

# NEWSLETTER

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***‘Sometimes you don’t need words – just the delighted faces said so much’***



Members of YGT and Leeds Refugee Forum on the steps of Stainborough Castle folly  
(Photo: Jane Furse)

Visit to Wentworth Castle, Sunday 22 May 2011, in cooperation with Leeds Refugee Forum

The gardens and park at Wentworth Castle, on a bright but wild windy day in May, with clouds scudding across the sky, rhododendrons in full bloom, lambs frisking beyond the haha, and

the golden ball on the Sun Monument glinting in the sunshine – a visit that would inevitably leave a kaleidoscope of glittering impressions. But this

*(continued on page 4)*

## CONSERVATION AND PLANNING:

### Angels and the Lion's Den

In our last newsletter I started somewhat gloomily ruminating on the future of our historic environment. And the concerns have not gone away. But there is always room for optimism and we are very fortunate that there are so many people who really value our heritage and are prepared to go the extra distance to safeguard it for us all to enjoy. So English Heritage's

new annual award (sponsored by Andrew Lloyd Webber) to celebrate the work of people who have saved a heritage site from being lost forever is most welcome. Called the **English Heritage Angel Awards**, the winner will be announced in the Autumn. We have much to celebrate in Yorkshire, so we hope there will be local 'angels' acknowledged for their tremendous efforts for parks and gardens in our county.

In addition, some of you may know of important buildings at risk (grade I or II\*) where registered charities or other not-for-profit organizations have been unable to access capital. There is now a new **'Challenge Fund'** also with money from the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation, this time managed by The Architectural Heritage Fund (AHF). Through this Fund, AHF will be

*(continued on page 2)*

*(Angels and the Lion's Den  
continued from page 1)*

able to marry the knowledge and skills of larger organizations with smaller Building Preservation Trusts. So if you know of a building at risk (including garden/designed landscape buildings) that could be helped then please encourage an application.

On a slightly different matter, for those of you who want to check out historic buildings/landscapes/battlefields/monuments etc then you will find the English Heritage data base of designated heritage assets very useful. This can be accessed via the EH website (Professional tab), and includes GIS mapping and all descriptions. <http://list.english-heritage.org.uk/>

Angels feature in the Bible, memory, folklore, myth, iconography and art over many centuries and across many cultures, and thinking about Heritage Angels reminded me that the YGT also has an interest in a site with a historic Lion's Den!

**Plumpton Rocks**, a grade II\* park and garden near Knaresborough rejoices in several named rock outcrops including Lion's Den, Lover's Leap and Needle's Eye. The late Queen Mary reportedly said that it was 'the nearest place on earth to heaven', and on a more esoteric note it was the venue for the YGT's first midsummer picnic on 20th June 1997. I am reminded that it rained, rather like the picnic at St Nicholas this year! However we had a wonderful evening in no small part due to Plumpton Rock's owner the late Edward de Plumpton Hunter and his son Robert. Edward was a founder trustee of the YGT, a delightful man, who loved 'The Rocks'. He sadly died last November but Robert has taken on the responsibility for this wonderfully dramatic and picturesque landscape recently buying back more land, part of the Registered site. (The Plumpton family owned this area



Plumpton Rocks taken in March 2011- a view looking east across the lake to the rocks.  
(Photo: Val Hepworth)

for hundreds of years before it was bought by the Lascelles family in the mid 18<sup>th</sup>C; it was then bought back by Edward's family in 1950). Robert would like to commemorate his father and also another YGT founder trustee, the late Helen Lazenby who loved Plumpton, with some tree planting (see *Chairman's Letter on page 5*). The YGT is trying to help Robert with a long term vision for Plumpton Rocks and with the help of English Heritage and Natural England it is hoped to commission some more research and update the 1992 management plan. This would enable sensitive conservation and tree planting to be carried out for future generations to enjoy and be a lasting legacy to two wonderful people. The photograph taken in March 2011 is a view looking east across the lake to the rocks.

As usual the Conservation Subcommittee's time has been taken up with a variety of requests, concerns and advice. We were very concerned to hear in April that the conservatory company Amdega had gone into liquidation. You will remember that the predecessor of **Amdega, Richardson of Darlington**, founded in the 1870's supplied

glasshouses to a large number of wealthy clients and that last October we were privileged to see an original early 20<sup>th</sup>C catalogue and a ledger of clients going back into the 19<sup>th</sup>C. We wrote and e-mailed the liquidators KPMG explaining about the archive and that it should not be lost and Penelope Dawson Brown has made numerous phone calls to try and find out what has happened. We are keeping our fingers crossed that the archive can be saved and made available to researchers and historic glasshouse owners – including our Vice-president Caroline Legard, who is restoring the Richardson glasshouse at Scampston.

We have been contacted by Caroline Hardie, Archaeo-Environment Ltd, [www.aenvironment.co.uk](http://www.aenvironment.co.uk) who is currently preparing a parkland restoration plan on behalf of The National Trust and the tenant farmer for **Ormesby Hall's park near Middlesbrough** using funding from the Higher Level Stewardship Scheme. It is due for completion in October 2011. She would like to hear from anyone who has been conducting their own research into the evolution of the parkland.

Anne Tupholme, one of our very active conservation members and researcher from West Yorkshire, was able to use her extensive historic knowledge of the **Bolton Abbey** estate area to help English Heritage with its response to the revised scheme at Chelker Reservoir for 3 higher turbines to replace 4 on site since 1991 - which generate 2.5% of energy needed to operate the reservoir. Anne was able to share her research on Bolton Abbey including the images of the lovely 1829 Views. English Heritage and the YGT have strongly objected to the scheme but it is expected that it will go to appeal.

You will know of Anne's passion for Parcevall Hall and the work of Sir William Milner. Her researches on Sir William are on-going and she was delighted to find recently that Sir William probably re-designed the gardens on the south side of the house at **Langcliffe Hall** near Settle for the present owner's grandfather. Langcliffe Hall has a long history and was sketched by Samuel Buck in the early 18<sup>th</sup>C. We visited on a beautiful spring day to explore the gardens and meet the owner Mr Robert Bell who is a descendent of the original Dawson family at Langcliffe and who kindly allowed us to look for signs of Sir William's involvement in the design of his garden.

We are pleased to report that another milestone has been reached in the saga at **Weavers Cottage**, Settle, where the applicants appeal has been dismissed.

In March the committee was invited to **Wiganthorpe**, near Castle Howard, in the Howardian Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). Nine or so residents live on the site where an elegant John Carr of York house once stood. Sadly it was demolished in 1953 but the kitchen wing and stables were saved and in the 1990's several cottages were built on the same footprint. The present

residents are responsible for approx. nine acres of the surrounding historic landscape and want to preserve it sensitively within a limited budget. We had a wonderful day; warm hospitality, balmy early spring sunshine and a fascinating exploratory walk making it a special pleasure to be in this lovely place. There were features from many phases of the garden's development in evidence such as avenues, lakes, drives, pathways, terracing, tree and plant material, built features, vistas, 'lumps and bumps' and names for example of the lakes and woods, all of which pointed to the phases and changes that have taken place in this garden and designed landscape over several centuries. With the help of the early Ordnance Survey maps it was possible to get some idea of the extent and layout of the 18<sup>th</sup>C garden and subsequent later change. Species that are indicators of ancient semi-natural woodland were found; Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*), Moschatel (*Adoxa moschatellina*), Opposite-leaved Golden-saxifrage (*Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*), and Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*). Anne also found out that three paintings of Wiganthorpe Hall by Francis Nicholson were sold at Bonhams on 6th February 2007.

