. In 2002 at our AGM at Newby, Robin held an audience of about ninety members spellbound with his enthusiasm as he explained how the gardens

and landscape had developed and the family's plans for the future. In 1949 Robin joined the botanical garden committee of the Northern Horticultural Society (NHS) and so formed links with other NHS luminaries such as Hon Robert James of St Nicholas and Sir William Milner of Parcevall Hall. He later became President of the NHS and the Harrogate Flower Show. More recently (1993) he was awarded the RHS Vic-

toria Medal of Honour and in 1996 the Harlow Carr medal when he became a Vice-president of the RHS. The gardens at Newby remain a testament to his horticultural flair and to the family's determination that their Spirit should be that of a much-loved private garden, rather than one that is simply open to the public however beautiful.

Val Hepworth

Committee Round-up

Wentworth Castle report

We are really proud to tell you that Restoration at Wentworth continues, helped by a very generous set of grants from English Heritage and Natural England. The two organisations have initiated a programme of grant aid for the restoration of historic structures within parklands which have already qualified for Higher Level Stewardship funding from DEFRA. This far sighted arrangement has meant that we have been able to attract funding for the restoration of our northern ha ha wall which abuts the pleasure gardens despite the valuable presence of a badger set close by.

Rebuilding work on the ha ha has been carefully timed to avoid disturbance to the badgers' breeding season and has involved detailed liaison work between our ecologists, landscapers and conservation volunteers. Daily monitoring and a gradual exclusion of the animals on a temporary basis from the immediate vicinity of the wall has allowed us to clear, document and photograph the gradual restoration of the wall and its original stone gateway between the garden and field. Several curved metal fencing strainers have already come to light, dating probably from the Victorian era corroborating planting evidence which suggests that at least part of the adjacent walk was redesigned at this period. Several individual craftsmen have banded together as a stonewalling team in order to speed up the completion of this work in time for the new visitor season when the Rotunda will also have

been repaired.

English Heritage have very generously provided us with another grant for this fabulous Grade II* building in order to allow us to restore its roof, with match funding coming from EPIP. Recent archive research has established that the Rotunda originally had an oculus providing day light to the interior and a black and white marble floor with plaster walls. The present grant will restore the roof, its oculus and we hope the floor, thereby ensuring that the building becomes wind and water tight fifty or so years after the roof was damaged during the 2nd World War. We are extremely grateful for E H's continue support for our monuments in these difficult times.

Archive research on this fascinating site is coming on a pace and as some of you will have already seen in the press, the Wentworth Castle Trust is hosting a conference on the 6th – 8th August 2010 entitled

Jacobites and Tories, Whigs and True Whigs: Political Gardening in Britain c.1700 – c.1760

Places are filling up fast so if you think you might like to join us, I urge you to book soon.

Exciting news has also been received from HLF who have passed our initial bid for the restoration of the Conservatory as our Phase II project and on which Steve Blackburn spent so much of his valuable time over the winter of 2008/9. This is the green light we needed for the working up of detailed costings for the scheme. We expect to then be in a position to re-

submit a much more developed and costed idea for what we hope will be HLF's final go ahead to the restoration of this unique iron building with its ground breaking electric lighting. The Conservatory is particularly popular with our volunteers and a dedicated team has already raised some £35,000 towards the match-funding target, which is a fantastic achievement by all concerned.

Jane Furse

Research & Recording

As we mentioned in the previous Newsletter, we decided to wind up the Vicarage Garden project. Despite undertaking research mainly at the Borthwick and the North Yorkshire County Record Office, we found that although there was plenty of information on parsonage houses and vicarages, there was very little recorded about their gardens. Also, in many cases, gardens shown on early O.S. maps have either been built on or have been completely redeveloped by recent owners and so have left few traces of their original layouts. However, members may be interested to know that Shandy Hall, the Grade I listed home of Laurence Sterne, was the northern winner of the Country Life magazine competition to find England's finest parsonage (the overall winner was The Old Rectory, Farnborough, Berkshire). A short report on the gardens of Shandy Hall will appear in the next issue of this newsletter. Helen Lazenby and Moira Fulton joined The Rectory Society and accompanied their visit

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Committee Round-up cont.

