



# NEWSLETTER

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## CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

I am not sure what this summer has in store for us, writing this early June, but I hope we have more days to enjoy the outdoors than we did last year. I am already totally reliant on a hose pipe for an area of newly sown grass seed to ensure it's survival – that is when I am not patching up the bare spots where torrential downpours and subsequent drips have blitzed patches to bare soil (again). I only hope that perhaps you are adapting more successfully to the strange weather patterns than I - if you are not too busy with a million and one other pursuits!

I am definitely with the sci-fi author Terry Pratchett<sup>1</sup> in feeling that time is erratic. Since the AGM at Ripon, my weeks have definitely gone by in double-quick time. However, I take the role of YGT Chairman very seriously in all this dancing with time.



Liz Simson, YGT Chairman

I knew it would be a hard act to follow the lead set by Val and Penelope and I would like to thank them and the others on council for their willing support as I try to chart the unknown. I have written more than a few letters, attended a few YGT events, and promoted the YGT on occasions wherever I could. I have offered many silent prayers of thanks to the wonderful invention that is "e-mail" as these constantly pass to and fro, keeping everyone on Council and 'Friends of Council' abreast of many matters county-wide and with the AGT<sup>2</sup>. I am pleased to have met some new members; many new-to-me members; and learned much about the running of the Trust. I lament a slowness of memory in learning names to put to faces. Please forgive my lapses and declare your name to me when next we meet.

*(continued overleaf)*

## AN END TO 'GARDEN GRABBING'?

It has taken ten years to make gardens 'green' again. In 2000 the Government's planning guidance defined gardens as previously developed or brownfield land on a par with factory sites, industrial estates and the like. To many of us concerned with gardens and green spaces this was nothing short of disastrous and led to the term 'garden grabbing' as much inappropriate development

and loss of historic and green urban areas ensued. Then on 9th June 2010 the Government announced decentralisation of the planning system by giving Local Authorities the opportunity to prevent over-development of neighbourhoods and 'garden grabbing'. Only ten years . . . but we've made it! *(Read the full story in Conservation and Planning: In The Green on page 15.)*

*(continued from page 1)*

I would encourage everyone to wear 'a name' at as many events as possible, as I am sure it cannot only be me who has such a problem.

Wearing a YGT 'hat' has to fit in with other commitments all of which bring me into contact with the world of plants, gardens and designed landscapes. Working at Leeds City College, in the department of horticulture and conservation, I have had quite an interesting year. In March I visited several nurseries in search of plants for the Harrogate Spring Flower Show and saw all too clearly the damage that had been inflicted by the snows and frost. Everyone seems to have some losses, some very odd ones too. I also learned why grass turf now comes in such thin layers – to cut at more than 25mm depth the vendor needs planning permission. (We managed to get a small amount for the college show garden cut at 40mm which ensured it's survival in a marquee, for the duration of the show and subsequent re-use at college ) As a committee member of the Northern Branch of the Institute of Horticulture, I also ran a heat for the Young Horticulturist of the Year Competition and visited Bishop Burton College for the Northern finals. They are having a massive investment for their Horticulture Department and will be a place to watch for in the future. It is important to keep horticultural training at as many levels and at as many places as possible. With qualifications may come professional status and hopefully a level of remuneration such status should merit, but so rarely achieves. We really do need to attract and retain proficient people in the profession.

I have been compiling the maintenance schedule for the many



Leeds City College garden at Great Yorkshire Show - beginning



Leeds City College garden at Great Yorkshire Show - mid-build



Leeds City College garden at Great Yorkshire Show - finished!

acres of the horticulture department and have taken part in an evening of 'Balsam Bashing' (to try to reduce the invasion of this across the site). All of which make me aware that horticulture is both a pleasure and hard labour. I applaud all gardeners who tirelessly tend to routine tasks and meet all the challenges of pests and weather and random interferences (including open-days and garden visits) that arise.

From gardens to the wilder landscapes. I celebrated a wedding anniversary and a significant birthday of the elder of the Simson partners (!) on the Welsh coast, at Aberdovy, at the start of May. Returning home under the shadow of Cader Idris and via Llyn Tegid, Bala - where I spent many weekends through childhood - I marvelled again at the plants that cling to the rocks and crevices or survive the rise and fall of the lake waters to create pockets of nature's own miniature gardens – so beautiful, so resilient, The wonders of nature! It makes me re-think my garden (yet again), and to appreciate anew the efforts of those gardeners whose splendid achievements delight us on the YGT visits. I only hope that some of the gardeners, as opposed to owners of the gardens, have opportunity to read the glowing reports written up after each visit.

It is appropriate that here I give a huge "thank-you" to those members who provide written accounts of all the visits and events. As I look back over past YGT Newsletters, I revisit places in my mind or imagine all those I have yet to see. I know it may seem onerous when it comes to the actual writing of these, but they do provide a great deal of pleasure to many who cannot travel. Also, they add to the record of a day, in a year, in the history of these

*(continued on page 3)*

(continued from page 2)

gardens, marking highlights as seen through the eyes of a visitor and subsequently it is archived at the Borthwick<sup>3</sup> for future researchers to read.

I should also like to remind you to visit the YGT web –pages via broadband on your computer and maybe to try out the Members Forum? As one who is not very computer savvy, each time I visit I learn a little more - thanks to the skills of Louise our Webmaster, who has set out the instructions very carefully. In time this could become a very useful means of communication, safe within our membership, to exchange news, views and reviews (incidentally, I learn today that for those of you with i-phones, there is a free downloadable ‘app’ which tells you how to grow fruit and vegetables and which is becoming one of the most popular ‘hits’ ‘on the system. – I do know some of the jargon!)

However, before I get overwhelmed by the tsunami of technology, I stop and remind myself that this is only one of the tools which assist in keeping all the affairs of man, and the YGT, in motion. There are still many tasks which require the practical, hands-on labours of willing people. I am delighted that Denise Carter has stepped into the role of newsletter editor. I wish her every success and hope those articles keep coming for her next edition. Book reviews, advance notices, personal achievements, please keep them rolling in. It is preferable that the editor has too much rather than too little material at her disposal.

If you have ideas or suggestions for a visit or an event in your locale, could you spare time to help our Events Committee and take on some ‘organisational’

responsibility? It would be good to widen the scope of the visits &/or events to the south and east of the county, but this is sometimes too much of a “stretch” for the hard-working, events-team volunteers, centred as they all are in the north of this huge county. A visit involves correspondence, a trial run or reconnoitre to determine the access, routes etc., thinking through the details for the timings, season, refreshments for travellers, etc, but I hope there are members who would like to assist – so please step forward. We would not expect anyone alone to take on all of this, but help is needed to keep us a vibrant Garden Trust.

“A vibrant Garden Trust “- this was the description of the YGT which I was met with at the Garden History Society’s annual Summer Party at the Geffrye Museum, London. It came from a wide cross-section of guests I met from other garden trusts and the AGT Council of Management. When declaring I was from YGT the inevitable response was “Oh, such a vibrant Trust”. It still makes me smile at the memory.

It was a very wet evening at the start of June, the interest, apart from looking out at a very colourful garden, was talking to many people and collecting gems of knowledge of places, times, plants and many other subjects from sculpture to music and mythology of gardens and landscapes far and wide.

Just as it was the people who made that evening a success, so it is our members who make the YGT a success. ‘Our’ achievements are considerable. There is of course ‘Our’ newsletter; the book recently published<sup>4</sup>; events & visits, all hugely varied - all of which delight, often surprise and always bring new knowledge. But again it is the people - our members - who make it possible, from unsung, hard-

working volunteers to members who keep up subscriptions to support the efforts of the Trust. I would like to thank you all, give you a ‘well-done’ and invite you to stay with us to keep our Trust a “vibrant” one. Sharing in the YGT is a very nice feeling. Sometimes it is good to be solitary, but so often the beauty or luxuriance of a place can be heightened by sharing with others. Think of the moment when you want to say “Look at that amazing bed!” or “Whatever is this lovely little flower?” A plea which usually brings an answer, if not immediately, then very soon after. I hope that in the sharing and caring for places and people lies the secret to keeping us a Vibrant Trust. Perhaps we should add an extra initial ‘V’ to the YGT?

So, from the chair of the V YGT Council of Management, I wish you all a wonderful Summer and if you should chance to find a special place or person or a snippet of garden history past or in the making, please think about sharing it with other, avid V YGT members. Thank you.

Liz Simson

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#### FOOTNOTES

1. T. Pratchett, *Thief of Time*. (Doubleday, 2001)
  2. AGT – Association of Garden Trusts
  3. The Borthwick Institute for Archives, Heslington Campus, University of York.
  4. *With abundance and variety: Yorkshire Gardens and Gardeners Across Five Centuries*, edited by Susan Kellerman and Karen Lynch. (The Yorkshire Gardens Trust, 2009)
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**Copy date for Winter 2011 is:  
30th November 2010.**

# BEAUTY FOR BEAUTY'S SAKE

Yorkshire Gardens Trust and Yorkshire Philosophical Society Joint Lecture given by Penelope Dawson-Brown in York on 1st March 2010.

As President of the Ancient Society of York Florists (ASYF), it was a great pleasure to give a lecture about the Society's remarkable history. I not only wanted to tell the story of its origins and the Florists themselves, but to explore the social aspect of the York shows and how they impacted on those who lived there.

## Floriculture

Floriculture is the art of growing a flower purely for its beauty alone rather than its value, hence the title of my lecture - 'Beauty for Beauty's Sake'. This practice first appeared during the 17<sup>th</sup> century; before then it was mostly herbalists, druggists and monks who concerned themselves with plants. In those days the word florist did not mean a person who sold cut flowers as it does today, but someone who grew exquisite flowers for exhibition. At that time there were just eight which fell into this category: auricula, polyanthus, hyacinth, anemone, ranunculus, tulip, pink and



'Achilles' - a green-edged auricula raised in the 1830s and priced at one guinea.

carnation; all were grown at York but the auricula, tulip and carnation were the most popular. The result of future botanical exploration ensured that others would follow - pelargonium, dahlia and most importantly the chrysanthemum.