Two other recent planning applications that we have commented on were for **Netherside Hall** in the Yorkshire Dales National Park and **Tudor Croft/Spring Lodge** at Guisborough. Netherside Hall is a school belonging to North Yorkshire County Council with a designed landscape probably laid out when the house was built in the 1820's. We have commented on planning applications here since 1998. This application was for the retention of prefabricated classrooms in the walled garden, for a further three years. Although we had no objection to their retention until the school closes in July 2012, we objected to the classrooms remaining on site after

the end of 2012 and this time-frame has been agreed by the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority. In our letter we again requested that every effort should be made to conserve the landscape and that this should be informed by a management plan based on thorough research and assessment. This is particularly pertinent as the site is likely to be sold by North Yorkshire County Council once the school closes. It is unfortunate that the Council has never ever seen fit to put together management plans for its historic properties like Netherside Hall... but we keep asking! The planning application at Guisborough is for 41 houses and associated development on rising ground opposite Tudor Croft, the Heagney family's Arts-and-Crafts house and garden and YGT have objected to it.

As a conservation committee we would like to find the time to re-introduce the type of workshops that we organised in the early years of the Trust and also to produce guidance notes for owners/friends of historic parks and gardens; this has been in our thoughts for some time... we just need more people to help. So if you can make a contribution we would love to welcome you into our group. Meanwhile we are working on draft proposals for conservation management plan advice which could be used by those who have little or no experience of such plans.

*Val Hepworth*

**Copy date for  
Winter 2012 is:  
30<sup>th</sup> November 2011**

*(Visit to Wentworth Castle  
continued from page 1)*

was no 'ordinary' YGT event: for the seven members who were there, the day was made all the richer and more memorable for being in the company of men, women and children from Kosovo, Afghanistan, northern Iran, Iraq, Ethiopia, and Eritrea. All had come to this country to seek refuge, and have their home now in Leeds; but they rarely if ever have the opportunity to get out of the city, see the countryside, and enjoy the visits to gardens and parks we tend to take for granted.

This year, a planned visit to Wentworth Castle in conjunction with the Refugee Council had to be cancelled when our partner organiser at the Council was made redundant in the wake of drastic government cuts to their funding. But thanks to Jane Furse, contact was made with Rachel at Leeds Refugee Forum, and we were pleased that a slightly revised visit could go ahead.

These visits are quite unlike other YGT events. It is difficult to predict reactions and perceptions: just what will they 'make' of the whole experience? And equally, such visits cannot be 'reported' in the same way as other YGT events. They are full of surprises, challenges, confusion, laughter, rewards, unexpected insights, unanswerable questions, and not a few moments of trepidation. I am sure we were all, wherever our origins might be, left with a mosaic of memories ...

Everyone wanted to be photographed against (and among) the flowers, especially the rhododendrons. A young Afghan woman recognised these from Afghanistan, but observed that they seemed much brighter here, perhaps something to do with the light, she suggested, which is very different in the two countries ... The tulips were mostly finished, or certainly past their best, but they too were recognised by the Afghans, and so now some of them know their name in English ... But why are 'black tulips' black, when they aren't? ... Pansies were not familiar to any of the group, but one man was proud that he has roses in his garden in Leeds, including a white rose, 'for Yorkshire' ...



In the 'Secret Garden' (Photo: Rachel Pilling, Leeds Refugee Forum)

**Challenges:** as we explained the significance of the Union Jack Garden, to mark the union of Scotland with England and Wales, someone asked when Wales had been joined with England. I was at a momentary loss! All I could manage was 'er, a long time before that' ...

A seemingly simple question 'Where are you from?' brings an explanation involving geography, politics, and language: Iranian nationality, but Azerbaijani ethnicity, and Azeri mother tongue – except Azeri speakers are banned from using it in Iran ... Stories of broken educations, lost careers, and homes and gardens left behind, are interrupted by questions about plant names, and 'why is it called "the secret garden"'? and 'can we play tag'? ...

Rewards included seeing how much the group had relaxed by the end of the day, when many parents took their children into the playground: lots of smiles and hilarity (and that was just the adults!) ...

And some qualms and trepidation too ... at the excitement among the children over the electric buggies: Dick Knight ('Mr Pilot') was possibly the most popular of the YGT members because he was driving the buggy up to Stainborough Castle with the picnic bags, and all the children wanted to have a ride – and inevitably some wanted to do the driving too! ...

Then confusion, towards the end of the day, when Zewdu from Ethiopia, driving one of the buggies with his two children, was spotted driving around, 'trapped', up near the house, and then up behind the conservatory, because he couldn't find his way back down ...

I sampled Ethiopian bread and Afghan stuffed flatbread ... Jelly babies were offered to the children: were they halal? (mmm, hadn't thought about that one) ...

A day of varied impressions; but one incident in particular *impressed* us, and this will probably remain for me as the highlight of the entire day. Standing next to the Sun Monument, the obelisk which commemorates Lady Mary Wortley Montagu's introduction of smallpox inoculation into England from Turkey, Jane Furse asked: who knows what smallpox is? Masuma, an 11-year-old from Afghanistan, knew *all about* smallpox. She told the story of Dr Jenner, and how he discovered that cowpox protected people against smallpox. Jane then explained how Lady Mary had discovered the method of inoculation used in Turkey much earlier, in the early 1700s, and how she encountered opposition to this new medical intervention from English doctors. Another little girl, Aziza, wanted to know why the doctors opposed inoculation: to preserve their professional status, I explained, and their vested financial interests; and

because the method came from Turkey – a country that was, in many people’s eyes, inferior to our own – and because it was promoted by a woman ... But why were the doctors all men? ... When did we first have women doctors in Britain? Having listened to all this, Aziza said that this was *just like* when she wanted to play football: the boys didn’t like the girls playing, and when the girls did play, the boys wouldn’t let them take corners ...

What a moment of pleasure: a visit to a garden which prompted the practical application of a lesson from primary school (probably Key Stage 2



In the John Arnold garden, named after the first head gardener at Wentworth Castle  
(Photo: Rachel Pilling, Leeds Refugee Forum)

Science), from an 11-year-old whose mother tongue is not English, which in turn sparked a conversation that

ranged over the history of medicine, the notions of cultural prejudice and gender inequality, and ended up with an analogy with football. The enormous sense of pride experienced by one little Afghan girl who has only been in this country for such a short time, was a joy to see; as was following the thoughts of another little girl as she traced a significant thread in the story of Lady Mary’s experience in the 1720s with smallpox inoculation, and the unfairness experienced by girls playing football here in 2011.

