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**CHAIRMAN'S LETTER****When there's an 'R' in the month ...**

R is not only for Rain.

Writing in June and looking ahead to the reading time for the YGT Newsletter, I hope that some real summer weather may have materialised and that you have had opportunity to rest and relax, in sunshine, in many a pleasant garden spot. I hope also that you have recovered from the wet, windy jubilee weekend when the cold was so disappointing for the Thames Pageant and the start of 'summer-time'.

As I reflect on the past few months and gather my thoughts I notice there are a lot of 'R' words which I need to mention - Research, Risk Assessment, Reassurances and Recruitment amongst others.

It is good to have some research ongoing and eyes are turned towards the East Riding in order to unearth the historic gems and opportunities which lie over in that part of our County.

Hopefully there will be many who can help delve into archives or walk the sites. Jenni Howard will be co-ordinating and there are plans afoot for training days and working group meetings, more news of these no doubt in subsequent pages, but I am looking forward to new discoveries and the chance to explore new landscapes.

Risk Assessment. The mention of Risk Assessment brings a slight shudder to many. However, the matter arose for discussion at the April Management Meeting and Council has now reviewed and put in place a written Risk-Assessment Check-list as an aide for events-organisers. Hopefully it will be a useful guide to checking for 'eventualities' (which can arise at any place or any time). New events co-ordinators or volunteers may find it particularly useful. This can be requested from the Events Co-ordinator, or myself, ahead of a proposed visit or study day. The Risk Assessment is also a useful backup to our insurance policy which YGT, in line with legal requirements, needs to have in place. I hasten to reassure all our members that we do our best to check out the venues, access and facilities for our visits and try to give accurate descriptions of sites with suggestions for suitable footwear and weather gear and hopefully, as gardeners and garden enthusiasts, all our members come prepared! Once this was termed "common-sense" and I am sure all the Trust members are possessed of this and are not deterred by mention of the 'R' word here. Hopefully you attend the events well prepared, with umbrella, and we will continue to welcome you to many more YGT visits in the future.

*Continued on page 2*



YGT members enjoying visit to Monk Fryston (photo R Blyth)

*Continued from page 1*

Can I add here a gentle Reminder?

After the AGM, membership renewals are the next item on the year's business agenda and places on visits, study days etc. are given on a first-come basis to those who are members. With the database spread sheets it is now obvious when membership fees are due and it is a little embarrassing to have to turn down those who are not members - due mainly to forgetfulness. Can I please remind you to check that your membership is valid before trying to book your place, especially in the first quarter of the year.

Reassurance – I would like to reassure those members who attended the AGM that the Financial Statement carried some minor errors - page 13, item 4 of the Trustees Annual Report. The monies shown as being paid to the Wentworth Castle Heritage Trust were in fact the grant towards the publication of the papers from the Conference held there the previous year. Costs for the shared visit to Wentworth with a wonderful group of adults and children from the Leeds Refugee Forum (totalling less than one fifth of this sum) were, perhaps erroneously, included in 'Resources Expended – events' and tabled as such. The shared experience of the multi-cultural visit was an inspiring event for everyone involved and perhaps should be shown as a separate financial entry on the accounts as benefit far outweighed any costs attached. My other reassurance is that

the publication of the YGT book "With Abundance and Variety....." has in fact made a profit and not a loss as reported.

Recruitment. Sadly there has not been a rush of volunteers to join the Council despite the pleas at the AGM. Can I please make another appeal here for assistance? The Trust is enjoyed by many, but those who plan and manage the business side of the Trust are now few and very tightly stretched. I stand down as Chairman next March at the AGM and I would dearly love to have more helping hands to assist on Council and to support the in-coming Chairman. The work is fun when shared but rather heavy if it becomes a 'chore'. YGT currently stays afloat because we have been fortunate in having the wherewithal to employ, part-time, the professional services of Louise Amende without whom the Trust would now be struggling to keep up with the administrative work of events and membership. But the issues of Planning Consultation and appeals for help with threatened gardens and landscapes are become ever more difficult to deal with. **Please**, there must be someone out there who could consider volunteering? If you could offer some time or share some knowledge it would be greatly appreciated.

When I think how fast the last two and a half years have gone by it is alarming, but equally I feel that the YGT has made progress and certainly has entered the world where computers assist rather hinder operations. This is

thanks to our web-master, assisted by one or two others who have brought us up to date and whom I thank profusely. The membership lists, e-mail connectivity, the web pages and on-line payment facilities are all in place and are assisting administratively and facilitating two-way communication. I can hold correspondence on one "stick" rather than several large files and boxes - all suitably backed up I hope (*I type this with a silent prayer that all computers continue to work smoothly*). Distances across the county and indeed the country shrink and work-time is more manageable. In the not too distant past remembering to phone the right people at the right times was quite difficult but e-mail renders this less onerous. There have been a very professional set of study days this year to look back upon, which have been highly praised for content and organisation. However, with an eye to archiving material researched for these by and for the Trust, care must now be taken that no valuable exchanges are inadvertently lost in the computer or the cloud!

The Trust is in its teenage phase and changes and challenges are lining up to test the organisation. I hope we can muster the resources to stay on track to a ripe old age. So, here's to a good Indian summer, to the introduction of a new chairman and their next three years and to the Trust reaching the second decade with aplomb!

*Liz Simson*

## East Riding Research Project

We are underway and Drs David and Susan Neave are to compile information for twenty designed historic landscapes in the East Riding over the coming year. The aim is to produce information in such a way that it can be put to practical use in the planning process. This will give a firm foundation that we can use, as an opportunity to hone members' personal knowledge and skills and gain new ones, helping to keep this information up-to-date and widening the area of designed landscapes covered.

The completed site reports will be submitted to the local authority for the Historic Environment Record and Local listings and on the UK Parks and Gardens Database to provide a permanent, widely-accessible and creditable resource.

East Riding of Yorkshire Council is in the process of compiling a thorough listing of Local Heritage Assets, including designed historic landscapes. It includes the registered and well recognised sites, and it should include now unregistered sites also. The list is only as good as the information provided - this 'evidence base' is vital planning in decision making - so if you think you know of a site, or have information you would like to submit for the project, then please let me hear from you!

We shall be organising study days in the Autumn programme should you wish to hone up your understanding of the designed historic landscape. Watch out for news.