Early 19<sup>th</sup>C flamed tulip 'Rose Camuse de Craiz' priced at six guineas a bulb

## Society of Gardeners at York

In the first part of my lecture I explained the origins of the Society which can be traced back to a much earlier one known as the 'Society of Gardeners at York' which possibly was founded in the reign of Queen Anne (1702-1715) when it was granted Royal Patronage. Through my research I discovered certain names of its members. They included J.P. Perfect, (died 1722) the highly respected nurseryman from Pontefract; William Fisher, John Aislabie's gardener at Studley Park; and J.T. Telford (1689 -1771) son of George Telford who founded the famous York nursery on Tanner Row in 1666. I had come across a reference to these men as 'superior professors of gardening' but in 1768 when the society re-defined itself into the ASYF, it took on a more convivial role. In its rule book of

1768 the first stated was 'Happiness being the ultimate end proposed by the Society'. Shows, or 'florist feasts' as they were then known, were held in public houses where food and wine became as important as the flowers themselves! As the Society developed and more classes were included, they were staged at grand civic buildings such as the Mansion House and the De Grey Rooms.

## Ancient Society of York Florists

Two hundred founder members signed their names in the first rule book. They were all wealthy gentlemen (this was strictly a male pass-time) many of whom held esteemed civic positions. The Florists association with the Guildhall is a curious one : High Sheriffs, Lord Mayors and Aldermen have figured prominently throughout the Society's history. Others included merchants, nurserymen, physicians, architects, clergy and the gentry. Names that are clearly legible include George Yarborough of Heslington Hall, William Tuke, Quaker philanthropist who revolutionized the treatment of the insane at York, and nurserymen John and George Telford who had taken on the family business previously mentioned.



Exquisite florist carnations raised in the 1830s: left, Fletcher's Duke of Devonshire, a scarlet 'Bizarre' and right, Lascelle's Queen of Sheba, a 'Flake'.

Later, in 1815, this was bought by James and Thomas Backhouse who continued to support the ASYF. Their fabulous displays at the York shows delighted the public well into the 20<sup>th</sup>C and were the talk of the town.



'Pearson's Alexander'  
- a 19<sup>th</sup>C florist's polyanthus

### Inclusion of the working classes

It was not until the late 19<sup>th</sup>C, when the Archbishop of York was President of the ASYF, that the working classes were included. Allotments owned by the chocolate factories Rowntrees and Terrys' gave workers the opportunity to grow fashionable flowers such as Chrysanthemums. Eventually fruit and vegetables were to appear on the show bench (gooseberries had been exhibited since the mid 18<sup>th</sup>C). In 1941 during World War II the Society staged a 'Dig for Victory Show' which raised £115 for the British Red Cross Agricultural Fund. Amongst the exhibits was a floral Spitfire. The post-war era was not an easy one but members such as George Russell of lupine renown kept it alive. It is remarkable that the Society survived these turbulent years when gardens and glasshouses fell into decline. In the eighties, when the Society was at risk of closing, Arthur Robinson, a retired policeman took on the role of secretary. He built it up

from strength to strength inspiring committee members and exhibitors with his enthusiasm. It is thanks to him that the ASYF continues to hold its four annual shows. Today they are staged at Askham Bryan College just outside York and the auriculas shown at the spring show continue to delight and inspire all who set eyes upon them.

The lecture, which was held in the recently refurbished Hospitium building situated within the Museum Gardens was attended by well over 100 people. My slides included all the florists flowers and scenes and maps of 18<sup>th</sup>C York.

The ASYF is the oldest extant horticultural society in the world and its archive is intact. It gives us a unique insight to York's horticultural and social history and it is now safely housed at the Borthwick Institute, University of York, a state-of-the-art research library.

**Commemorative plaque**  
For many years now I have campaigned for a plaque to commemorate the site where the first ASYF show was held in 1768. Finally this took place on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2010, when York Civic Trust erected a most attractive one above Barnitts Lighting shop in Colliergate. This building was once a public house named 'The Sign of the Sand-Hill' and the place where the ASYF held their first Florist Feast. I am grateful to YGT who, through their small grants scheme, generously donated to the cost. It was unveiled by Arthur Robinson, recently retired at the age of 90 from his long term in office as secretary. The plaque which depicts an old variety of auricula in one corner is inscribed: On this site in 1768, The Ancient Society of York Florists held their first flower show. "Happiness being the ultimate end proposed by the Society" Supported by Yorkshire Gardens Trust

*Penelope Dawson-Brown*



Commemorative plaque in Colliergate, York: Penelope Dawson-Brown and Arthur Robinson, retiring secretary of the ASYF.

# Annual General Meeting

The 2010 AGM of the Yorkshire Gardens Trust took place on 20th March at Ripon Spa Hotel.



Ripon Spa Hotel (Image courtesy of [www.bw-riponspahotel.co.uk](http://www.bw-riponspahotel.co.uk))

The meeting commenced with Penelope Dawson-Brown, our outgoing chairman, thanking Ripon Spa Hotel for providing the facilities and welcoming us all to this year's AGM.

First to the rostrum was Susan Kellerman who advised all present of the launch of our book 'With abundance and variety', copies of which were available to purchase at the event. This is the first major publication from Yorkshire Gardens Trust and some of the authors were present at the meeting.

## The Aislabies of Studley Royal And Ripon

One of the many highlights of the day was when Mark Newman, the National Trust's Archaeologist who covers the Northern region, enthralled us with his talk entitled 'The Aislabie's of Studley Royal & Ripon'. This detailed the relationship between politics, land and money as he led us through the history of the Aislabies and the grounds at Studley - with proof of

a deer park on site from 1577; the possibility of a designed garden from early in 17<sup>th</sup>C; a proposal of the current design (having moved in orientation since it's original conception); and the current garden's layout from 1730. This latter being a garden of two halves where both civic responsibility and the awareness of the senses are represented. He then explained how changes in social and economic factors - particularly tourism, have affected the fall and rise of the area

with Studley now attracting over 10,000 visitors on a bank holiday - possibly a time to be missed for those preferring a quiet stroll!

## Formal Business

We then moved to the formal business of the day. An event tinged with a note of sadness due to the passing of Helen Lazenby, a very respected, founder member of YGT. A minutes silence was held. This acknowledged the widespread recognition and affection for Helen that so many members felt for her.

Penelope then invited Caroline Legard, our Vice President, to take the Chair for the AGM itself. With apologies from the President, Lord Harewood and two members of Council, nearly 80 members had made their way to Ripon from all corners of Yorkshire. The business of the AGM was achieved in a swift and adept manner: Minutes of the 2009 AGM were accepted, along with the Trustees' Report & Financial Statements for the year ended 30th September 2009; the Report of the Council of Management; and short reports were presented on the Trust's main areas of activity during the preceding year (Membership, Small Grants' Scheme, Education, Research & Recording, Newsletter & Website and Wentworth Castle



Temple of Piety, Studley Royal Water Gardens (Photo: NTPL/Andrew Butler)

Trust). All of these will be fully covered in the formal Minutes and report of this AGM in March 2011.

Election of members to the Council of Management was next on the agenda. The following members were retiring by rotation and offering themselves for re-appointment: Penelope Dawson-Brown, David Tiptaft, Nicola Harrison and Louise Wickham, with the only other change to council being the nomination of myself to the Council of Management as Minute Secretary. All were proposed and seconded as in the Report.

Our new chairman Liz Simson then closed the meeting thanking Penelope for all her hard work.

Peter Goodchild then introduced Steffie Shields, Vice Chairman of the Association of Gardens Trusts to speak on the role of the AGT. She began by expressing her delight at our new book, congratulating us on our Annual Report as an example for other CGT's and impressed upon us the significance of the work of the AGT. Acting as an umbrella organization to promote the importance of parks, gardens and designed landscapes at both local and national level, the Association also liaises with all 36 County Gardens Trusts. She gave an inspiring talk of their current works and instilled in us the need to constantly look with new eyes and to keep the flame alight for our parks and gardens whether they be rural or urban.

A delicious lunch was taken at the hotel after which Samantha Thomson, the proprietor, spoke on the family's history at the hotel and it's links with croquet. She apologised profusely for being unable to provide a demonstration due to the inclement weather.



Memorial to George Frederick Robinson, First Marquis of Ripon  
(Photo: Richard Taylor)

## Tour of Ripon

Not to be outdone by the rain we then embarked on a tour around Ripon starting with the Spa Gardens. Richard Taylor, our guide, had compiled a detailed leaflet and as we meandered around the gardens which were begun in 1902, he pointed out such features as the memorial to George Frederick Robinson, First Marquis of Ripon which notes with dry humour - *"The Marquis who lived at Studley Royal, was not just Viceroy of India, but also Mayor of Ripon"*.



18<sup>th</sup>C gazebo (Photo: Ray Blyth)

Next for a visit were the swimming baths. Not for a swim, but to view the original spa building which was converted into a municipal swimming baths in 1936. Much to the amusement of the assistant behind the desk we all gathered round to view the delightful Art Nouveau stained glass and tiling at the site where Ripon's Spa waters were once consumed.

Leaving the baths, Ray Blyth then led us around Ripon viewing the turf maze (a recreation of the original one at High Common, known as Maidens Bower) and the Sever Fountain that was moved from North Bridge, Ripon. Finally, under David Winpenny's guidance we had the wonderful opportunity to view the delightful 18<sup>th</sup>C gazebo now located in a sheltered housing complex. How wonderful to have the space and money to build such a walkway and turrets from which to enjoy and 'view' your garden.