*Susan Kellerman*

## CHAIRMAN’S LETTER

A brief letter from the Chairman - As you will all be aware, this year the members of the Council of Management and a few trusty helpers have been s-t-r-e-t-c-h-e-d to their limits and hence the repeat calls for volunteers to assist. These appeals are logged on the web-site, sent with the events postings and have been reiterated countless times whenever there has been a YGT gathering. I repeat this appeal now. **We need more members to join us on the Council.** We need a volunteer to take on the role of membership secretary before Jenni steps down next year and we need help organising events. Without some help we shall need to scale down our activities further which would be very sad. YGT is not alone in this search - I see similar appeals in many other county newsletters. However, I am sure that in the YGT we have people who will step forward. We have already had one person take on an event for us, which is very encouraging, but we do need more help. Please do not assume that “someone else” has already done the volunteering!

If you have a little time and energy, please do get in touch now. Val, Louise, Jenni or I will be happy to talk things over with you.

You may be interested to know that the Conservation Area Consultative Documents of Hackfall Woods and Plompton/ Plumpton Rocks have been

on the Harrogate Borough Councils web-site for public viewing. They are both sites which YGT has had long association with and are very interesting documents to read.

Many of you will remember Helen Lazenby and the proposal to pay tribute to her for all her dedicated work for the YGT. Initially short, written tributes were requested for publishing in memory of Helen then a second proposal was raised to plant a tree, or trees, for her at Plompton Rocks, Spofforth - a place which Helen researched and came to love and so it feels right to continue her links with this historic, romantic place.

A suitable, heavy-standard tree with stake, ties and soil preparation costs in the region of £200. Exactly what species and where they will be planted rests with the land-owner, a long-standing YGT member, and the Management Plan adopted. Could I please ask that you send your contributions or pledges as cheques made payable to Yorkshire Gardens Trust, to David Tiptaft the Treasurer, with a note that the donation is for the Helen Lazenby Memorial Tree Appeal, clearly marking your envelope ‘HLMTA’ if you would. Thank you.

Whilst it is the intention of the Council to carry this idea forward and to have a commemorative planting with a visit and/or picnic and a pamphlet-tribute

to mark the occasion there is currently a pause in proceedings as the land-owner, having acquired more land in the Conservation Area to better protect the Rocks and pools, negotiates the preparation of a suitable management plan and undertakes discussions with various bodies. However, contributions towards the trees are now being sought from Members who wish to remember Helen this way. The monies will be held in central funds ready to go ahead at a suitable season whenever the plans are agreed.

My grateful thanks as always go to all those members who have helped and continue to support the Trust with ideas for research; proposals for recording Yorkshire’s landscape and garden heritage; the Conservation sleuths; those who give talks and promote the Trust to outside bodies; those who write up the events and indeed help with the events in myriad ways. The YGT continues with its good work but it could do with a few more activists to help it on its way.

I wish you all an enjoyable late-Summer and a golden Autumn and hope that you and your gardens have recovered well from the long, testing Winter of 2010/2011. Happy plant-gazing wherever you travel.

*Best wishes from Liz,  
Aug 2011*

# Annual General Meeting

The 2011 AGM of the Yorkshire Gardens Trust took place on 19<sup>th</sup> March at High Melton Hall

When it was first mooted that the 2011 AGM should be held near Doncaster, there were those who thought that there couldn't possibly be an appropriate venue for the YGT amidst the post-industrial dereliction of that part of South Yorkshire. Fortunately, wise council prevailed, and not only was the AGM a splendid, positive, and uplifting affair, but the venue turned out to be a hidden gem – an estate dating back to the 11<sup>th</sup>C, admittedly with very many subsequent interventions over the years, some perhaps being more creative than others.

The day dawned bright and sunny – always a good start – and over 60 YGT members assembled in The Stables of the Hall for the AGM. The Stables are an interesting agglomeration of buildings set around an internal courtyard, and a warm welcome greeted the participants. The meeting was held in a first floor gallery, duly set up for the purpose with the appropriate electronic technology, and was chaired by David Tiptaft, the Hon Treasurer with his usual *joie de vivre*. He declared that he always considered the YGT's AGM to be the start of the summer season, and thus summer had officially begun!

The formalities of AGM business were dealt with quickly and efficiently. The tenor of the day was set by the YGT Chairman's speech, which approached the agenda in a business-like yet friendly and inclusive manner, which encouraged an element of dialogue between the members present. The three issues that created the most discussion were the potential size of the YGT and how this might be managed in the future – membership currently around 350 members and growing; upon what do we spend our surplus cash reserves – maybe more grants?, a *Gardens of the Ridings* book?, sponsor a PhD? and the fact that, with a number of significant resignations from 'active service', more and more of the Trust's work was falling upon fewer and fewer shoulders. As the Chairman pointed out, there seems little point in joining an organisation unless you are prepared to actively participate. Thus more volunteers are required please!

The informality of the day was continued by the invited speaker, Steve Hall, the Head of Rural Development and Sustainability at Doncaster College, the current owners of the site. Although originally from an art and design background, Steve's enthusiasm both for the history and the future of



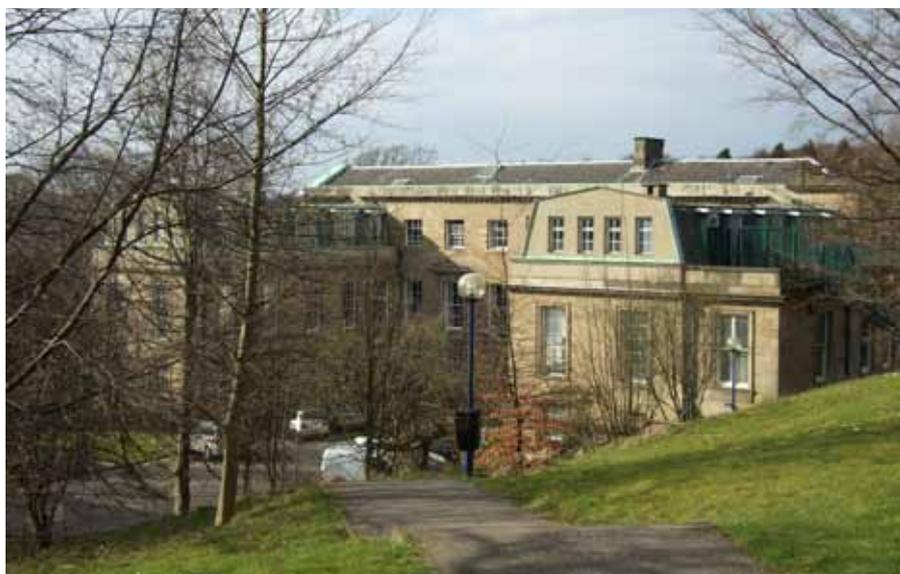
A stately stand of Wellingtonias  
(Photo: Alan Simson)

the Estate was infectious, as he outlined the phases that the Estate had gone through, the activities that had been inflicted on the site during the 20<sup>th</sup>C, the sustainable approach of current activity, and his conclusion that the Estate still existed through a combination of 'luck and ineptitude'.