*Jenni Howard*



# YORKSHIRE RHUBARB



Inside the ghostly shed (photo L Wickham)

In a variant of the fleur-de-lys, Carlton, near Rothwell, is fittingly denoted by its sign of three rhubarb stems. Here about fifty of us assembled for an indoor winter garden visit to Oldroyd's Rhubarb. Before entering the forcing shed, we were welcomed by the owner, Janet Oldroyd Hulme, who explained the background to the business, while enthusiastically advocating the vegetable (correctly not a fruit) as gourmet delicacy and, unexpectedly, for its medicinal potential.

Rhubarb, we learnt, is one of the world's oldest plants, first documented in a Chinese herbal and with a presence in the Zoroastrian faith as God-given. Marco Polo is said to have brought the first roots to Europe and by the mid-seventeenth century, its price was three times that of another valuable medicine, opium. However a decline in strength may have been due to a mixture of plant strains, which Catherine the Great of Russia tried to avert by rigorous quality control. Fortunately for its future appreciation, the plant was discovered (as with so many now commonplace plants) growing in the Himalayas and it is from those imports that the Victorian 'Turkey Rhubarb' and tincture of rhubarb for treating

sore throats were produced. 1817 was the date for the next crucial step as accidental forcing at Chelsea Physic Garden led to an awareness of a sweet winter crop with a culinary future.

Sixty years later, Yorkshire rhubarb were linked by the development of the 'Rhubarb Triangle': the area between Wakefield, Leeds and Bradford, which became the main centre of production in this country. The key factor was the combination of cold winters, plenty of



Janet Oldroyd Hulme and her rhubarb (photo L Wickham)

water, a frost pocket, and a plentiful supply of nitrogen extracted from the by-product of another Yorkshire industry: shoddy from woollen mills. The plants start life in the fields, then at two or three years old are brought into the forcing sheds, where stress due to lack of light for photosynthesis produces the characteristic red stems, pale within, in contrast to our familiar greener garden rhubarb. After half a century of commercial decline, Yorkshire rhubarb has recently seen a resurgence, gaining the coveted accolade of Protected Designation of Origin. Meanwhile, the medicinal aspect is again under investigation, with possible benefits from the plant's oxalic acids for thyroid conditions and some sorts of cancer.

A great deal more could be said about different varieties, the dexterity needed for hand-harvesting, marketing, preparing and cooking, but the climax of our visit was the moment when the door was opened and we were permitted to enter the dark shed, where the rhubarb gleamed palely in minimal candlelight. To me, this felt quite magical, and standing alongside the thicket of growing rhubarb stems I was truly aware of the special nature of this plant, linked to both ancient and recent tradition and at the same time with a future in haute cuisine and in medical research. This will surely give an added zest when I pick my own rhubarb to make those familiar homely comforts of rhubarb crumble and rhubarb and ginger jam.

Those of you who missed this visit might like to join one of the tours run as part of Wakefield Food Festival or to experiment in the kitchen using Elaine Lemm's book of recipes\* with some unexpected and savoury combinations.

*Helen Caffrey*

\* *The Great Book of Rhubarb!*, Great Northern Books Ltd, 2011, ISBN 190508093X

# MONK FRYSTON HALL

March 6<sup>th</sup> was truly an early spring day, not that we had suffered a long winter but like all garden visitors, I was eager for a new season of garden delights and the sunny weather was promising.

We were guided around Monk Fryston Hall by Margaret Dennis, a member of staff who had worked at the hall for twenty years. She explained why rooms were named Haddon and Rutland and that the hall was owned by Edward Manners, of Haddon Hall and Belvoir Castle, in the second half of the last century and run as a hotel. We were also told of the early history of the site, of how the Manor was a religious house run by Benedictine monks of Selby Abbey. The Hall became the home of the Hemsworths from 1680 until 1946.

Monk Fryston Hall was owned by Rev. Benjamin Hemsworth (1848-1923) who in 1894 married Mary Constance Duke of Lake House, Wiltshire, who died in 1940. It was during this time that much of the landscaping that we were to see took place. Lake House is now the home of the musician, Sting.

The gardener, Tony Collins, told us that he alone had the upkeep of 30 acres of grounds. As the Hall is now the venue for weddings, emphasis on maintaining lawns with the backdrop of the Hall is the priority over restoration of the once formal Italianate garden. We were escorted to the rather grand Lucerne Bridge, which inside has paintings by



Lucerne Bridge (photo R Blyth)

Mary Hemsworth depicting scenes from 'The Ancient Mariner'. These paintings were inspired by the triangular ones in the 200 metre long 14<sup>th</sup> century Chapel Bridge in Lucerne, Switzerland that had to undergo restoration and reconstruction after the devastating fire in 1993. The roof of Monk Fryston's Lucerne Bridge has also recently been restored thanks to the owner of the property across the lake who, allegedly, likes to see it as an eyecatcher when celebrating Leeds Rhinos' success.

Thoughts of rhinos would lead us to imagine the menagerie of animals that once were kept in the zoo until as late as 1923. It contained monkeys, baboons, fruit bats, lemurs, opossums, mongoose, wallabies, armadillos as well as reptiles and birds. The visitors also enjoyed a maze, concert hall, alpine hall summer house, greenhouses, an orchard with a small lake and waterfall as well as covered swimming pool, cricket pitch, bowling green and



Interior of Lucerne Bridge (photo P Dawson-Brown)

five court. Somewhere in the village, in a small quarry, Mary created a Scottish mountain ravine with huge paintings.

As regards quarries, the gardener has a theory that the local magnesian limestone is not really high quality and may not have been used in the original building of Selby Abbey as is commonly thought, though stone was quarried from Monk Fryston in 1906 to restore Selby Abbey. Certainly the stone in some old buildings in the village show signs of erosion. The derivation of the name Monk Fryston is from Monk's Free Stone, which would suggest that the freestone would have been of such fine-grain that it could be moulded quite easily with a chisel by freemasons. Perhaps the craftsmen would have had a choice of quarries from where to obtain the most durable stone.



The boating lake (photo R Blyth)



The ancient apples (photo P Dawson-Brown)

After Margaret Dennis gave a guided visit to the church, we returned to enjoy an afternoon tea at Monk Fryston Hall, making it a perfect way to round off an enjoyable and informative day.