Being a new Council member and never having attended an AGM before, I wasn't sure what to expect but the day was thoroughly enjoyable and I would encourage any member to attend the next one if they get the opportunity.

Caroline Schofield

# GOLDSBOROUGH HALL

On one of the first sunny days of the year (11th April), a large group of over 90 YGT members visited Goldsborough Hall, near Knaresborough. The owners, Mark and Clare Oglesby, were well able to cope with such numbers, as on the previous Sunday, they had opened for the first time for the National Gardens Scheme. Then 1,600 people had arrived bringing the village and the A59 to a standstill.



## Early history of house

Before its purchase by the Oglesbys in 2005, the Hall had a long and varied history with many different owners. In 1599 the Goldsborough Estate was bought by Sir Richard Hutton, a London lawyer. He built his large, tall, red brick house, between 1601 and 1625. Although altered in the 18<sup>th</sup>C and 20<sup>th</sup>C, the house retains some fine Jacobean features, including a magnificent oak staircase, which ascends through the centre of the house, and, in a ground floor room, an alabaster fireplace, with figures of three of the cardinal virtues, Prudence, Fortitude and Justice, together with two reliefs of Cain and Abel, and of Abraham and Isaac. The house was occupied by Oliver Cromwell's forces in the Civil War. On the death of the second Sir John Hutton, who died in this war, the house was inherited through marriage, by the Wharton and subsequently the Byerley families.

## Byerley Turk

Sir Robert Byerley brought his famous stallion, the Byerley Turk, back to Goldsborough. This horse was reputedly captured from the Turks at the siege of Vienna in 1683, fought at the Battle of the Boyne in 1689, and was buried in 1706 in the grounds of the Hall. The Byerley Turk is one of the three Arab stallions from which all thoroughbreds trace their origins.

## Lascelles Family Ownership

By 1762 Daniel Lascelles, brother of Edwin Lascelles of Harewood, had bought the Goldsborough Estate, having abandoned his building plans at Plumpton. He employed John Carr to remodel the Hall and Richard Woods, the fashionable landscape designer, to draw up plans for the grounds. On his death, in 1784, Daniel Lascelles left the Goldsborough Estate to his brother, Edwin. It remained in the

ownership of the Lascelles family for the next 190 years, although it was occasionally rented out. From 1922 until 1929 Goldsborough was the home of Princess Mary, the daughter of George V, who had married Viscount Lascelles, the heir of the fifth Earl of Harwood. Over £20,000 was spent remodelling the house for Princess Mary and to accommodate visits by members of the Royal Family. Much of Princess Mary's alterations and plantings in the grounds still survive.

## More recent times

During the Second World War the house was occupied by Oatlands School, which bought the property in 1952 when the Lascelles were obliged to sell to pay for death duties. The school, where our Treasurer, David Tiptaft, was a pupil, remained at Goldsborough until 1961 when the house was sold to private owners. After 1983 it became a nursing home, subsequently owned by BUPA. When the home closed in 2003 Goldsborough Hall faced an uncertain future, risking unsympathetic conversion by developers. Following prolonged negotiations the Hall was bought, in October 2005, by Mark and Clare Oglesby, who now host weddings, corporate functions and also provide luxurious guest accommodation. Members were guided through the Hall by Mark Oglesby and were shown the gardens by Clare before enjoying a cream tea in the Adam drawing room.

## Richard Woods 18<sup>th</sup>C Design

In 1763 Richard Woods drew up a plan for improvements to the pleasure grounds for Daniel Lascelles. His brief seems to have been to modify an existing geometric layout, recorded in a survey by Thomas Pattison in 1738, rather than to create a large scale designed landscape.

Woods sent, in 1764, detailed instructions to his foreman, William Stone, at Goldsborough, and presumably some of his recommended plantings of flowers, shrubs and evergreens, in clumps and borders were undertaken.<sup>1</sup>

## Thomas White

However, by 1765, Daniel Lascelles had given the commission to replan the grounds to Thomas White, a landscape designer, who favoured the large scale extensive landscape with trees rather than the intimate pleasure grounds of Richard Woods. It may be that a change in fashionable taste had affected Daniel Lascelles' decision.<sup>2</sup> However Richard Wood's failure to supervise adequately both his sometimes inebriated foreman and the project itself may have displeased the notoriously irascible Daniel Lascelles.

## 20<sup>th</sup> Century

The 11 acres of gardens, which now belong to the Hall, owe more to the work undertaken by Princess Mary between 1922-29 than to 18<sup>th</sup>C landscape designers, whose work has been largely erased. A walled terrace and Beech avenue, with herbaceous borders, was laid out to the South West of the House. The vista towards the parkland, was extended by a quarter mile Lime Tree Walk (*Tilia europaea*



Lime Tree Walk (Photo: Denise Carter)



Goldsborough Hall from the South East. (Photo: Denise Carter)

*var. Handsworthensis*) planted by Royal visitors in the 1920s, gentlemen to the left and ladies to the right, as viewed from the house. The lime trees are marked with commemorative plaques recording plantings by George V, Queen Mary, the future Edward VIII, the future George VI and his wife, later Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother as well as other members of the Royal circle. The trees were supplied by Fisher, Son and Sibray Ltd. of Handsworth Nurseries, Sheffield, a large, long-established firm with a Royal Warrant. These limes were presumably a cultivar raised by the nursery, which, no doubt supplied, many other of the trees and shrubs at Goldsborough. Handsworth Nurseries produced several other named cultivars, and remained in existence until the 1960s, although then in a less flourishing condition. The Lime Tree Walk hosts a spectacular display of over 50,000 daffodils in Spring.

To the south of the herbaceous border is a copse of Japanese cherry trees, given by its Emperor to Princess Mary as a wedding gift. The gardens were opened to the public by Princess Mary in aid of the National Gardens Scheme on 4<sup>th</sup> July 1928, when large crowds attended.

## Princess Mary's Gardens

Unfortunately by 2005 the surviving part of Princess Mary's gardens had fallen into decay, while part of the grounds, including her rose garden and the walled garden had earlier been sold off. However, photographs and watercolours survive to serve as an inspiration for the new planting scheme undertaken by Clare Oglesby since 2006 in the Gertrude Jekyll style. A new rose garden has been planted with old varieties interspersed with lavenders. The long herbaceous border, having been completely cleared of perennial weeds, follows



YGT members inspecting the tree management. (Photo: Denise Carter)

(continued on page 10)

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Long herbaceous border to South-West of Hall (Photo: Denise Carter)

a Jekyll-type scheme of colour arrangement progressing from pale tones to strong shades in the centre then reverting to pale yellow and white. Amongst trees of interest in the grounds are Robinia pseudo acacia (already a substantial tree in photographs from the 1920s), a large copper beech possibly marking the burial site of Byerley Turk, a giant Wellingtonia and a Wollemi Pine, which was planted by Mark Oglesby in 2009 to celebrate

his birthday. The woodlands to the north of the house had become very overgrown and neglected and are now being restored by the Oglesbys. They have already made a walk lined with hellebores, planted

spring bulbs and flowering shrubs but regard the woodland as work in progress.

YGT members left Goldsborough having thoroughly enjoyed their visit and pleased that gardens, which had suffered years of neglect, were now being sympathetically restored with imagination and care.

Thanks to Mike Heagney for his identification of *Tilia europaea* var. *Handworthensis* and his information on the Handsworth Nurseries; to Ray Blyth for his reminiscences of the Handsworth Nursery in the 1960s; to Karen Lynch for her chronology of Harewood, Plumpton and Goldsborough; and to Mark and Clare Oglesby for their very helpful leaflet on the gardens and the map.

Moira Fulton

FOOTNOTES

1. There is a copy of Richard Woods' plan of 1763 and an excellent discussion of his planting scheme in Mark Laird. *The Flowering of the English Landscape Garden* (Philadelphia. University of Pennsylvania Press, 1999), pp.306-309. The plans themselves are in the West Yorkshire Archives at Sheepscar in Leeds.
2. Woods' plan is also discussed in Fiona Cowell *Richard Woods 1715-1793, Master of the Pleasure Garden* (Garden & Landscape History, .Boydell Press, 2010 ) pp. 56-57 and 196-7.

## SHOWCASING 'WITH ABUNDANCE AND VARIETY' IN LEEDS

The launch of the YGT's first book, *With Abundance and Variety: Yorkshire Gardens and Gardeners across Five Centuries*, at the AGM in Ripon was followed up by the Candle House event in Leeds on the evening of 10th May 2010. Candle House is the circular and new-ish tower of apartments that rises beside the Leeds-Liverpool canal basin in the city centre (Fig. 1). The plan was to combine showcasing *Abundance and Variety* with enjoyment of the urban panorama from the roof garden of Candle House.

The event proved to be so oversubscribed that the organizer had the foresight to use Arch Z, the empty unit in the railway arches at Granary Wharf. This was fortuitous in view of the weather which was perishingly cold for May. Drinks and delicious canapés were served as the stockpile of books was whittled down through sales. Martin Wainwright,

Northern Editor of *The Guardian*, spoke with humorous appreciation about the garden at his childhood home, The Heath in Adel. Renowned for his grandfather's collection of delphiniums, The Heath is the subject of Martin Wainwright's contribution to *With Abundance and Variety*. Moreover he was fulsome about the book, highlighting particular

chapters. He was followed by John Thorp, the Civic Architect for Leeds, who told us about the exciting plans to relocate delphiniums from The Heath to Holbeck Urban Village. Once we had been whisked up by lift to the roof garden of Candle House, he pointed out Tetley's brewery in the distance – no, not just to salute the elixirs created therein, but also to tell us of the proposal for a new public park on the site should the buildings be demolished when Carlsberg quit Leeds.