We learned much, particularly the skills that pigs have for site clearance – the Tamworths do the digging and the Saddlebacks level off afterwards – and their skills as landscape archaeologists, many historical features of the old designed landscape having been located by our porker comrades. His motto '*If we can, we will; if we cannot, we'll wait*' seemed an appropriate approach to a very diverse site.

After a rather formal luncheon, very ably delivered by Hospitality and Catering students from the College, the assembled multitude split up into three groups to tour different parts of the estate. One group visited St James' Church, which had been opened especially for the visit of the YGT. Parts of the original 12<sup>th</sup>C structure still exist, and subsequent interventions and improvements over almost 900 years are well documented.

Two groups toured the grounds of the Estate, one with Steve Hall [the short route] and the other with his son Jack, who took the longer route - and what an Estate it is. It truly is a *landscape*



High Melton Hall viewed from the track to St James's Church and "The Stables" Conference Centre (Photo: Alan Simson)



Members investigate the Ice House (Photo: Alan Simson)

site, talking, discussing and sharing the experiences of the day, then this was a very successful event. It was late in the afternoon when the final members departed, having spent a fascinating day being up-dated on YGT affairs, learning much about a little-known estate and exploring some of the key features of the site. This was an excellent venue for the YGT's AGM, and suggests that there are probably many more 'hidden gems' lurking in the post-industrial landscape of South Yorkshire, awaiting the attention of the Trust.

Alan James Simson

*scribbled with the signature of man.* There are ancient features such as a 600-year-old beech tree, remnants of the 18<sup>th</sup>C park layout, augmented by later structures, some of the original planted infrastructure and 20<sup>th</sup>C interventions such as a 9-hole golf course, under which a medieval village is said to exist. Current thinking

includes incorporating livestock, crop growing, bee-keeping and renewable energy, the eventual aim of which is to make this part of Doncaster College self-sufficient. Truly an estate that has gone full circle.

If the success of an AGM can be judged by how long members remain on the



Jack Hall, tour guide at one of the ice-ponds below the Hall (Photo: Alan Simson)

## WENTWORTH CASTLE UPDATE

Many of you will have already heard the wonderful news that the Heritage Lottery Fund have awarded us a second stage pass for the repair of our Iron Framed Conservatory. Our famous glasshouse really caught the gardening world's attention when it appeared on television in 'Restoration' several years ago and we have made it our fundraising priority ever since opening to the public in 2007.

The Trust is now awaiting what we hope will be good news from the European Regional Development Fund and the Country Houses Foundation about match funding for this project. Only once the funding is in place can the Trust start work on our triple span glasshouse with its pioneering electricity from the

1880's. It is intended to showcase Wentworth's connection to the World at large, from its international politics to its collections of plants. Hundreds of hours of volunteer time have already gone in to provide the seed money for this project and some of the development money's from Stage I has already produced educational resources for future school visits. Our fingers are very firmly crossed.

With regard to our monuments, the final landscape touches are going on around the restored Rotunda and we are about to start work on the Pillared Barn near Steeple Lodge after one of the main roof supports gave way. Once again we are extremely grateful for the support of English Heritage without whom, so much less would have been achieved.

I can also report that we have reached the top three of the National Lottery Awards category to find the 'Best Heritage Project' of 2011. This was all thanks to the many votes cast on line and over the phone on our behalf in June. The final stage of voting will take place in September 2011 and the winner will not only receive television coverage but also a cash prize towards their current project.

Please mark the September dates from 2nd to the 26th in your diary and vote for us for free then via the web at [www.lotterygoodcauses.org.uk/awards](http://www.lotterygoodcauses.org.uk/awards) The more votes we receive the better our chances!

Jane Furse

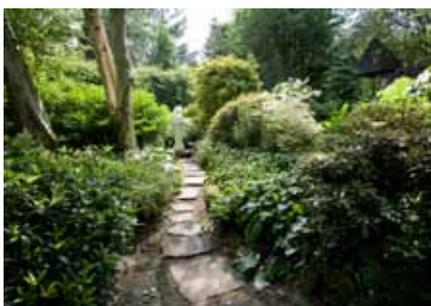
# YORK GATE, ADEL, LEEDS

On Tuesday, 26th April 2011, after weeks of warm weather, 30 YGT members met on a rather chilly grey day at York Gate, the garden which now belongs to the charity 'Perennial' (formerly the Gardeners' Royal Benevolent Society).



Conversation Piece at York Gate. (Photo: Val Hepworth)

The garden was originally created, from 1951 onwards, by Frederick and Sybil Spencer but the true architect for its design and development was their son, Robin. Although he was not trained in horticulture, he had a flair for design, which he combined with an inspired use of natural materials and plants. This combined with his collector's passion for acquiring often unlikely artefacts to incorporate in the plantings enhanced the garden's charm. Inspired by Hidcote in particular and the Arts and Crafts Movement in general, Robin Spencer used imagination and flair to make the sloping site of just over one acre appear much larger,



The Dell (Photo: John Whitaker)

providing a series of intriguing vistas. The visitor is led by carefully designed paths from one 'room' to the next, each completely different in style. In order to create the illusion of size and distance on so small a site, Robin Spencer used 'trompe l'oeil' devices to increase the impression of length. Two examples noted were placing stepping stones of diminishing size at carefully calculated intervals and also making seats at the end of vistas lower than normal to appear further away. Sadly Robin Spencer died suddenly in 1982 aged forty seven. Sybil, his mother, an expert plantswoman, maintained the garden until her death in 1994 when she bequeathed it with the house and other land to the Gardeners' Royal Benevolent Society. Although no garden can be frozen in time the charity continues to maintain York Gate in sympathy with its original design and has attempted to maintain its special qualities which had made it so admired.

On our arrival, introduced by Val Hepworth, David Beardall, the head

gardener, and Jennifer Weatherhead, the garden co-ordinator, welcomed us. Despite having had large numbers of visitors over the Easter weekend, David and Jennifer gave generously of their time and expertise as we toured the garden. Before we began David gave an introduction to York Gate and thanked the YGT for the £750 grant towards the cost of the replacement stone dolphin at the head of the canal garden. Its predecessor had been stolen three times, twice recovered during Sybil Spencer's lifetime and more recently permanently. The replacement is now securely fastened with steel rods.