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to three Yorkshire rectories: Shandy Hall, The Old Rectory, Settrington and The Old Rectory, Foston, the former home of Sydney Smith.

We have now decided to research and record in depth one site a year in preparation for a visit or study day by members. We began in August 2009 at Clapham, where we had a study day based on the gardens of Reginald Farrer (see report by Patrick Eyres in this Newsletter). The preliminary research for the day, not only involved visits to the Farrer family at Clapham but also to the Royal Botanic Garden in Edinburgh, where much of the Reginald Farrer archive has been deposited. Helen and Moira hoped to examine the entire archive in one day but were rather alarmed when the librarian kept arriving with more and more boxes, many containing exquisite watercolours of Alpine flowers. Fortunately, although we had to leave many of Reginald Farrer's long letters to his mother from Burma unread, Helen was able to make copies of the fascinating photographic archive.

It is hoped to undertake research on another site shortly. Anyone who would like to become involved in this project please do contact me. Yorkshire is full of gardens waiting for our attentions.

Moira Fulton
moira@fulton58.fsnet.co.uk

Education

Since the last YGT Newsletter, thanks to the efforts of Lucy Porritt, we have been delighted to welcome

three new schools into YGT for Schools membership - East Norton CE of E School, near Keighley, as well as Great Ouseburn County Primary School and Marton-cum-Grafton CE VA Primary School, both near York.

The Trust has already been able to support Marton-cum-Grafton school with a YGT for Schools Grounds Development Award. This is a £200 cash award, intended to help schools enhance the landscape and natural environment; creating new, outdoor learning experiences for the children through the introduction of new features and wildlife habitats into the school grounds. In this case it is going towards a tree-planting scheme, which will not only enhance the landscape around some new school buildings, but also provide much-needed shade, wind-shelter and a sustainable nature area for the children. It is planned that each tree will be adopted by a different class who will be responsible for its care.

Members might also be interested to hear that the Trust supported a successful bid by The Wildflower Ark (a charity concerned with conserving the flora of the Lower Tees Valley) for a study of the heritage orchards of the area. The project will research the location, condition and ecology of remaining heritage orchards and fruit trees in the Lower Tees Valley; as well as the local history of fruit growing and uses. In conjunction with the Northern Fruit Group, workshops will be held on such topics as grafting, pruning, harvesting and storing fruit.

The results of this exciting project will be shared with community groups and taken into local primary schools; engaging children in aspects ranging

from their local history of fruit-growing, to bee-pollination, tasting apple recipes, understanding the importance of local produce and finally, planting and for caring trees in their own school grounds.

Nicola Harrison
nicola_a_harrison@tiscali.co.uk

Conservation and Planning 'Vista, Enclosure and Variety'

The name Ptolemy conjures up history in the guise of the Egyptian scientist and astronomer working in Alexandria during the 2nd century AD. However the 21st century Ptolemy I quote here is the young architect Ptolemy Dean who was the historic buildings advisor on the BBC 2 programme 'Restoration', and whose architectural writing in Country Life is accompanied by exquisite ink and watercolour sketches. I hope that you've seen them. He has also written in the recent English Heritage Conservation Bulletin (Issue 62 Autumn 2009) that focuses on Conservation Areas and here his *Celebrating special areas* hit a chord with me: 'And yet our towns and villages are composed not of these lone architectural statements, but of a remarkably rich and unfolding sequence of external spaces that are shaped by buildings, often quite ordinary. Indeed, we barely notice the individual buildings themselves as they merge into something transfixing: areas where the sum of the whole is far greater than the individual parts. Whether we understand it or not, our pleasure in towns and villages appear to a large degree to be shaped by the

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Anne Dennier, *A Lasting Legacy: The Story of Whitby's Pannett Park*, (Published by Whitby Literary & Philosophical Society, 2009), 48pages, £4.95, ISBN 978-0-90207-19-4

Pannett Park may not be Yorkshire's best-known green space and perhaps unexplored by visitors to the premier resort of Whitby, but readers of this little book will be eager to explore it. To describe this publication as little does not do it justice. Yorkshire Gardens Trust member, Anne Denier, gives so much information in a style that is enjoyable to read and the numerous illustrations help to tell the story of the park from its conception as a People's Park, to the recent restoration thanks to the Friends of Pannett Park and the 'Parks for People' scheme. My only regret is that the spine is not quite wide enough for a title, so that I can see it alongside *Middlesbrough's Albert Park* and *A Walk in the Park: Darlington*, but a worthy addition to our bookshelves.