Ray Blyth



# AGM, King's Manor, York

March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2012

After the closure of the business meeting, the Chairman Martin Page, introduced David Gluck, Director of Ruralis. His talk was entitled 'How Beauty Can Survive' and was about the importance of green infrastructure in both town and countryside and how we can help protect it. It is important not only for society but also for the economy it can generate in an area. People have great attachment to places – from small corners in parks and gardens to distant views and the way they are linked together. He pointed out that although called green, renewable enterprises like wind farms often do not contribute to green infrastructure and there is a case for opposing them where they will spoil a view or prevent access to a landscape or green space.

In urban areas, green spaces are a vital necessity for the wellbeing and health of people, to encourage them to get out and take exercise. Parks and gardens, especially those with lakes or ponds, can provide urban cooling. They and some of the large estates also provide habitats for wildlife and venues for sports etc, which can contribute to the local economy as well giving pleasure to people. He gave two examples: the ospreys on Bassenthwaite Lake in Cumbria and the horse trials at Bramham Park.

A new Government policy is about to come into force, which will favour growth and sustainable development. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) claims it is planning for Prosperity, People and Places. Mr. Gluck encouraged individuals to check the policies of their local planning office, looking particularly at neighbourhood development plans and to find out where the plans were being made. There are opportunities for local groups to influence planning authorities. Mapping existing green infrastructure in an area is a constructive way of persuading local planning officials of

its importance to a community. He gave Leeds and Liverpool as examples where local communities had contributed to the conservation of their green spaces and creation of new ones. He suggested we should be the ears and eyes of planning authorities.

A delicious lunch was served in the Refectory. Afterwards, Peter Goodchild, a founder member of the YGT and who lives in the Kings Manor, explained the fascinating collection of maps and plans of the Kings Manor, which he had laid out for us on a table. He provided us with a set of notes entitled 'A Guided Walk Around the King's Manor, York', written by him. It gave us a brief but comprehensive history of the building from the 11<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> century, a Bibliography of books referring to it and a list of items on display.

The buildings which comprise the King's Manor are linked to the ruins of St Mary's Abbey, built around 1086, and the gardens which surround it. The oldest part of the buildings was once the Abbot's house built or rebuilt in about 1482, in what was then the precinct of the Abbey. Being particularly interested in the history of the land in the Abbey precinct, Peter has been researching a family called Bearpark who leased a large part of the grounds on the north side of the building as a market garden in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. Part of it was eventually leased for the building of the Art Gallery in 1877. In 1867, The Yorkshire Philosophical Society was granted 3 acres of the Bearpark garden west of the King's Manor, on which it built the Museum and created gardens in front of it.

In 1958 the present King's Manor was purchased by the City of York and in 1963-4 it was modernized and adapted for use by the University of York. Peter would like to see some of the original grounds reconnected to it.

We went to look into the west courtyard

with its modern west wing, built of brick and concrete, attractive old houses in the SW corner and cloistered wall on the north side. The grassed area was once a bowling green. Next we looked at the East Front and the view from it, which was painted by Francis Place in the late 17<sup>th</sup> century. Peter had shown us a photocopy of this watercolour - several buildings were recognisable.

From there we walked through to the area of garden to the north of the building beyond the car park. We could see the very large Roman stone sarcophagi which have been collected in the Abbey gardens. Beyond the back of the Art Gallery and the present boundary wall there are two bowling greens adjacent to a cleared area. This is owned by the City Council. Peter informed us that there is an opportunity to create a new garden on this land and re-link it to the King's Manor, though its style and form have yet to be decided. One of the 17<sup>th</sup> century maps shows what was possibly an orchard in this area and Peter believes it could have been gardened since mediaeval times. Finally Peter took us to a mound just to the south of the Manor, once part of the City Walls. We looked down into the excavations of a roman wall that runs parallel to the city wall, which continue into the Museum gardens, in front of St. Mary's Abbey. We had to leave at this point as it was already 4pm. Having been many times to the King's Manor it was very interesting to find out more about its history and I am sure there was more that Peter could have told us had there been time.

*Jenny Woods*

# Study Day at Roche Abbey and Sandbeck Park

April 2012



The ruins of Roche Abbey (photo D Knight)

## The early history of Roche Abbey

Roche Abbey was a Cistercian monastery founded in 1147. It was a small community of monks and lay men if compared with Rievaulx or Fountains and other northern Abbeys. Its importance was that it is one of the finest examples of early Gothic architecture in northern England with a distinct French look to the stone work. The Abbey was set in a typical Cistercian site: the deep rock faced valley with a good water supply forming the setting and the local stone being particularly suitable for the building of such a site. The monks lived their quiet industrious lives until June 1538 when the monastery was dissolved on King Henry VIII's order. This was done peaceably with pensions granted, however there was a deal of immediate looting by the local inhabitants for their own buildings.



Roche: Abbey Lodge or Custodians House (photo D Knight)

After this the Abbey lay deserted and in ruins for the next two hundred years. Meanwhile the ruins and land had been acquired by the Sandbeck Estate.



Sandbeck: View from the house to the east over the terrace to the ha-ha (photo D Knight)

## The early history of Sandbeck Park

The Estate was acquired in the late sixteenth century by the Saunderson family and by 1627 they had added the Abbey grounds to their holdings. At the same time, the first house was built by Viscount Castleton. In 1724 the Estate was inherited by Sir Thomas Lumley who later became 3<sup>rd</sup> Earl of Scarborough. It is this house and the surrounding estate that is shown in the Dickinson map of 1724. During the 18<sup>th</sup> century, there were continual changes to the house and the Estate. These included developments of the landscape including a lawn possibly for deer grazing and extensive rides through the further woods.

## The combined history of the Sandbeck Estate and the Roche Abbey Ruins

James Paine was commissioned by the 4<sup>th</sup> Earl Scarborough around 1765, to build a new house with a Palladian frontage incorporating some of the original building. Following this, the Earl went on to commission Lancelot 'Capability' Brown to carry out work on the landscape in order to enhance the setting of his new house. However there is very little documentation to be found about this venture. It is thought that he created the large lake in front of the house and perhaps the lower lake and the wide curving ha-ha.

In 1774 Brown began a further commission for the Earl to landscape Roche Abbey "with a Poet's feeling and a Painter's eye". This notion was the then current fashion for the amateur artist to travel to find the views that suggested sublime, picturesque landscapes incorporating a natural setting but with splendid atmospheres.