I was fortunately helped on my tour by fellow member, Mike Heagney, whose encyclopaedic botanical knowledge provided instant identification of the many rare and unusual plants. Beside the pond below the entry to the garden was the double form of *ranunculus aconitifolius* in flower, together with the spring snowflake, purple trilliums and azaleas. In the Old Orchard (2), under Magnolia Lennei in full flower was a clump of the pleated leafed *veratrum viride*, here we also noted the white *lysichiton camtschatcensis* more delicate than the related yellow skunk cabbage, *lysichiton americanus* which we later saw in the Dell (4). Mike was particularly impressed by the pink *podophyllum hexandrum* which was also in flower in the Dell,



Charred wooden trusses of The Arbour (Photo: John Whitaker)



Sybil's Garden, redesigned in 2005  
(Photo: John Whitaker)



Pavement Maze (Photo: John Whitaker)



The Herb Garden and Summerhouse  
(Photo: John Whitaker)

The arbour (B on the plan) with its charred wooden trusses, from a fire damaged chapel at Armley was just one example of Robin Spencer's talent for re-cycling materials. A winding path leads over a stream in the Dell to the Folly (C on plan) designed in 1970, which frames a view up to the house along a Lutyenesque cobbled path. The house itself is screened by a massive yew hedge cut into six pyramidal shapes. In front of the folly the paths fan outwards, one through a pleached hazel nut walk (5) a second into the circular Sybil's Garden (6) redesigned in 2005, a third up to the Canal where the new dolphin presides whilst the last, bordered by the black *ophiopogon planiscapus nigrescens*, leads up to a large stone urn in a circular enclosure. From here one enters the enclosed herb garden (9) at the end of which is a Tuscan columned pergola where Sybil

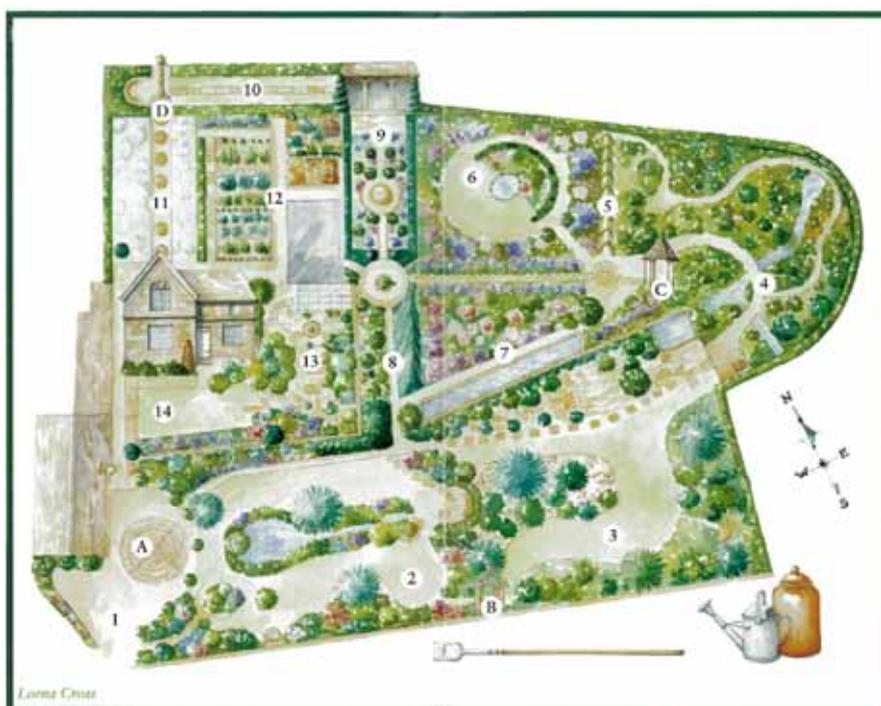
and Robin liked to entertain. Seated here, flanked by spiral topiary, one may look past the carefully clipped golden box balls in the herb garden to the fern border (8) and right across the garden to the Old Orchard (2). From the pergola a second path leads along a beech hedged alley to the sundial, a tall twisted stone column supporting an engraved ball pierced by an arrow, pointing north. Thence a path of old millstones runs through the centre of the white and silver garden (11) where, in late April, white tulips, white honesty, *veratrum album*, hostas, brunnera and astrantia both variegated provided an interesting planting. Next to the kitchen garden (12) is the superbly designed open sided potting shed beyond which one enters the paved garden (13) where seats are sited. The area in front of the house (14) finishes the garden tour in a climax of strong colours with yellow euphorbia and orange tulips making a

strong statement. Next to the terrace in front of the house was a striking border of late flowering scented daffodils, Lemon Drops.

We were all impressed not only by the superb original design of York Gate but also by the meticulous way in which it is maintained by David Beardall and his team. Everything is in wonderful condition, the great variety of plants looked happy and healthy whilst the pruning and clipping of the yew and beech hedges, the many box balls and the pyracantha against the house were all immaculate. It is obvious throughout the garden that a great deal of work goes into achieving these high standards. The visit ended with tea served by volunteers in the garage by the pavement maze. It is to the credit of Perennial that, in these difficult times, it has retained the special quality of York Gate, this extraordinary garden of great beauty and distinction which remains a rewarding and inspiring place to visit.

**York Gate is open from April to September on Thursdays & Sundays, from 2pm to 5pm. On Bank Holiday weekends it is open on Sundays and Mondays, 11am to 5pm.**

Moira Fulton



# FLORIANA GARDEN OF REST, MALTA

One consequence of Britain’s imperial and mercantile history was that a good many Britons died and were buried abroad. Within southern Europe, the predominance of Catholicism led to the creation of separate cemeteries for Protestants, where the graves and tombs of British expatriates and travellers tended to predominate among a few other nationalities. Rome, Lisbon and Malaga come readily to mind as the resting places of more famous individuals such as Fielding and Keats, but in Malta one finds memorials to the residents whose community provided services for passing fleets, and indeed to sailors and to the soldiers and civil servants the latter were transporting to and from more distant colonies (some failing, sadly, to arrive).



Some of the many fragments reconstructed  
(Photo: Dick Knight)



The Garden of Rest (Photo: Dick Knight)

Malta’s Msida Bastion Garden of Rest was a cemetery created in the early 19thC and utterly destroyed during World War II (its ruins then pilfered and vandalised). Since the late 1980s it has been lovingly restored – which involved the reconstruction of

monuments from a mass of fragments – and is now a beautifully located, peaceful and well-tended haven.

Peace (and quiet) can be in short supply in a crowded island. About ninety percent of Malta’s population live in one sprawling conurbation around the capital, Valletta, with a population well in excess of 300,000. The rest of the island is quite intensively cultivated and lacks wilderness, while the urban area has a high population density and tends to lack green spaces. Valletta is on a peninsula which was fortified ever more strongly over time and the series of bastions eventually incorporated another community at the landward end of the peninsula, Floriana. The ‘Floriana Lines’ were built in the



View across the Garden to the sea  
(Photo: Dick Knight)

century following 1635. One by-product of such fortifications was the possibility of creating gardens – and cemeteries – in the vacant sheltered plots within them. The originally private gardens in Floriana have become public, and the cemeteries too have been transformed into gardens of rest. In total, this small area now has fifteen public gardens including Jubilee Grove (a pinetum), the Argotti (botanical) Gardens and, of course, the Garden of Rest.

The history of the Garden of Rest and its restoration are described in some detail on the excellent website of the National Trust of Malta ([www.dinlarthelwa.org](http://www.dinlarthelwa.org)). The restored cemetery garden was awarded the Silver Medal of Europa Nostra in 2002, and in 2004 a small museum on the site was opened by Malta’s Minister of Tourism and Culture together with Fiona Reynolds, Director General of our own National Trust.