Neither the grey sky nor the freezing wind could diminish our enjoyment of the panorama and especially the stunning views across the urban village and far beyond. Immediately below and across the canal, within former industrial premises in the process of conservation, stand the three brick chimneys that are such an iconic sight from the trains coming



Fig. 1. The Leeds-Liverpool canal basin  
(Photo: Richard Knight)

and going at the railway station. (Fig. 2) While their design speaks of the Victorian confidence that Yorkshire could emulate the textile prowess and architectural culture of Renaissance Italy, the exhortation in turf – TRANSFORM – is resonant of the optimistic role of urban gardening within the city’s regeneration programme.

Slightly further away, (Fig. 3) the famous Egyptian temple façade of Marshall’s Mill could be seen (partly obscured by conservation work) – as well as the roof studded with skylights for direct lighting. The sight of sheep grazing on the roof’s ‘lawn’ had astonished Victorian travellers arriving in Leeds by train. The roof’s earthy insulation had been a wheeze to control the temperature in the mill below. It’s claimed that the organic ‘mowing’ came to an abrupt end when a sheep tried to climb up one of the skylights (then glass cupolas), fell through and killed a worker below. The tiny robot that mows the roof-lawn of the gallery at the Yorkshire Sculpture Park could point the way forward to anyone wishing to replant the roof of Marshall’s Mill.

Our thanks go to Karen Lynch for organizing this successful yet bracing event. However, by showcasing

*With Abundance and Variety*, she generated further promotion of the YGT’s work through the subsequent feature in the *Yorkshire Post* on 4th June 2010.

The authors of this sparkling review were tickled pink by Martin Wainwright’s chapter on The Heath at Adel, and also by the range of gardens that followed: “*With Abundance and Variety ...*” moves from public park to private plot to palace ... [and] contains inspiring stories of creative gardening. It

attracted welcome publicity, and demonstrates that this very exciting venture is yet another way that the Trust can encourage more people to explore the county’s garden heritage.

(*With abundance and variety: Yorkshire gardens and gardeners across five centuries*, edited by Susan Kellerman and Karen Lynch (Yorkshire Gardens Trust, 2010). Email: [publications@yorkshiregardenstrust.org.uk](mailto:publications@yorkshiregardenstrust.org.uk); visit [www.yorkshiregardenstrust.org.uk](http://www.yorkshiregardenstrust.org.uk).)

Patrick Eyres



Fig. 2. The Three Chimneys and the turf exhortation: TRANSFORM  
(Photo: Richard Knight)



Fig. 3. Marshall’s Mill and roof, with façade under conservation  
(Photo: Richard Knight)

# GODDARDS: a stylish suburban garden in York

The garden at Goddards is an ingenious design of two parts. There is a formal area overlooked by the main rooms of the house, and an informal area of compartmented rooms enclosed by yew hedges with a Japanese feel. The whole is constructed on a 3½-acre plot which tricks the visitor into thinking it is considerably larger than it is. On arrival, the sense of space is accentuated by the high hedged and enticing drive from the roadside lodge to the house forecourt; a drive which in fact screens the adjacent urban plots whilst at the same time borrowing green space from them. The gardens proper wrap around the south and eastern side of the house sited to overlook and borrow yet more space from the open stray of the Knavesmire.

## Arts and crafts style

The house was the last significant commission of York Architect, Walter Brierley (1862–1926) whose houses adopted a style wrought from using local materials. It is built of solid brick with arts and crafts sympathies, green oak leaded window frames, tall chimneys and a deep tiled roof. It was only completed after Brierley's death. The client was Noel Goddard Terry, a relative of the chocolate manufacturers whom Brierley had known for over 20 years as a neighbour in St Georges Place, York, where he had built his own

arts and crafts home, Bishopbarns, with gardens laid out by Gertrude Jekyll in 1906.

Brierley was invited to design the garden at Goddards as well as the house but his designs were rejected and Terry turned to George Dillistone for his design. Dillistone, is perhaps best known for his book "*The planning and planting of little gardens*" which was a widely read source for small garden design in its day, and was published by Country Life in 1920. Dillistone was in the circle of Lutyens and designed the gardens at Castle Drogo in Devon. He was still making plans for the Goddards rock gardens in 1931. His style is always one of intimate enclosed outdoor rooms stuffed with flowers and shrubs, changing levels and water features all of which can be experienced here.

## The gardens today

At Goddards a formal raised terrace has been constructed parallel to the garden front of the house and below is a formal lawn with a central canal on the axis of the house. This leads to a circular pond beside a Lime Tree. From here a path dips and curves amongst herbaceous borders to a Japanese inspired garden constructed with irregular ponds at its centre and where water-

loving plants thrive. Although this garden is squeezed into little more than a terraced compartment it is cleverly arranged, like all the parts of this garden, to seem bigger than it is. Finally one lands where there was once the productive gardens, now partly used as a car park but where there is space awaiting to find an inspired use. The head gardener, Alison Green mused that she would like to see community allotments on the patch. She has already instigated the repair of the Richardson Greenhouse (Darlington Horticultural Buildings Firm) at Goddards as a focus for increasing the garden know-how within the local community so look out for new developments!



Visiting YGT group with head gardener, Alison Green on far left  
(Photo: Janette Ray)

The YGT visit took place on a wonderful sunny afternoon. The garden is stripped-back Dillistone lacking the garden ornaments, once overflowing lavender-filled borders and Rose Gardens, but old photos that Alison showed us brought to life the house as it had been when occupied by the Terrys'. We ended up at the adjacent hotel garden with tea and cakes and trying, in the usual tradition of the YGT, to put the world to rights. Many thanks to Penelope Dawson-Brown for arranging this visit and Alison Green, Head Gardener for her time.

*(Goddards Garden, The National Trust, 27 Tadcaster Road, York YO24 1GG. Open Mar to Oct 2010: Mon to Fri 11.00-16.30, closed Bank Hols.)*

Janette Ray



Garden Front showing central canal  
(Photo: Janette Ray)

# PLUMPTON ROCKS

As a grey, cool and threatening day turned into a near perfect late spring evening in late May, a large group of YGT members was met at Plumpton Hall near Harrogate by Karen Lynch the visit organiser, Catherine Thompson-McCausland of Plumpton Hall and Robert Hunter whose family own Plumpton Rocks. Catherine, who had assembled a fascinating display of documents, literature and maps relating to the history of the estate, including a letter from John Carr and copies of Turner paintings of the rocks, gave an introduction to the history of the remaining buildings and to the landscape.

## The Rocks

Led by our three guides we set off across fields to the Rocks, a walk enhanced by a sighting of a red kite which was nesting in a nearby copse, presumably an immigrant from Harewood House continuing the historic connections with that estate. The first glimpse of the Rocks and Lake was breathtaking,

even for those who had seen them before, and we continued down and across the dam - with a detour for the intrepid to see the construction of the dam from below. A path then led through the woods around the edge of the lake, with exquisite views back to the rocks, into the gloomy chasms of the dramatic rock formations, past the boat-house and out into the 18<sup>th</sup>C plantings.



Karen Lynch, Penelope Dawson-Brown and Robert Hunter (Photo: Jim Godfrey)

Returning to Garden Cottage we enjoyed the hospitality of Caroline Bayliss in her beautiful walled garden - she was keen to invite us in memory of her friend Helen Lazenby. Penelope Dawson-Brown thanked Catherine and Benedict Thompson-McCausland, Caroline and Tom Bayliss and Robert Hunter for entertaining us in their homes, gardens and estate and Karen Lynch for organising the visit and presented them with appropriate garden-related gifts of thanks. Penelope also suggested that a tree planting scheme in memory of Helen Lazenby, who is sadly missed at these events, would be a fitting YGT tribute.

I have not attempted to give the history of the estate and the landscape as this is done in great detail by Karen Lynch in the recent YGT publication - "*With abundance and variety*" - see pages 10/11.

(Plumpton Rocks, Wetherby Road, Harrogate. Open Mar to Oct. 11.00 -18.00, weekends and Bank Hols. The entrance is from the A661 just east of the A658 roundabout, near Follifoot.)

Marlene Godfrey



Plumpton Rocks (Photo: Jim Godfrey)

## STOP PRESS . . . Heritage Open Days

*9th to 12th September 2010*

Heritage Open Days celebrates England's architecture, history and culture by offering FREE access to interesting properties that are usually closed to the public or normally charge for admission. Supported nationally by English

Heritage, every year, on four days in September, buildings of every age, style and function throw open their doors to visitors offering a once-in-a-year chance to discover hidden treasures. Properties open this year in Yorkshire that may be of interest to

YGT members include: **Netherside Hall**, Grassington, **The Ruin**, Hackfall and **Ripon Workhouse** in North Yorkshire; **Farnley Hall**, Otley, **Ledston Hall**, Castleford, and **Oakwell Hall**, Batley in West Yorkshire; and **Wortley Hall**, Barnsley in South Yorkshire. *Further information from: [www.heritageopendays.org.uk](http://www.heritageopendays.org.uk)* - Ed

# COMMITTEE ROUND-UP

## EDUCATION

The new YGT website is helping spread the word about the Trust's support for schools and another three new schools have become members of the *YGT for Schools* scheme since the last YGT Newsletter. We are delighted to welcome St Martin's Ampleforth, Ingleby Greenhow C of E Primary and, our first secondary school, Halifax High at Wellesley Park to membership. Several members of the Trust have already visited St Martin's to start to understand this historic site and how the school might consider working to conserve and develop its unique heritage whilst still providing the best opportunities for the children currently attending the school. We look forward to working with all these schools to support their school gardening activities in the future.