Ray Blyth

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physical sensations of vista, enclosure and variety.'

It seems to me that these sentiments encompass very much our heritage of small parks, gardens and green spaces in towns and cities and indeed of vista, enclosure and variety in the design of our grander and larger landscapes. Think of our suburban villas and their gardens, which have been prey to wilful recent developments and equally our world-class designed landscapes such as Studley Royal or Duncombe Park. Vista, enclosure and variety are qualities that we need to sustain.

In another piece, Jenifer White, English Heritage's Senior Landscape Advisor writes of *Protecting landscapes through conservation areas* and the argument that has rumbled on for many years that conservation area designation is not appropriate for parks and gardens. Yet the character of many conservation areas is shaped by open spaces and trees. Some councils, like those in Norfolk, have used conservation areas for all registered landscapes, urban or rural and in so doing have offered valuable controls to help preserve or enhance features such as garden structures and trees, and stop inappropriate new development, and tree works.

The eighth annual report on the historic environment Heritage Counts 2009 was published in October. It launches new research, which concludes that living in historic areas, and perhaps more importantly, participation and interest in the historic environment, has a positive and significant impact on how people feel, think and identify with where they live. The report also shows that funding for the historic environment, particularly in the private and voluntary sector has not escaped the impact of the recession. Heritage Counts 2009 for Yorkshire and the Humber is available to download from the Heritage Counts website: www.heritagecounts.org.uk where there is much detailed information on historic environment indicators. If you would like a hard copy of Heritage Counts 2009 England (there are no hard copies of the regional reports) then please contact Customer Services tel: 0870 333 1181 e-

m: customers@english-heritage.org.uk

Also on the national scene the AGT commented on the draft **Planning Policy Statement (PPS) Planning for the Historic Environment** which is to replace PPG's 15 and 16, together with **English Heritage's Guidance Document, Historic Environment Planning Practice Guide**. (These are available at respectively www.communities.gov.uk and www.english-heritage.org.uk) Just to remind you: The statutory status of registered parks remains unchanged. The approach promoted in the PPS is about making informed decision based on an understanding of significance, and emphasis is given to research and records. Non-designated heritage assets are to be considered at the same level as designated assets and there is strong support for pre-application discussion.

There are policies to encourage local risk registers as well as the national Heritage at Risk programme, and the requirement for planning authorities to obtain advice from national and local amenity societies as well as organisations such as English Heritage. This provides an opportunity for county gardens trusts like us, along with the Garden History Society, the statutory consultee on Grade II registered parks and gardens, to collaborate more and ensure that comprehensive and well-informed advice is given. Rachael Sturgeon - now Rachael Stamper after her marriage in October to Paul - continues working as the Project Manager for the **Parks & Gardens Database**. Her email address is: info@parksandgardens.ac.uk and her telephone number is 01904 433965.

November was something of a red-letter month for me as I was invited by English Heritage to the lunch and presentation for the **Landscape Institute Awards** and then to represent the YGT at the **Heritage Lottery Fund 15th Anniversary Conference: Impact and Sustainability** in York. The HLF has invested an amazing £358m in more than

2,900 projects in our region and we heard about many examples; from Leeds West Indian Carnival to Hackfall, from Remembering Butlins at Filey, to the Black Dyke Band, and the Borthwick Institute.

Natural England, The National Trust, South Lakeland Orchard Group and The Northern Fruit Group are spearheading a project to create **The Local Apple Register** and **The Pear Register**. The Local Apple Register will locate, record and preserve living specimens of local apple varieties for posterity. Local varieties are part of many communities cultural heritage and are often closely adapted to extreme environments. By adding them to already recorded varieties the gene pool available for breeding will be substantially enhanced with a greater chance of breeding varieties able to cope with climate change. Do you know of a locally esteemed apple not nationally known? It may be a candidate for The Local Apple Register. Please contact Simon Clark tel. 0113 2663235, e mail simonclark49@gmail.com for details of the scheme and how to get involved.