*Dick Knight*



St Philip Gardens within the bastions: winter profusion in a secret wilderness  
(Photo: Dick Knight)

# COMMITTEE ROUND UP

## SMALL GRANTS SCHEME

We have now given out all the grants for the 2009-10 year. The grant for the cascade at **Parcevall Hall** was in the vanguard and has now been followed by £500 towards the cost of the condition survey for the Nelson Gates at **Duncombe Park**, £1,000 for the **Shuttleworth Shelter** in Scarborough and £800 for the West Formal Garden at **Beningbrough Hall**.

I do hope that you will have been able to join us this August for our special visit to Beningbrough with the gardeners, to see how our funds have been converted into 'hot planting'. Bananas, canna's red hot pokers, tiger lilies (if the rabbits will leave alone), lobelia and ligularia underplanted with heuchera and the walls covered by yellow foliage or flowers to set off the reds and burgundies give a feel of the 1890's. The photograph shows trainee James Miller (white T-shirt) and a volunteer, Tristram Hill, marking out and planting James' bedding design in the central beds. The other photograph is of the back border. We have also funded laminated interpretation sheets, and gardener Joanne Parker says that the momentum gathered from part of our grant being ear-marked for interpretation has meant that she's been given the go ahead to turn the old Brew House into a garden interpretation space, where she will include something about the YGT on one of the boards as a thank you for the grant. This is just the sort of outcome that we hope for with our grants; positive steps to further knowledge and enjoyment of our garden heritage.

The restored oak shelter in the Shuttleworth Gardens on Scarborough's South Cliff was officially opened in May; the culmination of much fundraising and hard work by Scarborough and District Civic Society. Penelope Dawson Brown and husband

Martin represented the Trust at the opening and Adrian Perry, the Civic Society Chairman paying tribute to the support noted that, 'the first donor to give us the confidence to carry on was the Yorkshire Gardens Trust.' The shelter must be about 100 years old and is a wonderfully peaceful sun trap, so will be well used again. Hopefully for another 100 years.

The War Memorials Trust has confirmed a grant offer of £20,000 towards the repair of the Nelson Gates (Duncombe Park), but the payment was conditional on a 'peer review' of the original specification submitted for the repair works. So a stone conservator inspected the Gates in March, and our grant helps with this. The work needed on the gates and piers is extensive requiring a large sum, however the Trustees of the Country Houses Foundation have agreed to give £50,000 and the 1805 Club has been approached for the shortfall of about £2,000 that is needed to complete the works. We look forward to seeing these magnificent gates and piers in

good condition gracing the A170 on the approach to Helmsley from Sutton Bank. The gates guarded an historic drive to Duncombe Park and we have asked that the Estate give consideration to looking at their whole context.

We are giving six grants in our current scheme, 2010-11 including three parks and gardens that we have helped before. To the Friends of **Beaumont Park**, Huddersfield, the grant of £500 is towards the work on the terrace at Beaumont Park including re-pointing the slabs, clearing ivy, poisoning tree stumps & doing some replanting. We have suggested that the Friends visit Belsay Quarry garden to look at the heather/winter garden there before deciding on appropriate planting for Beaumont Park. At **Cannon Hall** our £130 grant is for the replacement regency style urns for the front of the Hall. Our third grant, £430, is for the **Derwent Riverside Project** at Malton which is to go towards the removal of the belt of self-sown sycamore and scrub towards the southern boundary of the Castle Garden and to replace it with more suitable trees.

We are also helping three completely new applicants. **Shandy Hall**, Coxwold



Trainee James Miller (white T-shirt) and a volunteer, Tristram Hill, marking out and planting James' bedding design in the central beds of West Formal Garden at Beningbrough.



The back border of West Formal garden at Beningbrough

is to be given £200 towards the new garden guide. As you will know Shandy Hall is a Grade I listed building with a lovely garden and was the home of the 18<sup>th</sup>C author Rev Laurence Sterne, who was himself a gardener. In the last Newsletter (28) the image of the 'Sentry Box' at Shandy Hall on page 5 was not clearly captioned. It should have said Image © Marion Frith. The painting inserted into the sentry box is by CR Leslie showing Uncle Toby and Widow Wadman: *'I protest, Madam', said my Uncle Toby, 'I can see nothing whatever in your eye. 'It is not in the white', said Mrs Wadman. My Uncle Toby looked with might and main into the pupil.*

This is an inexact quotation from Volume 8 Chapter XXV of *'The Life and Opinions of Tristram Shandy, Gentleman'* but nevertheless the scene is identified and Leslie presented the visitor to the Royal Academy with this famous literary encounter.

Our other apology is the caption on page 4 showing the Quarry Walk which should also have given Shandy Hall as the location!

We have also agreed to give £500 to the Meanwood Valley Partnership, Leeds to help fund research into the landscape history of **Meanwood Park**.

The research will involve sourcing old maps and photographs etc identifying key landscape and historical features and investigate what remains of the Edward Oates (1841-44) garden, with planting of such areas as his American Garden and Harris's Pond, Henry's Pool and other features including the dam and weirs along the beck. (He was grandfather of the Captain Oates of South Pole fame.) We hope that this will help the group make a bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund in the future.

Finally we have pledged £1,000 to The Friends of New Walk, York for work to repair and enhance the **Pikeing Well**. The New Walk is York's historic Georgian riverside promenade opened in 1732, and listed on the English Heritage Register of historic parks and gardens. The Pikeing Well, its only interesting man-made structure, was designed and built in 1752 by John Carr of York and is now in need of sympathetic repair and restoration. The York conservation architects Wiles and Maguire have written a Condition Inspection Report, their proposals have been accepted by York City Council and our funds are to be matched by the Council for urgent works, with the Council funding some additional works. The Friends of New Walk want to involve local schools and are

bidding for funds from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for the larger more ambitious works to the Pikeing Well. In their discussion with HLF, it was noted that the initial support of the YGT has given this project the much needed boost required to achieve the more ambitious aim, and as a result raised the interest of the HLF.

The forms for the **new Small Grant Scheme, 2011-12** are now available on our website. We have allocated £3,000 again so please spread the word. The closing date is 30th November 2011.

Since the last newsletter we have distributed £700 from the **family trust in Oxfordshire to Helredale**, an area of Whitby which includes one of the most deprived estates in North Yorkshire. Penelope Dawson Brown and Anne Dennier have been out to meet the local group and members of Whitby in Bloom. Susan Davies, Chairman of Whitby in Bloom writes: 'In 2007 local residents approached the Scarborough Borough Council seeking to enhance their environment horticulturally. Whitby in Bloom was approached and subsequently raised some resources to assist in this process and consultation took place with The Helredale Neighbourhood Council. The outcome of these talks was the proposal to plant a large tree to serve as a focal point for travellers on the adjacent road with sustainable planting in a bed beside the cemetery wall behind. As a result of further discussion and consultation including with the YGT, it was agreed that three trees should be chosen to form the focal point. These are; *Acer platanoides* 'Princetown Gold'; *Crataegus laevigata* 'Pauls Scarlet' and *Malus* 'Profusion'. A border of sustainable planting behind this group and to the fore of the stone cemetery wall will enhance the year round colour and interest. It is hoped that work can progress in Autumn 2011.'