### **New buildings at Marton-cum-Grafton Primary School**

We were also thrilled to receive an invitation to the formal opening of the new buildings at Marton-cum-Grafton C of E Primary School. I am so pleased that Penelope and Martin Dawson-Brown were able to attend on behalf of the Trust. They reported a delightful afternoon with a warm welcome from staff and governors. Penelope and Martin were able to see the new trees that had been planted following the building work, with support from YGT, as well as a well tended and loved vegetable garden. The Bishop of Knaresborough conducted the formal opening and made a particular point of involving the children in helping him bless the newly planted trees for which they are now responsible. Each class has been charged with the care of one of the trees.



The Bishop of Knaresborough blessing newly-planted fruit trees at Marton-cum-Grafton  
(Photo: Penelope Dawson-Brown)

### **Traditional Orchards of the Lower Tees Valley**

I can also report that the project to study the Traditional Orchards of the Lower Tees Valley, which the YGT was keen to see get underway, is producing some very interesting results. An encouraging number of



Pear and plum blossom in Lower Tees Valley (Photo: Nicola Harrison)

traditional orchards and orchard-remnants have been identified through studies of old Ordnance Survey maps, archive documents and public appeals for information. Many of the orchards, the bulk of which are associated with old country estates or farmhouses, have now been surveyed and we are starting to build up a list of

heritage fruit varieties associated with orchards in the Lower Tees Valley area. Schools have also been visited in preparation for various Orchard and Apple Days in schools in the Autumn Term; teaching and learning resources are being prepared and heritage varieties of trees being ordered for winter planting in schools.

*Nicola Harrison*

## COMMUNICATIONS

### **Results from Members Survey**

First of all, many thanks to all of you who kindly responded. We had 73 replies representing 94 members: just under a quarter of all our membership, so an excellent result.

In terms of the AGM, the responses received gave clear indications that the venue and its location were critical in attracting members to attend, together with a talk and guided tour on it. As we have to have the meeting in the second half of March, our options are somewhat limited in terms of gardens. Not surprisingly then the most popular choice was an historic house not open to the public, with an historic garden, also not open to the public, a close second. Last years' format of a seated formal lunch seemed to be less popular, a buffet was the most popular choice. The price of the event was thought to be prohibitive for some members.

The part of the survey relating to the website was interesting with three-quarters of respondents having access to the Internet but only half of them had looked at the YGT website. Just over a fifth with Internet access, had looked at the new Members' Forum. We are hoping to increase numbers of visits and visitors to the site and the new Communications team have been examining ways to improve the site.

*Louise Wickham*

## CONSERVATION AND PLANNING: In The Green

During my term as chairman of the Association of Gardens Trusts (AGT) we were very active in promoting a change in legislation to take gardens out of the brownfield definition, supporting Lorely Burt's (MP for Solihull) bill in 2005 and again that of Greg Clark (MP for Tunbridge Wells) in 2006. We nominated Greg Clark for the e-Politix Heritage Champion's Award which he won and Kate Harwood and I were invited to the House of Commons. We then supported another attempt at a private members bill, this time by Caroline Spelman MP in 2007. All little steps, amongst those of many others, who felt the same. Until recently it seemed as though we would never get any real change to the definition for garden land in the planning system. Another lost cause sorely felt by many communities. Then on June 9<sup>th</sup> Greg Clark MP, now Minister of State for Communities and Local Government, announced decentralisation of the planning system by giving Local Authorities the opportunity to prevent overdevelopment of neighbourhoods and 'garden grabbing'. Only ten years . . . but we've made it! The Government has amended Planning Policy Statement 3: Housing (PPS3) with the following changes:

- private residential gardens are now excluded from the definition of previously developed land in Annex B, *and*
- the national indicative minimum density of 30 dwellings per hectare is deleted from paragraph 47.

Together these changes emphasise that it is for local authorities and communities to take the decisions that are best for them, and decide

for themselves the best locations and types of development in their areas. Local Planning Authorities and the Planning Inspectorate are expected to have regard to this new policy position in preparing development plans and, where relevant, to take it into account as a material consideration when determining planning applications. So despite the fact that this welcome change in PPS3 is sadly too late for many urban areas and development pressures are now reduced, at least communities will have a stronger hand in future, which is all to the good. Patience is a virtue! Only ten years!

In the last newsletter I mentioned the consultation on the new Planning Policy Statement (PPS) Planning for the Historic Environment. This is now PPS5 and is available at [www.english-heritage.org.uk/pps](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/pps) or [www.culture.gov.uk/reference\\_library/publications/6763.aspx](http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/publications/6763.aspx).

### Garden History Society/YGT

The Garden History Society and the AGT are in the process of making stronger links for conservation purposes and the AGT on behalf of all the County Gardens Trusts hopes that in future there will be a united contribution to historic garden and landscape policy matters and conservation issues. There will undoubtedly be tough economic times ahead and it seems that English Heritage will be focussing more on locally important parks and gardens.

### St Nicholas

Meanwhile Penelope and Caroline (Kernan) have been to **St Nicholas**, Richmond to begin the photographic record; first in April when the



Penelope and Caroline Kernan  
at St Nicholas in April  
(Photo: Val Hepworth)

daffodils, so late this year, were still in bloom, and then again to catch the roses towards the end of June. St Nicholas has often been referred to as 'The Hidcote of the North', and working with the owners Keith and Jilly Schellenberg, we feel that it is important to capture the garden at the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup>C. The record will be deposited with the YGT archive at The Borthwick Institute for Historical Research, York University.



Daffodils in the orchard at St Nicholas  
(Photo: Val Hepworth)

### Parcevall Hall

At **Parcevall Hall**, Skyreholme, nr Skipton Anne has done brilliantly and the cascade is a triumph (*see her article on page 19*). This effort from Anne is a real milestone for the Trust. Not only has she masterminded and carried out the fund-raising against difficult odds,

(continued on page 16)

(continued from page 15)

sorted out grants, and the specialist to do the work but she has made a significant financial contribution herself.

## Kiplin Hall

It now seems unlikely that the trustees will be commissioning a management plan for **Kiplin Hall**, nr Richmond despite all our work. However we can gain some consolation in that the workshop and work on the brief last year has greatly helped Dawn (curator) and Marcia (administrator), and kept the gardens in focus with the trustees. A professional part-time gardener, Chris Baker, began work in April two days/week, and already has a band of volunteers working under his direction in the gardens. He is drawing up schedules of work and is keen to be involved with research and to embrace the historic nature of Kiplin. Marcia has recently found some more 19<sup>th</sup>C information on planting lists and work carried out on the vinery and conservatory. The 'orangery/conservatory walk' and seating area that I wrote about in the last newsletter is now on hold as, during clearance and preparatory work under the direction of Mike Heagney (*YGT member & owner of 'Gardens Revitalised'*), two cistern/tanks were uncovered which must have served the conservatory. The footings for the conservatory which first seems to appear on 1st Ed Ordinance Survey map of the 1850's, have also been revealed.

The Heritage Lottery funded work on the peninsula woodland and lily pond finished in May, and Chris Baker has been planting the latter with more designed landscape type plants rather than those purely for nature conservation, as it seems likely that historically the pond had a designed nature. Jane (Furse) visited with me in May looking

particularly at the walled garden walls, the demolished conservatory and the long range of derelict vinery/peach houses against the south-facing boundary wall. Fighting years of brambles and tree growth she discovered that it was a Richardson of Darlington range. Dawn, Marcia and Chris are very grateful for her insights.

We have recently had news of two consultations: **Gledstone Hall** for five Wind Turbines adjacent to Brightenber Hill, Craven which would impact on the north front of Gledstone Hall has been refused on appeal. Similarly at **Weavers Cottage**, Settle for a bungalow and bin store has also been refused.

## Beaumont Park, Huddersfield

Earlier this year the YGT conservation sub-committee was invited by the **Friends of Beaumont Park** chairman, Peter Turner, to visit the park and help them with their forward thinking and suggestions for historically appropriate planting particularly in the shaded wooded areas of the park (*see Caroline Schofield's piece on page 18*). Historic parks like Beaumont need some sort of conservation and management plan which everyone: local authority, friends and volunteers can work to with a shared vision. This must be based on good historical research, assessment of significance and should allow the park to develop in the best way to meet contemporary needs yet with an eye to the past and with schedules of work and priorities.

## Handsworth Nurseries

Those members who visited **Goldsborough** in April will have enjoyed the avenue of limes planted by the Royal Family and others during the time of Princess Mary, Countess of Harewood, in the

1920's. Mike Heagney, Martin Page and Joan Sewell have all been able to shed some light on the lime variety planted called 'Handsworthensis'. At the time of planting the firm which held the Royal Warrant to supply "Trees and Seeds" to King George V was Fisher, Son & Sibray Ltd. of Handsworth Nurseries, Bowden Housteads, Handsworth Road, Sheffield. They were an impressive company employing, in 1886, some 200 workers with a stock list of over half a million plants and were operational from 1743 to the 20<sup>th</sup>C. They probably supplied many other trees and shrubs as well and specialised in holly varieties. They certainly raised *Taxus baccata* 'Handsworthiana', *Rhododendron* 'Handsworth's Early White', *Cytisus handsworthiensis*, *Buxus sempervirens* 'Handsworthiensis', *Ilex aquifolium* 'Handsworthiensis' and *Ilex aquifolium* 'Handsworth's New Silver', the last four of which, at least, are still available today. Part of the nursery area may now be occupied by a supermarket.

Following an enquiry to Nicola about a possible schools grant to help with restoring the historic glasshouse at **Gilling Castle** (shown on an engraving of 1855) for school use, Penelope and I visited in April and Penelope has been again with Peter Blackburn-Maze to look at the ancient wall fruit. Part of the glasshouse range is by Mackenzie & Moncur and other parts by Richardson of Darlington.