Brown considerably altered the ruin site by covering up much of the stone work and raising the ground over them by two metres. This project was the first that Brown embarked upon involving the creation of a picturesque setting for ancient Gothic Ruins. He created Laughton pond above the Abbey and enabled a distant view point of Laughton-en-le-Morthen Church with its fine steeple.

All aspects of the design were much commented on by visitors to the estate and ruins both before and after Brown's work. Well known travel writers such as Daniel Defoe and William Gilpin visited: the latter particularly had much to say on the subject.

## The Study Day

On a very wet morning in late April a group of YGT members met in Firbeck Village Hall, South Yorkshire to begin our study day. The room was well prepared with maps, prints and documents regarding both sites throughout their extensive history due to the research carried out by Moira Fulton, Susan Kellerman and Karen Lynch. During coffee time we were able to look at the maps and familiarise ourselves with the differing landscapes that have evolved, as well as having our own packs of documents. This was





Sandbeck: looking across the lake to the house (photo D Knight)

followed up by a short introductory talk by Moira and Susan.

We then ventured out into the rain for the short journey down into the valley where the Abbey ruins were to be found. The aim of the day was to see both sites and to trace the changes over the centuries due to both nature and man's designing that brought them to their present state. The Abbey is now in the hands of English Heritage and we had the chance to walk the ruins and explore the wider area of the landscaping.



Sandbeck: The fritillary display beside the lake (photo R Earl)

What we were seeing were the ruins set into a landscape that had been altered many times since its dissolution: first the original buildings, then the effect of neglect that was then translated by Lancelot 'Capability' Brown's designs into a fashionable picturesque site. Following this, during the 19<sup>th</sup> century, sporadic diggings began to reverse some of the landscaping revealing much more of the structure of the building. When the site was acquired by the Ministry of Works in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, more extensive work began in an attempt to reveal more of the original site to give an historical basis for public viewing.

Unfortunately the rain was very persistent and although some very intrepid people ventured the wider walk

to the lake to look for the sites of such features as the Ladies Well and the cascade, many of us remained within the Abbey grounds to examine the stone work features and reconstruct the extent of the ruins. The Inner Gate house was still a substantial building indicating its two entrances to the courts. A further feature from a later date was the small Abbey house with its gothic style windows. There did not appear to any information about the house, as to when it was built or for what purpose. It is now the entrance to the ruins and the shop. Using our plans we were able to form a picture from the ruins, of what must have been a well ordered community living out their lives amidst some beautiful buildings.

After we had dried out and had lunch, we reassembled to visit the Sandbeck Estate itself. We were met by the Earl and his archivist, Alice Rodgers, in the entrance hall. There was a short introduction and a following discussion about the layout of the park at various times over the centuries.

We were then invited to go out into the grounds and explore the areas around the lake and park. The rain meanwhile had changed to a mild drizzle and so though very wet underfoot we managed to achieve a good walk around the park. There were delightful arrays of spring flowers growing around the lake including a lovely purple and white fritillary display. The semicircular ha-ha would have provided a fine aspect view of the Brown layout.



Sandbeck: East front of Paine's mansion (photo D Knight)

The house itself stands high within the parkland. The "New House" was built of the local stone from the quarry and at the time appeared to "exceed that of Portland stone in its whiteness". It is now mellowed into a light grey although perhaps in a good sunlight it may still stand out. The ground falls away to the lake and the surrounding

woodlands. The 1772 Jeffrey's map that we had to hand indicates the Brown designs for plantings and the relationship between the main estate and the abbey grounds and also how a view through the plantings could be arranged to see the church spire in the distance. This view is no longer in sight because of the current tree growth.



The group, despite the rain manfully tracing the plantings on the Estate despite the weather (photo R Earl)

There was some new hedge planting which followed an avenue rise to the burial ground. We followed this up to a higher hedged area expecting an animal burial ground only to find ourselves in the entombed company of past members of the Scarborough family. I was intrigued by the thought that here was an estate that actually had an ancient ruin within its bounds ready and waiting to be merged into a designed landscape. This is in comparison with all the other estates who went to such great lengths and expense to build follies, temples, grottos and towers in order to create the spirit of the place.

Despite the weather we all felt that we had enjoyed a worthwhile day and I for one will certainly find the time on a future journey through South Yorkshire to return to the Abbey and investigate the landscape in greater depth than was possible on the day.

On a personal note I was delighted to have the opportunity to revisit the Abbey again. I grew up in the immediate area and spent many happy hours there with friends picnicking, playing hide and seek and catching minnows up and down the water courses. Another form of pleasure ground in fact!

*Rosalind Earl*

Note from Editor: we have included some photos courtesy of Dick Knight (taken in better weather conditions!) to illustrate Rosalind's report.

# Studley Royal Study Day

3<sup>rd</sup> May

After an introduction by Val Hepworth, the Study Day got underway in the Visitor Centre auditorium with a rapid recital of the history of the estate by Mark Newman, Archaeological Consultant for Yorkshire & North East Region of the National Trust. George Aislabie first acquired the estate by marriage into the Mallory family in 1663 and was responsible for the initial works around the Deer Park before his death in 1675. John Aislabie, the third son of George, took over the estate in 1693 and started work on the water gardens in 1718 before becoming embroiled in the South Sea Bubble Scandal. This resulted in a large fine, which was rapidly paid off and by 1723, work had recommenced but in 1725, as a portent of things to come, floods destroyed the Lake and Cascade. By 1730 the work by John Aislabie was complete but additional land was acquired including the site of the Quebec. John died in 1742 and was succeeded by his son William who spent from 1742 to 1748 creating the Chinese Garden which has subsequently been almost completely obliterated. In 1768 he acquired the Abbey site from the Messenger family and in 1781 he connected all his interests together, particularly Hackfall. The archaeological interest in the site started from John Aislabie's time when

people were curious as to how the Monastic system of just over a hundred years previously had worked. John had antiquarian interests but it was William who started proper work on the Abbey by removing bracken and clearing rubble before carrying out limited excavations mainly to recover artifacts. The first modern style excavation was carried out by John Richard Walbran, a local wine merchant in the 1830s and 1840s, when Earl de Grey was the owner.