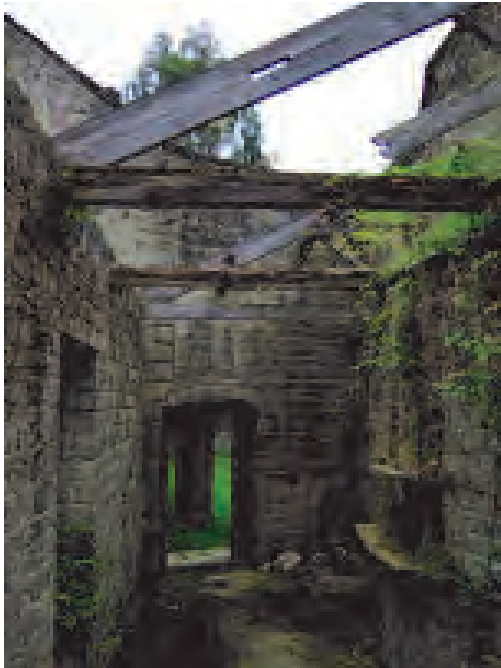
Pears, such a magnificent but neglected component of our traditional orchards are currently a closed book as to what varieties occur. Identification is a fascinating challenge as many turn out to be 18th or 19th C Belgian or French varieties. Pears can live for 300-400 years, so it is likely that varieties from as early as the mid 17th century are still in existence. If you can help please contact Simon Clark (above) or Philip Rainford tel 01772 7129; e mail; p.f.rain@btinternet.com .

The conservation sub-committee has continued to be involved with parks and gardens throughout Yorkshire. In Sheffield we are delighted to hear that Joan Sewell has been commissioned by Sheffield City Council to write a management plan for **Whinfell Quarry Garden**. The lack of a proper plan was a concern when giving the YGT grant. Joan is searching for Backhouse information. When the Backhouse Nursery in York closed some archive mate-

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Committee Round-Up cont.

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Inside the back of the old conservatory adjacent to walled garden at St Ives

rial was deposited with their insurer General Accident now taken over by Norwich Union and part of Aviva. She found three documents relating to Backhouse: a register of members; a register of transfers; and a list of subscribers. Joan says that she will let us know if anything more comes to light. There has been a revised planning application for **Tapton Halls, Sheffield** which is an improvement on the previous scheme but Joan still has concerns.

Jane Furse and Anne Tupholme attended two meetings last autumn at the **St Ives Estate, Bingley** (a Bradford MDC park), to offer advice on the design for a new garden within the walls of the only remaining small walled garden for the seventeenth century part of the Mansion. Peter Brears excellent book, 'The Complete Housekeeper: A household in Queen Anne times' was recommended as a particularly relevant reference book as it describes in detail the domestic life at Kildwick Hall for the years 1700-1714. This was written through the chance discovery of a housekeeper's account book, but it also includes accounts relating to the garden. Kildwick Hall is just 7 miles northwest of St Ives in the Aire valley but more

importantly the Currers at Kildwick Hall were related through marriage with the Ferrands of St Ives. Anne Curre, daughter of the owner Hugh Curre (1608-1690), married Robert Ferrand and lived at Harden Grange (as St Ives was named then), until her death in 1712.

Detailed plant lists

and plans for the Yorkshire garden of the Rev. Walter Stonehouse at the Darfield Rectory in 1640, published in the Gardeners' Chronicle in 1920

should also prove useful, particularly as all the varieties of the fruit trees planted were itemized. We await the new design. One of the difficulties in landscaping this garden was the wish to retain a huge, hideous container that was positioned adjacent to the south-east wall. It was finally agreed to remove it, but unfortunately the container has recently reappeared in the designed landscape near Coppice Pond at St Ives, spoiling the view.

In December Anne attended a meeting to discuss more car parking provision at St Ives nearer the café. It is difficult to envisage how this can be achieved without a further detrimental impact on the designed landscape. Plans are being drawn up. However on a happier note, Anne was able to answer a request from Bob Thorp, (Trees and Woodland Manager, Bradford MDC) for information about the trees on the estate, through her research in the extensive Ferrand Archives.