## Ripon Workhouse

Finally it was a great delight for Malcolm Barnett and myself to attend the official opening of the newly restored/reconstructed productive garden at the rear of **Ripon Workhouse** in June. If you have back copies of the YGT Newsletter, then look in No 15 (2004). We congratulate everyone



Ripon Workhouse productive garden after restoration in June (Photo: Val Hepworth)

involved with this marathon task which has taken at least six years and especially our YGT members, Richard Taylor, Alison Brayshaw, Ray Blyth and David Rhodes. The Master's Accounts 1889-1923, indicate much activity in the garden in the Spring and Autumn, though

cartloads of manure quite often feature in the June and July entries. Well, the garden in 2010 looks wonderful no doubt after much activity and manure!

*Val Hepworth*

## SMALL GRANTS SCHEME

Our new scheme for 2010-2011 will be launched in August and this year the YGT Council have agreed to allocate £3,000 to the fund. The closing date will be 30th November 2010. Do please spread the word. The form will be on our website, the Yorkshire and Humber Historic Environment Forum website, the AGT website and available from me and members of council and the conservation sub-committee.

The hot-spot news is that the stone-carved dolphin for York Gate has just arrived. The garden co-ordinator, Jennifer Weatherhead writes that he's absolutely gorgeous. I expect that we'll be paying out the last of our 2007-8 grant any time now.

The official unveiling of the plaque celebrating the **Ancient Society**

**of York Florists (ASYF)** on the wall at 24 Colliergate, York, took place in June (2008-9 scheme). The ASYF is the oldest horticultural society in the world and the fact that it survived two World Wars, a time when gardens and greenhouses fell into decline, is remarkable. This could not have been possible without Arthur Robinson who, during his long term as Secretary, inspired both committee members and exhibitors with his enthusiasm. At the age of 90 Arthur recently retired so it was particularly apt that he was able to unveil the plaque.

From the 2009-10 scheme, in addition to offering grants to **Duncombe Park, the Shuttleworth Gardens** at Scarborough and **Parcevall Hall**, we have agreed to offer £800 towards the purchase of historically accurate plants

for the west formal garden at **Beningbrough Hall** and the interpretation of this area.

Unfortunately we felt unable to help Hope Baptist Chapel, Hebden Bridge; Howsham Lodges and the Ripon Workhouse Front Garden from this year's scheme. We did however feel that we should look further into helping **Ripon Workhouse Front Garden** and Malcolm Barnett, Anne Tupholme, Peter Goodchild, Liz Simson and myself attended a meeting with some of the trustees in May giving advice on further research, some trenching to look for traces of historic paths/beds, soil conditioning, treatment of existing plants etc. Peter has written up our discussions and we have suggested that the trustees might apply to our new grant scheme this autumn.

As I reported at the AGM we are also delighted that via our contacts at the AGT, a family trust in Oxfordshire wants to help with our work in Yorkshire and has sent a cheque for £3,000. This family trust is particularly interested in helping Cantley Community Centre, Doncaster, Brunswick Organic Nursery, York and an allotment scheme in Hull. We have already given Brunswick just over £1000 for trolleys, lawnmower, and a watering system, and £560 to the Hull group for a shed. The trust is also interested in helping the elderly and the conservation sub-committee has agreed to give £150 to help with wheelchair access to the garden at the Esk Valley project on the North York Moors.

*Val Hepworth*

# YGT AND ITS COMMUNITY LINKS: FRIENDS OF BEAUMONT PARK

You may remember in 2007 YGT agreed to fund the dredging of the cascade pond at Beaumont Park, Huddersfield with a grant of £500 and a subsequent article recording YGT's visit featured in Issue 22 of the newsletter. Written by Margaret Hardcastle she described the site as "spectacular . . . with fine views across the Holme Valley to Castle Hill". I'm glad to say the local group, Friends of Beaumont Park (FoBP), are still going strong and in April 2010 they asked us back for some advice on planting.

I accompanied the team, primarily as a learning experience (being new to Council) but also because I went to Huddersfield University and had never visited Huddersfield's first public park. When I lived there Greenhead Park (currently undergoing restoration using Heritage Lottery Funding) was my nearest green space.

I'm glad I did visit Beaumont Park, as it was a delightful experience. We sauntered around the woodland area passing comment on the planting, the restorative clearing work and admiring the views which make the park so special. The team were amazed at the change since their last visit and it was refreshing to see a great partnership in operation between FoBP and Kirklees Council.

The Friends wanted advice on some planting in shady woodland areas. Ferns such as the Male Fern *Dryopteris filix-mas*, Lady Fern *Athyrium filix-femina* and Hartstongue *Asplenium scolopendrium* were all mentioned as well as native wildflowers such as Woodruff *Galium odoratum*, Wood Anemone *Anemone nemorosa*, Sanicle *Sanicula europaea* and Wood-sorrel *Oxalis acetosella*.



An area identified for the fernery  
(Photo: Caroline Schofield)

In discussing the work and future planting at Beaumont Park, some elements came to light that YGT members, who belong to a Friends or Community Group, may wish to bear in mind when developing their local area:

- **History and context** – What makes the area unique, what are its key benefits and features whether it be rock work, plants or views.
- **Strategic direction** - Does any new work fit with the overall direction of the area.
- **Planting conditions** - what currently exists ie shade, moist, chalky soil.
- **Maintenance** - how much time can be afforded to manage the general pruning, weeding etc.
- **Documentation** - write an account of any work carried out so that people in the future will know how and why the feature was created

Caroline Schofield

**Copy date for Winter 2011 is:  
30th November 2010.**



YGT members discuss the views and planting with the Friends of Beaumont Park  
(Photo: Caroline Schofield)

# RESTORATION OF WATERFALL AT PARCEVALL HALL GARDENS

Due to the amazing generosity of YGT members, the building of the new waterfall was able to start as scheduled on 12th April 2010, since the majority of the funding was then in place. It had seemed a long journey getting to this position but receiving the goodwill and support from so many of our members was wonderfully encouraging. We are also deeply grateful to Yorventure for again supporting Parcevall with a generous grant and for an unconditional grant from The Duke of Devonshire's Charitable Trust.

My worries of flash floods, as we had a few weeks earlier, hard frosts or a long wet spell were unfounded. Statistically April is a relatively dry month but unbelievably no significant rain fell throughout the three weeks of construction. This made diverting the outflow from the lake above so much easier and my fear of needing to hire pumps at a huge extra expense was thankfully also unfounded.

The design and construction of the new waterfall is by the Ilkley master craftsman, Philip Dolphin, who is one of the best dry stone wallers in the country and has on several occasions worked with the



Philip Dolphin (*centre*) using traditional techniques to build the arched dry stone bridge, assisted by Mick Saunders (*left*) and Andy Carr (*right*)  
(*Photo: Anne Tupholme*)

sculptor Andy Goldsworthy. Indeed in 1991 he won the combined English and Scottish dry stone walling championships. His design, which had been approved by English Heritage and the landscape conservation officer for the Yorkshire Dales National Park, reflects the rugged beauty of this high valley deep in the YDNP.



End of Day 4: the original structure is being camouflaged with weatherworn rocks (*Photo: Anne Tupholme*)

Working with Philip was his regular team of expert craftsmen, Mick Saunders and Andy Carr. Philip's outstanding skills enabled him to work on a different scale from usual, with many of the rocks chosen for the fall weighing several tons. Each stone was slowly taken across the site by a small digger, working close to its lifting capacity, before being swung into position, taking great care not to demolish any of the nearby trees. It was received by Philip and his team working with crowbars to make the important final adjustments. Watching the construction, as I was privileged to do, I realized the amazing vision needed to create this waterfall whilst retaining the original concrete structure.

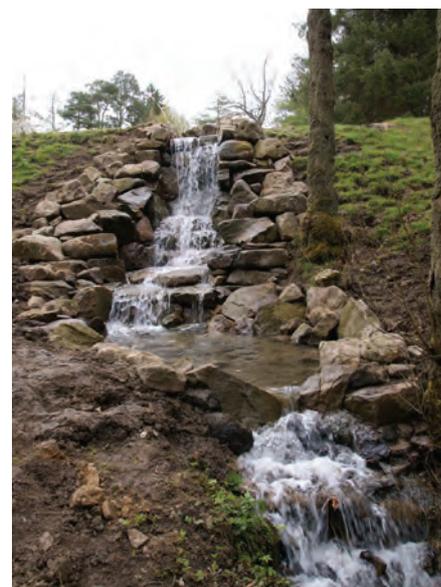
Philip's skills are also in evidence with the new beautiful arched dry stone bridge that is adjacent to the lake, which again disguises the

retained concrete structure, and recreates the original rustic style.

Seeing the water being released and tumbling down the rocks for the first time was extremely exciting and within a few minutes the water was running crystal clear. It was certainly an occasion to remember and celebrate.

The kind words of Lord Hope, Chair of the directors of Parcevall Hall, in a letter to me, express my own aspirations: *"The completion of the dam and waterfall in this way is a very fitting tribute in the year when we remember and celebrate the 50th anniversary of Sir William's death – I am sure he would himself be equally delighted at the finished work."*

I wish to thank everyone who has helped make this project possible, especially the Editor of the Dalesman for including a feature on our project in the April issue when already starting to put the finishing touches to the proofs, and of course the YGT for awarding their maximum grant from the Small Grants Scheme.