Mark then covered the history of the visitor to Studley, starting with the well-heeled visitor with an interest in antiquarian matters. It started to become more egalitarian with the development of Harrogate as a health spa and Studley as a day trip to escape the rigours of some of the treatments practiced there at the time. The arrival of the Leeds & Thirsk Railway with its station at Ripon in 1848 led to a vastly increased number of visitors from excursion trains which in turn declined when the move to car travel started.

Finally Mark went through his own involvement at Studley since 1988, beginning with the basics of a survey of the whole property, archaeological excavations, public consultations and then the work on the Quebec. The latter's connection and history does not appear to be very clear but was

first mentioned in 1768. In 1801 a bronze cannon was fired and in 1900 there were large scale festivities taking place. In 2011 investigations started in a very public manner with period re-enactors and full engagement with all age groups. He summed up at the end of his session with the various problems of flooding, silt deposits etc. and the various options the Trust was considering at present.



Site of extensive silt dumping near the Reservoir (photo J Larder)

Michael Ridsdale took to the podium next. He is Head of Landscape at Studley and is another long serving member of the team, arriving in 1985. He explored the problems of the Quebec site due to the short catchment of the Skell, the poor hydrological design of the water features of the garden which leads to regularly flooding and a constant problem with silt accumulating particularly in the Reservoir, which has subsequently been dumped indiscriminately over the estate. He illustrated the problems with a series of graphic slides showing the River Skell flowing through the Abbey Ruins.

The final session was taken by Dr. Patrick Eyres, director of the New Arcadian Press who went through the imagery of such things as the Neptune statue as set out by such luminaries as Addison, Betty Langley and Stephen Switzer. The statue started by commemorating the Protestant Succession or it could have been code for the return of 'the king across the sea' but eventually was a celebration of John Aislabie's, no doubt lucrative, connection to the Navy and generally to British Naval Supremacy. Patrick then moved on to Castle Howard, Wentworth Castle and Norton Conyers which all have statues in honour of the Peace of Utrecht after the Seven Years War, John Churchill the



West front of the Abbey & AGT/YGT Study Group (photo J Larder)



successful general or to the great increase in trade that resulted from the territorial gains of this peace.

Commemorating the defeat of the 1745 rebellion and Rockingham's part in rallying Yorkshire troops, there is Hooper Stand and Rockingham Wood which was laid in the shape of a military encampment. The tower at Richmond was originally connected to the last battle a King took part in at Dettingen but renamed in honour of Culloden. There was also several 'Heights of Abraham' as well as the Cook Monument near



The Quebec (photo J Larder)

Roseberry Topping, the monument at Stoodley Pike, the Waterloo Lake at Roundhay Park and coming up to date the Naval Battle at Peasholme Park, all celebrating naval and military success.

However probably the oddest example shown was Keppel's Column, a celebration of the acquittal of Admiral Keppel and Rockingham's opposition to the American War.

After lunch there was a guided tour round the Garden by Mark & Michael and a firsthand view of the problems in the Quebec area. Unfortunately the weather didn't live up to the standard of the morning's speakers but I think we all left better informed about Studley

and more appreciative of the difficult decisions which will have to be dealt with in the future.

John Larder

## Sheffield Botanical Gardens (SBG) and Whinfell Quarry Garden - A Double Whammy!

The pleasure of the YGT visits that you get a new fresh perspective on a designed historic landscape – but even better when you have two visits back-to-back giving contrast and variance to the experience. So it was when we visited Sheffield Botanical Gardens (SBG) and Whinfell Quarry Garden, both Victorian gems but with very different audiences requiring different management and with restorations at different stages yet had links and only a couple of miles apart.

In welcome sunshine we were greeted by Ian Turner, the 13<sup>th</sup> Curator of SBG, and Deputy Director for Sheffield Parks and so also an advisor for Whinfell Quarry Garden! We met also Alison Hunter, a long established and knowledgeable Friend of SBG and the author whose name appears on the excellent guidebook for SBG, which the YGT sponsored alongside the Friends and the SBG Trust. She is one of a group of around 40 invaluable volunteers who work SBG every Wednesday from 10 to midday.

The guide is titled 'People, Plants and Pavilions', which is the way in which we were shown around the grounds. Ian gave us an introduction to the history from the gardens inception in



Ian Turner discussing the Pavilion restoration at Sheffield Botanic Garden (photo J Howard)

1833-1836 as a private subscribers garden designed by the first Curator Robert Marnock, through it being taken on by Sheffield Town Trust as the park declined in the face of other free public parks being developed. From the 1890s there was free entry to SBG and a renewed maintenance programme (it's not only the 1990s that recognised the need to look after our

public spaces!). World War II inevitably brought problems of manpower and SBG was described as being a 'starved condition'. The decline was marked by the City Corporation and Sheffield City Council taking on the maintenance from the 1950s. The listing of the Pavilions, Gatehouse Lodge and South Lodge gave formal recognition to the historic importance of SBG and the need to protect any degradation. Restoration was carried out on the Rose Garden in the formal Italianate style, seed distribution was initiated and work began on restoring the pavilions. With the help of 17 gardeners and alongside apprentices, the woodland garden was redesigned. Its heyday was reached around the 1970s with National Collections of Weigela and Diervillia which are still part of the SBG collection. The next decline came in the wake of recession and calls on the Council budget with rising numbers of unemployed in the 1980s. It took the efforts of a partnership of Town Trust, City Council Friends and Sheffield University in 1996 to take the bull by the horns and go to the HLF for the £5 million required for full restoration. The long haul to raise the £1.2 million match funding began, which cost £400,000 for volunteer labour!



Plants in the Pavilion (photo J Howard)

Restoration was in three phases, beginning with the perimeter buildings including the Pavilions with 18,000 handmade panes of glass in its roof, then the Archway entrance which cost £3million alone! The Pavilion was opened by HRH Prince Charles in 2003. The 19 acres of garden was the third phase requiring replanting and overhaul taking up to 2005. The Collection had become infected with honey fungus so were propagated and replanted along with a new collection of *Sarcococca* in the East lawn.

We moved through the Pavilions, the planting designed by Edinburgh Botanic gardens along themed planting relating to the country of origin. We went from Asia, Himalayas, Mediterranean, Australia, New Zealand, Africa, South America and Cacti in the desert!