Some of you will remember that last



Part of the walled garden at St Ives where there is to be a new design and shows the hideous container which has now reappeared near Coppice Pond

March we had a splendid guided tour of the outer landscape at Harewood with PhD student Tim Tatioglu. Tim is currently working for the West Yorkshire Archaeology Advisory Service in Wakefield and Anne has been able to help him with information on the gardens at **Cliffe Castle** in Keighley, which is now also a Bradford MDC park. Bradford's parks department have been considering for some time restoring



Rebuilt entrance to the top terrace from the Camellia Walk at Parcevall Hall Gardens

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the grounds through a HLF funded project. Henry Isaac Butterfield spent lavishly after he inherited the house in 1874, transforming the earlier George Webster designed house in the Elizabethan style (Cliffe Hall) into a 'modernised Tudor Castle'. Today Cliffe Castle Museum is surrounded by a forty-acre park, which has retained much of the structure of the Butterfield gardens, though sadly the splendid large Winter Garden built by Messengers in 1878 no longer exists. The rockery and grotto, built near the main entrance is similar in style to the most amazing rock garden in the winter garden at Oakworth House that covered half an acre. The latter was built by a 'band of Frenchmen' and it seems extremely likely that the same workers were responsible for the Cliffe Castle rockwork. Oakworth House burnt down in 1909 but the rockwork still exists and can be seen in **Oakworth Park** (Bradford MDC).

Our support for **Parcevall Hall** continues with Anne driving the efforts to secure the funding for the reconstruction of the waterfall. See our appeal.

Further north and east Malcolm Barnett and myself have been involved with three sites. We were alerted by YGT member Sarah Smith that the developer had applied again – twice – to develop the garden at **Weavers Cottage, Settle**. YGT objected to excessive development in 2005/6. The new plans are better but there would still be a clear erosion of a gar-

den area and the vital setting for the two Grade II listed buildings and a very clear splitting up of that garden/setting.

At **Kiplin Hall** we have been developing ideas and suggestions for the gardens and landscape in a paper for the trustees. They agreed that we should draft a brief for tendering to consultants to write a management plan drawing together and building on all the work that has been done over the years. Meanwhile the trustees have agreed to fund a part-time gardener – if you know of someone with good horticultural and historic garden skills who can work with volunteers then please let us know. Last autumn we also helped with bulb ordering and then planting with volunteers. Kiplin has never had any spring show of bulbs and we tried to choose those with some historic provenance. At the workshop that we held last summer we noted an area where a new sitting/planted area might be developed. YGT member Mike Heagney of Gardens Revitalised is looking at ideas with us for this small area provisionally called the 'orangery/conservatory walk'. This is alongside the path into the peninsular woodland and backs onto the brick wall of the walled garden. The old Ordnance Survey maps and remains in the ground (including a stone-lined cistern) and on the wall indicate that there was a greenhouse/conservatory against the wall facing the eastern parkland. A pho-

tographic record is being made as volunteers carefully remove the weeds, rubble and soil. Kiplin is well known for drifts of snowdrops and aconites in February so Mike hopes to include a walk with special cultivars of snowdrops in the plans for this area.

In the summer we were notified of a proposal to put a private caravan site in the north park of **Forcett Hall** (Richmondshire). The gardens and park may have been designed by Thomas Wright, 'The Durham Wizard' in about 1740 and they most interestingly incorporate part of an Iron Age oppidum and a snail mount with a huge rustic tripartite grotto on its south eastern side. It was good to meet the owners Mr and Mrs Heathcote, and their agent Guy Coggrave, to discuss the proposal and to bring in Andy Wimble of English Heritage and Dr Margaret Nieke of Natural England. Since then the Heathcote's with Guy Goggrave have decided that a private caravan site is not the way that they want to take Forcett. Forcett Hall is an amazing hidden gem with a fine house, imposing entrance screen and lodges all by Daniel Garrett, but which despite the owners' best efforts, needs serious funds to conserve and secure it for the future. We are more hopeful now that with help, this will happen.

Val Hepworth

Small Grants Scheme: From Nelson to Shelters

We have had seven applications for our current grant scheme. It is gratifying that calls on our small pot of money cover a wide range of projects and different parts of the county but difficult sometimes to decide which to support. This year has been no exception. After much deliberation and site visits we have decided to help Duncombe Park, the Shuttleworth Gardens at Scarborough and Parcevall Hall. We hope to help the other applicants in the future but we felt that at this stage we needed further discussion, clarification of their projects and to help them with advice.