The water falls into a new pool before rejoining Tarn Ghyll Beck  
(*Photo: Anne Tupholme*)

*Anne Tupholme*

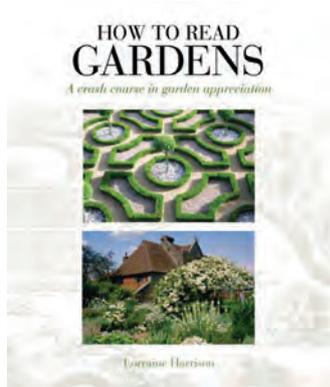
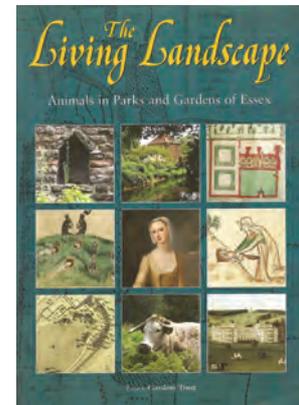
# BOOKWORM

## 'THE LIVING LANDSCAPE'

### Animals in Parks and Gardens of Essex

This interesting book has recently been published by Essex Gardens Trust. Written by members of the EGT Research Group, and edited by Dr Twigs Way, The dedicated research team of Essex Gardens Trust has uncovered a wealth of rarely published information, providing a fascinating and comprehensive insight into the role of animals in the designed landscape. From bee boles to deer parks, fishponds to menageries, aviaries, dovecotes, warrens and stables, a captivating picture of a vibrant and moving landscape unfolds as we are invited to peer over the garden wall.

The book is available from Michael Leach, 2 Landview Gardens, Ongar, Essex CMS 9EQ at £10.00 each, plus £2.00 p&p per book. Please make cheques or postal orders payable to Essex Gardens Trust. [www.essexgardenstrust.org.uk](http://www.essexgardenstrust.org.uk)



## HOW TO READ GARDENS:

### A Crash Course in Garden Appreciation by Lorraine Harrison

Not all of us understand what we are looking at when strolling through a beautiful garden - is it an original landscape or a re-creation? Is the planting material authentic or composed of modern hybrids? Are the steps and terracing in the Italianate style or Arts and Crafts? And what is that apparent ruin spied through the trees? The aim of this handy little book is to provide you with the knowledge you need to read the visual clues that will tell the story of a garden's past, helping to spot and identify historical influences, origins and style.

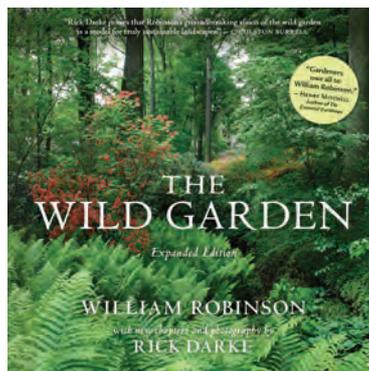
Published by A & C Black Publishers Ltd (June 2010), RRP £9.99.

## THE WILD GARDEN

(Expanded Edition)

by William Robinson  
with new chapters and  
photography by Rick Darke

It was a revelation to me when I discovered 'The Wild Garden' during Ray Blyth's recent 'History of Gardens & Designed Landscapes' course for the WEA in Ripon. I had no idea there was such a thing as wild gardening in Victorian times - I thought wild gardening had started with Chris Baines in the 1980s! And I'd never even heard of gardener and botanist William Robinson (1838-1935), a contemporary, and life-long friend of Gertrude Jekyll. While Googling to try and find a copy of the original book (published in 1870) I came across this one which was published earlier this year.



The original Wild Garden, published when Robinson was just 32 years old, ran to seven editions and remained in print for over 50 years. It is considered one of the most influential books published in the history of gardening. Robinson, more than any other gardener, was responsible for sweeping away the formal carpet bedding of the Victorians and promoting a more relaxed, naturalistic approach, using

hardy perennials and annuals to provide long-lasting, self-perpetuating displays in the same way as they do in the wild. American landscape design consultant, Rick Darke, has written an introductory essay that not only underscores Robinson's importance in the evolution of garden design and ecology, but also explains his relevance for today's gardeners, designers and landscape professionals. As well as the wonderful original engravings by British artist, Alfred Parsons, that first appeared in the 1881 edition, this book contains 100 stunning photographs taken by Darke, including images of Robinson's home for 50 years from 1885, Gravetye Manor in West Sussex (now a country house hotel) and of modern wild gardens.

Published by Timber Press, Portland and London (Jan 2010). RRP £20.00.

- Ed.

# THE SHIRLEY SHERWOOD GALLERY OF BOTANICAL ART AT KEW

The Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew holds one of the world's greatest collections of botanical art totalling more than 200,000 items; until recently they have been rarely put on display to the public. In Spring 2008, the Shirley Sherwood Gallery was built within the grounds and thus became the first ever gallery devoted entirely to Botanical Art. It runs a rolling programme of exhibitions as well as works from the collection of Dr. Shirley Sherwood after whom the gallery is named.

Dr. Sherwood began collecting botanical art in the 1990s and today her comprehensive collection of contemporary botanical paintings and drawings from over 240 artists is universally renowned. The Gallery is attached to the famous Marianne North Gallery which is currently undergoing restoration. North was a Victorian amateur artist whose 832 paintings of flowering plants from all around the globe are exhibited here. Lavish, luxuriant and vibrant in colour they adorn the walls right up to the ceilings and are a joy to behold.

## 'Old and New South American Botanical Art'

What a treat lay in store when I made my first visit in June to see the current exhibition 'Old and New South American Botanical Art' which brings together 62 paintings from the Mutis Collection (1783-1816) on loan from the Real Jardin Botanico in Madrid and 68 contemporary works from the Shirley Sherwood collection.

Last year, 2009, was the bicentenary of the death of Jose Celestino Mutis (1732-1760), and to commemorate this, a series of exhibitions was held in different locations in Spain and

Colombia. Mutis was born in Cadiz and later practiced medicine at the naval hospital there. He went on to study botany at the Migas Calientes Gardens (now the Real Jardin Botanico in Madrid) under Miguel Barnades, physician to Carlos III.



*Cannonball tree* by Margaret Mee, 1956 (Photo: Courtesy of the Shirley Sherwood Collection)

Mutis was keen to promote natural history and in 1781 became Director of the Royal Botanical Expedition of the New Kingdom



*Passiflora laurifolia* by Geraldine King Tam, 1995 (Photo: Courtesy of the Shirley Sherwood Collection)

of Granada (present day Colombia) sponsored by the crown. His job was to record plants from the new Spanish colony and particularly to search for commercially valuable trees and medicinal plants. He set up a school of artists at Mariquita to train local Creole men to illustrate the Expedition's findings. They were taught by an established artist named Salvador Rizo.

Though Mutis was not an artist himself, he took great care in mixing pigments which he extracted from plants and minerals. He also insisted on sourcing the finest quality paper which he had sent from Europe. The school included 40 illustrators whose skills were outstanding and they produced over 6,500 works which were all sent back to Madrid.

This is the first time they have been exhibited in England. One large room was devoted entirely to the Mutis artists, and treasures from Dr. Sherwood's collection were hung alongside in others thus comparing old and new botanical art.

I was overwhelmed by the detail and colour of the former but equally by their creativity. The artists have portrayed plants and fruits like jewels with a reverence that must only have come from a genuine love of their native flora. Particularly impressive were some of the climbing plants which have been woven into intricate patterns exquisitely conveying the genius of nature. The Exhibition's catalogue is in itself is a work of art and can only be purchased from the Gallery.

*Penelope Dawson-Brown*

*(Sadly, The Mutis collection was on view until 8th August so the rest of us have missed the exhibition - it will now be on it's way back to Madrid. However, the next exhibition at this gallery is 'Bulbmania', from 28th Aug 2010 to 4th Jan 2011 - see page 22. - Ed.)*

# NOTICEBOARD

*What's on, in Yorkshire and beyond . . .*

## A CELEBRATION OF HACKFALL

There are many reasons to celebrate Hackfall, the wonderful woodland garden near Ripon in North Yorkshire. Created in the mid-18<sup>th</sup>C by the Aislabie family, it was a wild counterpoint to the relative formality of their main estate at Studley.

In recent years the designed landscape has been gradually re-emerging from under a blanket of neglect. Buildings have been restored, vistas re-opened, paths and ponds cleared and in June the fountain, problematic since its earliest days, has spouted back into life. This was a very proud moment for the Hackfall Trust and the dedicated group of locals who have led the campaign to make this possible. *For more details and pictures see: [www.hackfall.org.uk/Features/fountain](http://www.hackfall.org.uk/Features/fountain).*

From **11th to 18th September 2010** a number of exhibitions will be held to showcase artistic impressions of Hackfall, ancient and modern. The Gallery in Masham's town square will host a show of contemporary paintings and prints with artists

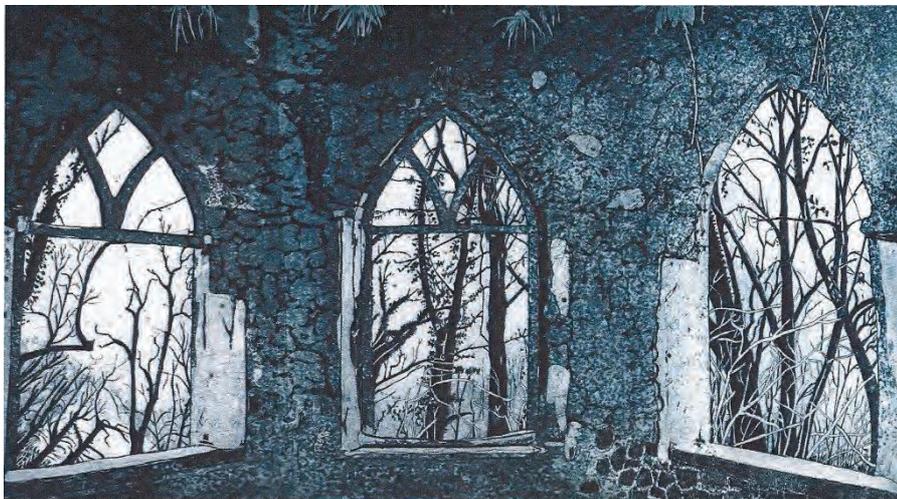
including Simon Palmer, Ed Kluz, Ian Scott Massie, Janis Goodman, Hester Cox and Winifred Hodge.