Ian took us into the gardens, where we passed the Marnock Rose Garden restored again in the gardenesque style with half a mile of lawn edging! There was no plant record to follow so it has been designed with oldest cultivars at the centre moving outwards with the more modern roses. The adjacent Himalayan Rock Garden is maintained by volunteers, with organised trip to collect seed from the Himalayas! No visit to SBG is complete without a trip to the discreet Bear Pit – no longer neglected and full to the top with leaves, but still without a live bear!

We walked through the woodland where Ian explained that the planting strategy allowed 10 trees to be planted each year which balances the number lost every year, so avoiding overcrowding and the trees losing their place in the park. Some trees are not in the most appropriate sites but they remain due to their significance or longevity – such as *Umbellularia californica*, the ‘Headache Tree’, a relative to the California Bay Laurel, in an area not reflecting Asia.



Himalayan poppy (photo J Howard)

The Evolution Garden was part of the restoration plan, showing the evolution of plants from 2 million years ago to the present day, using the visible fossilised remains of a tree at its centre. The trail through time is not the most successful area, somewhat lacking in inspiration for the visitor, so further work is being put in with sign boards and pathways. Literally, a constantly evolving garden!

Unfortunately we ran out of time at this



The Bear Pit - we all survived!  
(photo J Howard)

point as Ian had to go. We had to lunch and get to Whinfell – with lots of the garden yet to explore. I will definitely return to complete my SBG exploration and I recommend if you did not come on our visit to do so on your own. A far more detailed guide and exploration is easily available and the website [www.sbg.org.uk](http://www.sbg.org.uk) is an excellent start to your trip. There is so much to see and enjoy. It is testament to the dedication of the volunteers and staff that from the decline there can be another renewed life giving pleasure to the next generation. Let's hope it weathers this recession and gets through inevitable economic constraints. A brief note to say we had a smashing lunch in SBG café – another note for the next visit.

Less than five minutes by car from SBG is **Whinfell Quarry Garden**.

We go now from a very public space to somewhere far more discreet and intimate. We met up at the entrance with some of the Friends of Whinfell Quarry Garden who are no less enthusiastic about their restoration project than those at SBG. The Friends were formed in 2001 in order to restore this Grade II Victorian garden developed by Samuel Doncaster in 1895 from a former flagstone quarry. It provided him with a private arboretum and plantscape, which in spite of change of ownership and being open to the public since 1968, has remained if neglected.

All restorations require not only dedication and enthusiasm, but funds. In 2007 the HLF gave the Friends a grant which allowed vistas to be opened up and new tree planting. Many Lawson cypresses had to be felled replaced by new tree planting. The magnificent weeping beech has had its crown restored. Pathways have been made and fencing protects the visitor along the sloping areas. All this in a very short time with 30-40 volunteers and students from the University of Sheffield.

The water cascade, the design of which is dedicated to Clarence Elliott in the leaflet, was framed by aubretia and water taken from the domestic supply. This has to be resolved. The established stonework is well entrenched and would prove destructive



to lift which is need to get the water flowing ... and so the dilemmas facing restoration go on and yet fail to daunt the enthusiasm!

The welcome shade on this hot afternoon and new seating allowed the canopy to be fully appreciated. The sunlight was playing sharp shadows across the magnificent trunks of the two giant Californian Redwoods. It gave us the opportunity to talk to the volunteers, and members of the Doncaster family who had made a special trip to the garden to lend support to the volunteers and Sheffield Parks advisors who wanted to give support also. Perhaps our visit contributed and encouraged this group and put the need to recognise the 'heritage' involved in such restoration, which can get lost in the enthusiasm to clear and replant.

It always leaves me full of admiration for such concerted tireless efforts to make a public space beautiful again. This and SBG make you realise the

fragility of our public spaces, and how easily they can fall into dereliction but on an optimistic note at this time of austerity, while there are Friends the life flows through these green oases.

*Jenni Howard*



Friends of Whinfell Quarry Garden  
(photo J Howard)



Whinfell Quarry Garden (photo J Howard)

## Visit to Pannett Park, Whitby

6<sup>th</sup> June 2012



Members of YGT outside the entrance of Pannett Art Gallery and Whitby Museum with Chris, Linda and Gill our guides (photo C Routledge)

When one thinks of Whitby it is usually the Abbey that comes to mind first, then perhaps Dracula or even the smoked kippers. However after the visit to Pannett Park to hear of its history and see the recent renovations and additions, this public park built on the hillside above the town centre

will bring new meaning to the group of YGT members who attended the study day.

We were fortunate to have Anne Dennier, author of 'A lasting legacy, The Story of Whitby's Pannett Park' (published by Whitby Literary and Philosophical Society, 2009), explain

how the park came into being despite the high costs and political issues, associated with public parks.

### Park Beginnings

The idea for the park was proposed as far back as 1837, when Whitby was emerging as a place people came to take the sea air. Although George Hudson brought the railway into Whitby, started developing the West Cliffe estate and built a road from the harbour to the cliff top to encourage visitors, there was still no sign of a park. Land for a park cost money and even more was needed to build and maintain one.

Hope was again raised in 1887 when part of the Chubb Hill estate belonging to Archdeacon Henry Walker Yeoman, was negotiated by the Council for a new carriage way up to West Cliffe. Sadly, the illusion of creating a much needed park next to the road was abandoned due to more pressing demands in the town and even the road itself took another 10 years to be built.

One man though, Robert Elliot Pannett, whose three objectives in life were to improve Whitby for users, encourage the arts and support the Methodist church, kept the aspiration of green





Looking down on the Jurassic Garden (photo C Routledge)

space for the town alive by finally buying the whole Chubb Hill Estate, and as well as the Spa Well House, in 1902. However, he was unable to persuade the Council to take it as a gift to complete his dream. Schemes were discussed, proposals argued and then Alderman Pannett, at the age of 86 years, died.

He did, however, bequeath the former orchard and nurseries to the people of Whitby for the creation of a park and construction of an art gallery/museum to display his collections of books and works of art. Although four trustees were appointed at the time, it was not until 1<sup>st</sup> August 1928 that the long awaited Pannett Park and Art Gallery was opened to the public.



Towards the lily pond and new shelter (photo C Routledge)



Planting is nearly finished on the floral clock (photo C Routledge)

### The Park Today

Three small groups led by Gill Wood and Linda Wilkins, members of The Friends of Pannett Park and Chris Roe, Parks Officer in charge of the park, were then shown original features and the results of a restoration grant from 'Parks for People' Initiative and work of the Friends group.