I'm sure that many of you will have visited Duncombe Park. YGT has arranged at least two visits over the past ten years to this very important early eighteenth century designed landscape. The beautiful curving terrace overlooking the river Rye is terminated by the Ionic rotunda (1714-24) attributed to Vanbrugh whilst Sir Thomas Robinson of Rokeby designed the enclosed Doric or Tuscan temple (c.1730) at the southern end. About a hundred years later the Nelson Gates, a stone triumphal arch and iron gates (1806), were erected for all travellers to enjoy as they journeyed to Duncombe Park and Helmsley from the west. Unfortu-

nately time has taken its toll on all three structures and they are now on the 'Buildings at Risk Register'. After discussions with Jake Duncombe and Beth Davies of the North York Moors National Park we have decided to help with a grant towards a condition survey of the Nelson Gates and historical research on the structure, setting and related drive.

About three years ago we were delighted to help Scarborough & District Civic Society with the improvements to the little garden on Valley Road, Scarborough, below the Art Gallery. They are now working on

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Registered Charity No. 1060697

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the Shuttleworth Gardens on South Cliff, another registered historic garden that everyone can enjoy. Red Court Garden (now Shuttleworth Gardens) was a private garden until 1917 when the owner, Alfred Shuttleworth gave it to the town. The oak shelter was mentioned in the newspaper account of the gift and now needs some restoration work, so we have granted £1,000. It's always a pleasure to help like-minded groups like the Civic Society and the Shuttleworth Gardens are a peaceful haven. For those of us with children – or who never grew up – they include the most magical miniature garden too.

You will have read elsewhere of our determination to see a more appropriate and sensitive waterfall built in Tarn Ghyll Wood at Parcevall Hall, a



Cannon Hall south terrace with restored stone balls on plinths

delightful historic garden in the Arts and Crafts style and the only registered park and garden in the Yorkshire Dales National Park. Having had an application from the gardens

(Walsingham College), we have allocated £1,000 towards this project.

From the 2008-9 scheme we have now given £800 to the Friends of Cannon Hall, Barnsley for the three restored stone balls, part of a combination of six plinths topped with stone balls, on the south terrace. The whole scheme cost £1,900 with the larger share being raised by the Friends. Well done to them and for all that they're achieving at Cannon Hall. We have also given £148 to Cantley Community Centre, Doncaster for tools, and await the official unveiling of the plaque celebrating the Ancient Society of York Florists on the wall at 24 Colliergate, York where the Society held their first show in 1768.

Val Hepworth

STOP PRESS...forthcoming events

Saturday 6 March

Bretton Hall, Wakefield: A heritage tour of the landscape setting

Saturday 20 March

YGT AGM, The Spa Hotel, Ripon

Sunday 11 April

Goldsborough Hall, near Knaresborough

Wednesday 19 May

Visit to Goddards, York

Thursday 27 May

Visit to the Romantic Landscape at Plumpton Rocks

Note: Tulip Show is on May 8th and 9th at Primrose Hall, Horbury, not as advised in events mailing

Jacobites and Tories, Whigs and True Whigs: Political Gardening in Britain, c.1700 – c.1760

**Conference, 6th-8th August 2010, Wentworth Castle, Barnsley, South Yorkshire
Wentworth Castle Heritage Trust and the Garden History Society**

Within the mansion's Georgian splendour we shall be fed and watered, and enjoy the 11 speakers discussing the ways that country estate symbolism distinguished between the warring factions of British politics. We shall also explore the Jacobite features of the mansion, gardens and park through site tours. The conference marks the on-going restoration of the architectural and landscape fabric of the 500 acre estate that was created by the Tory-Jacobite Earl of Strafford between 1708 and 1739, assisted by the Jacobite architect James Gibbs. Residential and non-residential options are available.

For further information, email Dr. Patrick Eyres at patrickjeyres@googlemail.com or download from either www.gardenhistorysociety.org/events or www.wentworthcastle.org/events/politicalgardeningconference