Val Hepworth

[www.yorkshiregardenstrust.org.uk](http://www.yorkshiregardenstrust.org.uk)

# EDUCATION: Schools

We have been delighted to welcome thirteen new schools to YGT for Schools membership in 2011. This year, member schools have each received termly mailings from the Trust to support their gardening endeavours.

The Spring term saw complete grow-your-own pumpkin kits being sent out to each school. Each kit included a 'How to' guide, seeds, pots, labels and voucher to cover the cost of compost. We look forward to seeing how the pumpkins have grown in the Autumn term and how the children use them for Halloween!

In the Summer term, schools were sent everything they needed to grow their own cut-and-come-again baby salad

leaves. We were delighted to receive a beautiful handmade thank you card from the children of St Oswald's C of E Primary School, Fulford, near York, for the gardening materials they had received from the Trust over the year, along with photos of the children planting and the seedlings growing – all great to see, thank you!

Plans for the Autumn Term are to send bare-rooted trees into schools for planting in their grounds, hedgerows or patio planters, again full instructions will be provided.

The 'How to...' guides to support each activity are also being loaded onto the schools members' area of the YGT website so that schools can refer back

to them and make use of them with subsequent cohorts of children in future years.

As well as the newly introduced termly mailings, we continue to offer the full range of YGT awards to member schools. Namely –

- Grounds Development Award of £200
- Gardening Club Award of high quality junior gardening tools
- Environmental Club Award consisting of £100 National Garden vouchers and suggested 'shopping list' for any environmental club.

We are always very pleased to receive applications for any of the awards from member-schools. Membership for schools is free for 2011.

*Nicola Harrison*  
*nicola\_a\_harrison@tiscali.co.uk*

## PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION LAUNCH

Following the success of photographic competitions in other Garden Trust regions we have decided to launch our own. Entitled 'Yorkshire Grown' the competition is designed to coincide with our 2012 events theme focusing on Yorkshire plant nurseries, Yorkshire specialist growers (eg rhubarb, tomatoes & waste heat), historical plants or plantings in Yorkshire, Yorkshire Orchards & varieties, Yorkshire gardeners [not Titchmarsh please] or even pictures that were taken of extra tall sunflowers perhaps in schools or gardens within Yorkshire.

You get the picture, anything that links with the theme 'Yorkshire Grown' (sorry no pun intended).

All entries will be displayed at the YGT 2012 AGM in March and the winner will be selected by a vote of those members present. A small prize will be awarded to the winner.

The winning entry will be featured in our Summer 2012 newsletter. Additionally, at the discretion of the webmaster, any photographs originating from a digital image may feature on the YGT website.

### CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

The competition is open to all members of Yorkshire Gardens Trust.

The subject is "YORKSHIRE GROWN" and the photograph must have been taken during 2011. The closing date for receipt of entries is 31st January 2012. In the interest of fairness we thought a set of rules should be set out, so...

1. Each member may submit not more than two entries in the form of a print, maximum image size 7 x 5ins. Prints must not be mounted or framed. Prints from slides are acceptable. Black and white, and coloured images are allowed. Digital cameras may be used.
2. All entries must be the entrant's own original work and must not have been exhibited or published elsewhere.
3. Entrants warrant and undertake that photo's submitted will not infringe intellectual property, privacy or any other rights of any third party and that they have obtained the required permission from them to take and exhibit the photograph.
4. Entries should be clearly labelled on the reverse with name and address of the entrant, YGT membership number, whether a digital version of the photograph would be available, the date taken and the name of the photo. An explanation why the photograph is relevant to "Yorkshire Grown" should also be included where possible.
5. Yorkshire Gardens Trust cannot accept any responsibility for loss, damage or delay to entries however caused and will not return any entries.
6. The winner will be chosen by votes cast by 2pm by members attending the YGT AGM in March 2012.

ENTRY FORMS CAN BE DOWNLOADED FROM THE MEMBERS AREA OF YGT WEBSITE or by SENDING an SAE to YGT Photography, 8 Corn Mill Court, Leeds LS13 4HW

# WESTON PARK, SHEFFIELD:

## Stolen gates recovered



Restored gates back at Weston Park (Photo: Val Greaves)

Members with long memories may recall that the gates to Weston Park, Sheffield were stolen 17 years ago, in the middle of the night, using a crane and a lorry. This was on a main road, next to the University and opposite the Children's Hospital where there are people up all night! It was assumed that they were stolen to order for some South American drug baron and would never be seen again. Eventually replacements were made and installed as part of the Heritage Lottery funded restoration of the park in 2008.

However.....a few months ago the original gates were spotted, by a blacksmith who had tendered for making the replicas, at the end of a drive leading to a farm being redeveloped near Eckington, Derbyshire. His suspicions were confirmed by the man who had restored them for the City Council 30 years before. The current owner apparently bought them from a local farmer who had stored them in a barn for 10 years after buying them as part of a job lot of materials from a demolition site. He agreed to give them back and the

police are not pursuing the matter. So after restoration work the gates are now back in place. The replicas are to be installed at the Winter Street entrance, which only dates from the time of the construction of the University Geography Department on part of the park, but originally had an entrance similar to that on Western Bank.

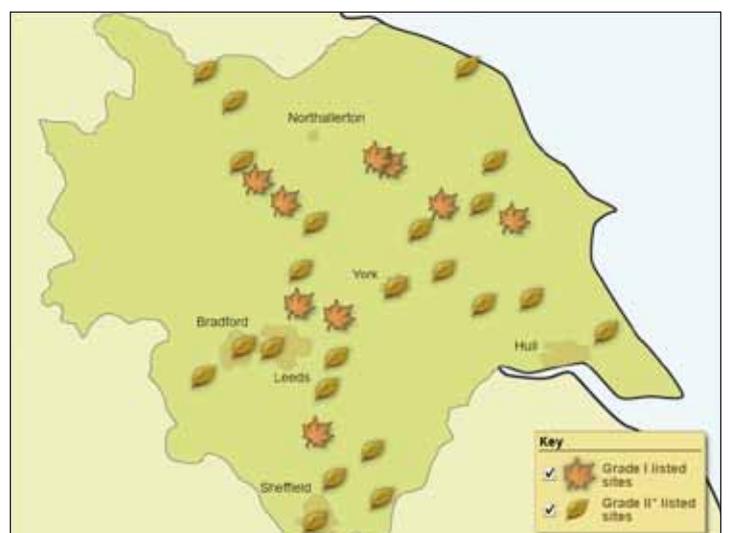
The park was opened in 1875, the grounds of the original Weston Hall being adapted by Robert Marnock. The south east or "Sykes" entrance on Western Bank consists of four Minton terracotta pillars framing a pair of double gates flanked by two single ones. The central ones were stolen. They are made of wrought iron which means they are individually forged and unique items of craftsmanship, by an unknown but highly skilled blacksmith, to designs by architect Edward Mitchell Gibbs. The terracotta pillars were designed by James Gamble, who was a pupil of Godfrey Sykes. Sykes was a student and teacher at the Sheffield School of Design until called to London to supervise the decoration of the Victoria and Albert Museum. His distinctive designs for the museum's terracotta columns is replicated in the Weston Park gate columns. The gateway (Listed Grade II) reflects the site of the original entrance drive to Weston Hall. There is a memorial to Sykes in another part of the park, designed by James Gamble, and also Listed. The Park was included on the national Register in 1995.