At Swinton Park, a few miles from Hackfall, there will be a rare chance to see historic works featuring the landscape. Swinton Park, our AGM venue in 2009, sits in a landscape as fascinating as Hackfall.

Recent and historic photography will be shown at the Mashamshire Community Office in Masham, and the work of local amateur artists at the Crown Inn in Grewelthorpe.

There will be a programme of guided walks and visits as part of Heritage Open Days, including a chance to see 'The Ruin', aka Mowbray Point or the Banqueting House. Teas will be available in a marquee nearby. There will also be more family orientated events such as 'Summer Mummers' and storytelling. *For exact opening times and further information visit [www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/hackfall](http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/hackfall) and [www.mashamgallery.co.uk](http://www.mashamgallery.co.uk).*

*Alison Brayshaw*



Hackfall triptych

Etching

Janis Goodman 2010

## BULBMANIA

*— paintings from  
the Kew collection*

**28 August 2010 to 4 January 2011**



*Agapanthus africanus* by Pandora Sellars.  
(Photo: Royal Botanic Gardens Kew Collection)

Experience exquisite illustrations highlighting the beauty and diversity of flowering bulbs around the world, and discover how Kew's scientists, conservationists and horticulturists continue to combine forces to understand and conserve the remarkable diversity of bulbs and other plants. Displayed in the Link Gallery is Bulbmania - Hidden Treasures, featuring contemporary paintings from the Shirley Sherwood Collection. Also on show in the gallery is *Portraits of a Garden* - a selection of illustrations from the Brooklyn Botanic Garden Florilegium.

*The Shirley Sherwood Gallery of Botanical Art is open daily from 9.30am to 17.30pm. Entrance is free once visitors are inside the gardens.*

**Please note:** *Gallery times change at the end of October, closing 3.45pm. The Marianne North Gallery will be closed from 20th September to 26th December 2010. ([www.kew.org](http://www.kew.org))*

*- Ed.*

## AN ARTIST IN YORKSHIRE GARDENS

Renowned garden painter Louis Turpin, who lives in Sussex, has been visiting Yorkshire again to paint for an exhibition at York's Kentmere House Gallery in October. Louis has shown at the gallery on many previous occasions and YGT member and owner Ann Petherick says: "*Louis's work genuinely has the 'wow' factor. It lights up the gallery with its sizzling colour, and evokes strong reactions from all.*"

Louis' interest in gardens began when he moved to Sussex and found world-famous gardens Sissinghurst and Great Dixter on his doorstep. Whilst in Yorkshire he visited Newby Hall, Goldsborough Hall, St. Nicholas, The Old Vicarage in Whixley and Hatch End at Nun Monkton, and found interest and stimulation from all. All Louis' work is in oils, and prices range from £700 to £4,000.



*Deep Summer Border* by Louis Turpin

The exhibition will run from **2nd October to 18th November 2010**. YGT members are very welcome to attend the Preview on 1st October from 6 to 9pm, when Louis will be present. Please email [ann@kentmerehouse.co.uk](mailto:ann@kentmerehouse.co.uk) for an invitation and further information about Louis Turpin.

Visitors are welcome to visit the gallery anytime with a telephone call in advance: 01904 656507. Otherwise the gallery is open: every Thu evening, 6 to 9pm, and the first weekend of every month (Sat & Sun), 11am to 5pm.

*Kentmere House Gallery is York's only 'gallery-at-home', housed in the relaxed setting of YGT member, Ann Petherick's large Victorian house overlooking York racecourse. The gallery includes some of the finest artists working in Britain today, and has a reputation for showing nationally-known names alongside promising newcomers. The featured artist changes each month, and in addition there is always a rolling exhibition of the work of around 50 other artists.*

Ann Petherick, **Kentmere House Gallery**, 53 Scarcroft Hill, York YO24 1DF.  
[www.kentmerehouse.co.uk](http://www.kentmerehouse.co.uk)

### 'WE DO LIKE TO BE BESIDE THE SEASIDE'

*AGT AGM & Conference  
1st to 4th October 2010*

The Isle of Wight, still known as the 'Garden Isle', was much favoured for its picturesque beauty by the Victorians, so it became an essential part of the grand tour of England. Hosted by the Isle of Wight Gardens Trust, this year's AGT conference proposes to celebrate the explosion of the Victorian seaside garden, and how it is exploited today. Visits will include Osborne House, Ventnor Botanic Gardens and Northcourt (IWGT chairman's 17<sup>th</sup>C garden). Places were still available at the time of going to press.

*For details contact: John Harrison,  
Northcourt, Shorwell, Isle of Wight  
PO30 3JG. Tel: 01983 740 415 or  
email: [john@northcourt.info](mailto:john@northcourt.info)*

### A PLANT IN TIME

The National Trust's travelling exhibition '*A Plant in Time*' reaches Yorkshire in September 2010.

This exciting interactive exhibition celebrates the scale, variety and often exotic history of the Trust's plant collections. It also looks at how NT gardens might develop as the climate changes and asks whether the idyll of an "English country garden" might cease to exist. Part of the NT Greener Gardens Initiative to help make Britain's gardens kinder to the environment, '*A Plant in Time*' will be at **East Riddlesden Hall**, Keighley in West Yorkshire on **14th September** (12 to 5pm) and then at **Beningbrough Hall**, nr York on **25th and 26th September** (11am to 5pm) as part of their Big Green Festival which will be full of ideas for greener gardening from composting and windpower to water harvesting and giant 'raised' beds.

*Further information: East Riddlesden Hall Tel: 01535 607075; Beningbrough Hall 01904 472027 or [www.aplantintime.co.uk](http://www.aplantintime.co.uk). Also [www.biggreenfestival.org.uk](http://www.biggreenfestival.org.uk)*

### AISLABIE GARDEN TOUR

*16th October 2010, 10am to 5pm*

A fantastic opportunity to explore the 18<sup>th</sup>C designed landscapes of John and William Aislabie with the Nidderdale Historic Parks and Gardens Study Group. Guided tours of National Trust's **Studley Royal Water Gardens**, nr Ripon in the morning, and the Woodland Trust's **Hackfall**, nr Grewelthorpe in the afternoon. Price includes both tours, transport between sites, afternoon refreshments and handouts.

*Booking details, prices etc. from Nidderdale AONB office Tel: 01423 712950 or e-mail: [aonbevents@barrogate.gov.uk](mailto:aonbevents@barrogate.gov.uk)*



Registered Charity No. 1060697

## YORKSHIRE GARDENS TRUST

Denise Carter -

YGT Newsletter Editor

Tel: 01423 543596 or 07801 557388

Email: denise\_carter@me.com

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### NOTE FROM THE EDITOR:

*This is my first attempt at editing the YGT newsletter, and it is a very long time since I have done anything like it. I see it very much as 'work in progress' so please bear with me while it evolves. It's been quite a challenge getting to grips with new page makeup software after a 15-year break, not to mention new print technology, so I hope you like what I have done with the introduction of more colour pics, and a couple of new sections - on Books and Events. But remember, this is your newsletter, so please do send in contributions to me. And do telephone or email me if you have any suggestions for future issues.*

*Denise Carter*

**Copy date for Winter 2011 is:  
30th November 2010.**

### CONGRATULATIONS . . .

Congratulations go to member Martin Walker, for leading the Leeds City Council team to a Gold Award at Chelsea with their re-creation of a wild flower flanked towpath by a lock on the Leeds-Liverpool Canal.

## STOP PRESS . . . YGT Autumn Events

### **Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> September – Gisborough Priory.**

An afternoon with the Priory Project Team will include a talk on the history and restoration of these lost gardens, a guided walk and afternoon tea.

### **Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> October – Beningbrough Hall.**

An opportunity to explore the different periods of garden design over the centuries, with particular attention to the 17<sup>th</sup> century, with Mark Newman, the Territory Archaeologist for the NT.

### **Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> November – Roberts Park.**

Explore the tremendous restoration work that has been achieved for what was originally Salts Park at Saltaire World Heritage Site.

### ILKLEY LITERATURE FESTIVAL

The programme for the Ilkley Literature Festival is in preparation but YGT members should keep the evening of Friday **15th October 2010** free. Martin Wainwright, Northern Editor of the Guardian, and the YGT's own Dr Patrick Eyres will be in conversation about the Wainwright delphinium garden in Leeds, as featured in the YGT book *With abundance and variety: Yorkshire gardens and gardeners across five centuries*.

**Further information from [www.ilkleyliteraturefestival.org.uk](http://www.ilkleyliteraturefestival.org.uk)  
or Tel: 01943 816714.**

**(Ilkley Literature Festival runs from 1st to 17th October 2010.)**

## MEMORIES OF HELEN

As many of you will know, Helen Lazenby passed away in February. Helen was one of the small team that brought the Yorkshire Gardens Trust into being in 1996 and since that time members have benefitted from her superb organisational skills and cheerful welcome, and many have been lucky enough to have her as a true and trusted friend.

To celebrate Helen's unique place within the YGT we are planning a special edition of the newsletter and members are urged to contribute.

If you have a particular memory of Helen - her favourite plants and gardens, an event she organised, her smile as she greeted you - please send me a few lines recording your recollections. Photographs would be very welcome.

There will also be an appeal for funds to create a lasting memorial to Helen in a landscape setting, and information will be sent out with the tribute later in the year.

Karen Lynch Tel: 01943 816747  
[karenlynch2009@googlemail.com](mailto:karenlynch2009@googlemail.com)