'We Will Remember Them' is inscribed on stone seating looking at this view (photo C Routledge)

Rockeries are an ideal design solution to any sloping site and these formed the backbone of the original design together with pathways cross the terrain which is mainly south facing. The Jurassic Garden has been developed from one such outcrop and fossils in the footpath link to the museums collection. The planting has been given a tropical feel and there is even a replica of a Ghanial crocodile.

The lily pond and original shelter were commissioned by the family of Captain Thomas Kirby and after a recent renovation, is a firm favourite with visitors. The shelter is open on all sides and planting complement the remaining rockery area.

Since the first floral clock was installed in Edinburgh in 1903, it has been the unshakeable feature of commemoration in public parks up to the 1980's when financial/organisational changes led to their abandonment. Pannett Park was no exception and built their clock to celebrate the coronation of the Queen in 1953, which unfortunately became derelict in 1979. However, due to the Heritage Lottery Funding, this has been restored in time to remember the Diamond Jubilee 60 years later. We were lucky to catch the Friends group and local authority workers continuing the tradition and putting the finishing touches to the new clock in the shape of a crown, cleverly using box to create the outline and give a more contemporary feel.

The clock is not the only tribute to royalty, there is the Jubilee Gate commemorating twenty five years on the throne for George V at the entrance and a Commemorative Garden, with views towards the abbey remember the fallen war heroes of the town.

Finally we were taken to the newest



One half of the Jubilee Gate (photo C Routledge)



addition to the park, the South Seas Garden, built in an annex to the main part but no less important, as this garden reflects on the link between Captain Cook and this part of the world. Here we found Maori artwork with benches and a carved wooden statue in a natural setting.

The weather held out as we went back for lunch, which was followed by a discussion on the management of the park and the varied activities of the Friends group, which have to be congratulated on their enthusiasm and results.



Part of the South Seas Garden (photo C Routledge)

The day ended with a privileged look at Loudon's *Encyclopedia of Plants* (1892), *The Gardeners Dictionary of*

*Cultivating and Improving Kitchen, Fruit and Flower Garden and Vineyard* from 1762 and another old illustrated garden book from 1733, displayed in the Literary and Philosophical Society Library.

For a more in depth history of the park, the book by Anne Dennier is recommended but nothing beats a visit to this Green Flag park to make your own impression and take in the sea air.

Christine Routledge

## CONSERVATION AND PLANNING: Celebration and Legacy

There is much to celebrate in this the year of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and of course the London Olympics. Her Majesty's delighted smile as she received the Queen's Vase from the Duke of Edinburgh at the Royal Ascot meeting said it all. The three-year-old filly Estimate provided her with her twenty first win at the meeting but only her second since 1999; a very well deserved victory for our sovereign whose love of the countryside, in its many facets, is well known.

I was somewhat amazed but also delighted that Danny Boyle's vision of our 'green and pleasant land', complete with village cricket team, 12 horses, 10 chickens and 70 sheep will be the image broadcast to the world at the Opening Ceremony of the Olympics. In a way this is something of an irony from a land that was the cradle of the Industrial Revolution and has managed to spoil some wonderful countryside and coast as well as good urban areas with development but we should look positively on our achievements and we have had many successes. The founders of the National Trust whose foresight more than a century ago has ensured so many places that we all love have survived; the voluntary amenity bodies who rolled up their sleeves after the First World War; the post-war push to conserve historic buildings and tracts of countryside such as our National

Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and more recently the further development of voluntary groups actively fighting for our heritage, wildlife and much loved places. So I am excited to see what the Olympic Opening Ceremony has to offer the world – will the chickens fly?

The more permanent planting in the Olympic Park in east London was finished last winter after a two-year marathon. The 100ha (247 acres) of mainly derelict land has been transformed into gardens, wetlands, meadows and parkland. Some 4,000 semi-mature trees, more than 300,000 wetland plants and 15,000 sq m (161,500 sq ft) of turf have been planted. The choice of plants, planting density and planting technique for all four sections was researched and trialed by professors James Hitchmough and Nigel Dunnett of the University of Sheffield. LDA Design, Hargreaves Associates and Chelsea gold-medal-winner Sarah Price also brought their skills to the scheme. Sarah was chosen to fulfill the brief that a young, London-based designer should be involved. 'The Great British Garden' designed by Hannah Clegg and Rachel Read forms a gated garden next to the stadium. Later this year, when the Olympics have ended, the great concourses and temporary buildings will be removed and an additional 45

ha (111 acres) will be established by a design team including Piet Oudolf. You will remember that he has designed the walled garden at Scampston and has worked on the High Line Park in New York.

Will the Olympic Park be the beginning of a new future for public parks: a lasting legacy? The first public park, as opposed to public arboretum or botanical garden was Birkenhead Park, Liverpool in 1843 designed by Joseph Paxton. City and town fathers and benefactors soon realised the great benefits of these lungs for the people, and a great swathe of parks were laid out during the Victorian era. These were beautifully planned but somewhat labour intensive, when labour was cheap and easy to come by. However as we know, by the mid to late 20<sup>th</sup> Century, many were in serious decline, a trend fortunately reversed in many public parks by Heritage Lottery Funding (HLF) begun twenty years ago. Now the current recession is having an impact, so I hope that the Olympic Park does not go the same way. Andrew Harland of LDA, one of the three lead landscape architects behind the Olympic Park, says that the park "...responds to the mood of our time." With climatic change and the economic climate, there is a definite air of vulnerability about," he says. "So, the park design is a more organic look, with plants and mixes that can survive change and need less replacement and tending." It will be fascinating to see what happens in the future.



Aerial view of Cliffe Castle in 1954 before the lowering of the main tower and removal of the third storey and all other towers.

(© Bradford Museums and Galleries)

The future of Yorkshire’s parks, gardens and designed landscapes is important for us all in the Yorkshire Gardens Trust and the conservation sub-committee has been doing its bit towards that end.

In the last newsletter I wrote of our concerns about the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). The final NPPF was published at the end of March in which Planning Minister, Greg Clarke promised protection for “what we hold dear in our matchless countryside and in the fabric of our history.” The NPPF is well drafted and whilst not providing all the answers does define what is genuinely sustainable development, and in terms of the detailed heritage policies does thankfully offer little change from Planning Policy Statement 5 (PPS5). The objective is to conserve heritage assets for the quality of life that they bring to this and future generations. However this may conflict with other objectives such as renewable energy provision through wind turbines. What is also challenging is the requirement to seek progress in all aspects of sustainability. English Heritage has

produced an online narrated guide to the NPPF and developments can be followed @EHLegalDirector on Twitter.