*Valerie Greaves*

## YGT WEBSITE

After much development work the YGT website now has a map where you can view the area that the Trust covers as well detailing its Grade I and II\* listed landscapes. This can be accessed via the homepage at [www.yorkshiregardenstrust.org.uk](http://www.yorkshiregardenstrust.org.uk) where you'll also see that we regularly add News items that we think may be of interest to you.

If you have news items you think other members would be interested in or even an external event please forward details to the webmaster at [webmaster@yorkshiregardenstrust.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@yorkshiregardenstrust.org.uk)



## EXHIBITION: PAINTING FLOWERS: FANTIN-LATOURE & THE IMPRESSIONISTS



*Rosy Wealth of June* by Henri Fantin-Latour, 1886 © The National Gallery, London

Until now there has never been an exhibition in Britain devoted to Henri Fantin-Latour's still lifes. And they are exquisite... not only that but the flowers so beautifully painted are immediately identifiable and botanically accurate. His paintings found great favour among British art collectors and they were often influential for amateur artists and garden-makers including Bobbie James of St Nicholas who began his notable garden at Richmond at the very beginning of the 20thC. And although the artist's name might not be the first to trip off everyone's tongue when reflecting on 19thC greats, he was nevertheless up there with the finest, including Manet, who was a witness at his wedding, and Whistler, who

introduced him to London's artistic and intellectual society.

From the 1860s, Fantin-Latour (1836-1904) began developing his powers of observation, experimenting with colour, texture, form and composition in his still life paintings. Yet while still life painting grew in popularity among artists of the period, it was strongly resisted by the establishment who saw it as purely decorative rather than fine art. Nevertheless invited to London by Whistler, Fantin-Latour was introduced to Edwin Edwards and his wife, Ruth, who bought many of his still life paintings in the years that followed. They trumpeted his work among their circle and helped him develop a rich

base of patrons in England, eventually acting as his agents.

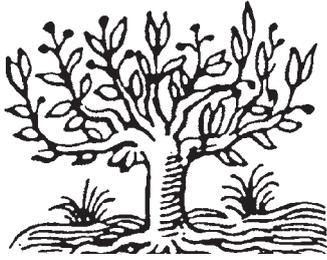
In 1876 Fantin-Latour and his wife, Victoria Dubourg, spent their first summer at Buré in France, a house inherited from her uncle. The provincial garden there provided an abundance of blooms from which both artists were inspired to create endless floral compositions, and included roses such as *Maréchal Niel*, *Gloire-de-Dijon*, *Céline Forestier* and *Félicité et Perpétue*. The expansion of mail order horticulture in France during that time also offered the domestic gardener access to a growing selection of plants, and provided Fantin-Latour with an ever increasing choice of subject matter. In the exhibition and accompanying catalogue, botanist Professor David Ingram explores his work, identifying many of the new and exciting varieties and hybrids that were available to the artist. So admired did Henri Fantin-Latour become for his ability as a painter of roses that a fragrant pink *Centifolia* rose was named in tribute to him.

This is a superb exhibition and catalogue which will be enjoyed by everyone who loves beautiful flowers. The accompanying photograph of the painting *Rosy Wealth of June*, 1886 shows roses; 'Alba Maxima', 'Céline Forestier', Maiden's Blush', hybrids of 'Fisher Holmes', 'Duke of Wellington' and 'Zéphirine Drouhin/Old Blush' amongst *Delphiniums*, *Belladonna lilies*, *Begonia*, *Dahlia* and *Phlox paniculata*.

***The exhibition runs at The Bowes Museum, Barnard Castle until 9th Oct 2011. The Bowes Museum, Café Bowes and Shop are open daily from 10am to 5pm. A full programme of events and exhibitions is available by calling 01833 690606 or by viewing the website at [www.thebowesmuseum.org.uk](http://www.thebowesmuseum.org.uk) Do go!***

*Val Hepworth*

***Copy date for Winter  
2012 is:  
30<sup>th</sup> November 2011***



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## YORKSHIRE GARDENS TRUST

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### **NOTE FROM THE EDITOR:**

*Apologies for a few glitches in the previous issue. It has made me aware of a number of issues around the submission of illustrative material for the Newsletter. It would be very helpful if anyone submitting photos/plans to illustrate their reports could:*

- (i) provide picture captions at the same time and clearly indicate which caption fits each picture, (ii) indicate if a picture accompanies a particular text reference, (iii) indicate if any illustration or picture needs to be a particular size.*

*You will notice that this issue is a lot smaller than the previous two. This is because a number of visit reports were not received by the deadline of 30th June, and although I waited a couple of weeks there were no late submissions. The deadline for the Winter 2012 issue is 30th November - and it would be good to include reports of all the outstanding 2011 visits.*

*If I was not so tied up with the running of Newton House I would be attending events and taking photos to illustrate reports myself but this is proving*

## YGT Events

### **Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> September - Coldstones Cut, Greenhow, Near Pateley Bridge**

An amazing landscape feature created by the artist and sculptor Andrew Sabin which should have a far more welcoming name. Meet at the Toft Gate Lime Kiln and climb up the hill to discover the intrigues of this site. Afterwards a chance to visit an abandoned quarry now a recognised nature reserve - an SSSI and a SINC.

### **Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> October - Valley Gardens, Harrogate**

An afternoon to promenade in the Valley Gardens – a Grade II historic park - on a guided tour with the head of Parks and Gardens for Harrogate District. View the wells, Sun Pavilion and Long Colonnade and take a closer look at the plants of the restored New Zealand Garden with a member of Harrogate in Bloom Garden-Team.

### **22<sup>nd</sup> February 2012 – Yorkshire Rhubarb, Carlton, near Rothwell**

A Visit to some of the famous rhubarb sheds of South Leeds. Listen to the mysterious sounds as it grows in the vast, darkened halls, learn the uses of rhubarb throughout history – an indoor visit which the weather outdoors will not affect.

### **Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> March - The annual YGT AGM is to be held at the Kings Manor, York**

**April - visit to Sandbeck and Roche Abbey** date and details to be confirmed.

### **May - AGT/ YGT Study day at Studley Royal, near Ripon**

### **29<sup>th</sup> May - evening Lecture YPS/YGT, York**

*There may be other events during the Spring-please look on the web site or look out for the next events mailing in the New Year.*

*impossible at the moment. So, could I please ask members, if you take (or have taken) any nice photos at garden visits (not difficult as most of the gardens are so wonderfully photogenic) I would love to see them - and you don't have to wait for the deadline, material can be sent at any time. The only thing to remember is that, for printing, they need to be a high resolution.*

*On the subject of pictures, I am delighted to see The Trust is organising*

*a Photographic Competition and hope there will be some nice material that can be used in the Newsletter, as well as on the website.*

*Denise Carter*

**Copy date for  
Winter 2012 is:  
30<sup>th</sup> November 2011**