You may have read that the National Trust, English Heritage and East Northamptonshire Council have launched a joint legal challenge against planning permission for a wind farm that would be built within one mile of a Grade I listed building and registered park and garden. The proposal would see four 126.5m wind turbines built within the setting of the Lyveden New Bield site – a place described by the Planning Inspector who granted approval for the plans as “probably the finest example of an Elizabethan garden [with a] cultural value of national if not international significance”. What an irony - after planning permission was initially refused by the local Council, the development was given consent on appeal in March 2012. The three organisations started legal proceedings on 23 April under section 288 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. Fiona Reynolds, Director-General of the National Trust, said, “It is because

of the threat this decision poses to the setting of all our valued historic sites that we, along with English Heritage and the local Council, have taken the significant step of making an appeal to the Administrative Court.” Simon Thurley, Chief Executive of English Heritage, said, “This decision is highly unusual and must not be allowed to become the benchmark for future wind-energy developments.”

Just as this was happening, we heard **that the wind turbines at Chelker/ Bolton Abbey (see Newsletter 30) had been refused on appeal.** Anne’s research alongside that of Patrick Eyres provided a good deal of the ammunition for English Heritage’s response and we followed this with a strongly worded letter. However we also heard of another planning application for three wind turbines at Brightenber Hill, Gargrave which would impact on the north front of Gledstone Hall. This is a reworking of an application refused in 2009. We have written to object. Another Lutyens house with a Jekyll garden where we commented on plans, Heathcote at Ilkley, was for sale in the



spring and Karen Lynch noted that in May planning permission was granted to return Heathcote to use as a single dwelling. This could be very beneficial for Heathcote and we are extremely pleased this approval is conditional on, “the removal of the tarmac car park on the east side of the building and its restoration as part of the gardens”. This, together with a further condition requiring the approval of a detailed management and maintenance plan for the grounds, have been imposed by Bradford MDC to conserve and enhance the setting of Heathcote whose original garden was of such outstanding quality.

Also in West Yorkshire we have written regarding another application at St Ives, Bingley for the conversion of the former dog kennels to a dwelling where we strongly recommend that alternative proposals are put forward which are sympathetic with the historic setting and fabric. We have also objected to four of Bradford’s SHLAA (sites for future housing), where they would seriously impact on Whinburn Hall and Milner Field. The latter was built between 1871 and 1874 for Titus Salt Jnr, and although nearly a mile distant from Saltaire, its elevated position made it very visible. Milner Field has been demolished, but the park designed by Robert Marnock retains some of its 19<sup>th</sup> century appearance and is of course part of the setting of the World Heritage Site. Currently Bradford MDC is working on a Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) bid for Cliffe Castle Park in Keighley. Cliffe Castle is an important house originally built for lawyer Christopher Netherwood by architect George Webster of Kendal in the 1830’s, and bought about ten years later by the Butterfield family. They were worsted manufacturers and merchants and Henry Isaac Butterfield rebuilt the house in massive Elizabethan style with

towers, French interiors and two winter gardens. Sadly the house has been mutilated and the park design partially compromised. Peter and Anne have been encouraging Bradford MDC to give more consideration to improving the relationship between the mansion (now museum) and its surroundings in the plans to be put to the HLF. There is public consultation event on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> July when the revised proposals will be on display. Bradford plans to submit the Stage 2 HLF bid at the end of August.



Henry Isaac Butterfield (seated) at Cliffe Castle c. 1885-90  
(Courtesy: Cliffe Castle Museum Archive)

In North Yorkshire Peter has been active in the planning applications submitted for York House and the Talbot Hotel at Malton. York House, The Talbot, and their gardens and grounds, have a long and interesting history. In 1730 the gardens of York House were large and connected with a high status residence. The history of the house goes back to at least the late Middle Ages. Additionally Malton Spa was in the fields to the west of The Talbot and York House property; in a letter from Samuel Copperthwaite to Earl Fitzwilliam, dated 4 June 1812, the progress of the Spa building is discussed. We are pleased that English Heritage has been asked to consider amending the listing and also to consider putting the garden on the EH Register. We hope that the rejuvenated hotel will be successful but we feel that changes must respect the historic fabric and character of the gardens and buildings.

The parkland at Allerton Park near York was laid out during the eighteenth century and described by John Bigland in 1812, as ‘charmingly picturesque, presenting a variety of hills, dales and groves, delightfully interspersed’. For a short time in the 1780’s the estate was owned by Prince Frederick, Duke of York. We examined the documents submitted in support of the proposal for a Waste Recovery Plant, including the Environmental Impact Assessment, and had considerable concern that

the proposed site for the Plant, identified following a detailed options appraisal, is located in such close proximity to a nationally important designated landscape. Whilst the site lies to the north of and outside the Park, it is close to the boundary and very much within the setting of the Park and a number of associated listed buildings including the Grade 1 House itself which is the focal

point of the Park layout. Although we welcomed the preparation by The Landscape Agency of a detailed study of the history and evolution and key significances of the Park, as a baseline for the subsequent evaluation and assessment of impacts, we objected to the application as proposed due to the absence of an effective mitigation strategy. We are attending the site meeting at the end of June.

Last year the conservation sub-committee was invited by the residents of Wiganthorpe to help them better understand their historic site and to give advice. As a result of the visit Linda, who in addition to helping the YGT, is an archaeologist with North Yorkshire County Council, compiled a report of historic information and analysis for the residents. This has been very well received and our thanks go to Linda for all her work. Additionally Linda, with help from Malcolm and Peter, has put

together advisory notes on management plans, *Caring for Designed or Ornamental Landscapes of Heritage Value*. These will be available on the YGT website after our meeting in July.

Since the Trust was established our skills in giving expert advice is, we think, a bed-rock for our organisation and we are happy to help where we can. We value our links with the National Trust at the Fountains Abbey and Studley Royal World Heritage

Site, where in May, David Rhodes was our representative at the Stakeholder meeting and Peter attended on behalf of the International Committee on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS). He also attends the Steering Group for the World Heritage Site.

Our expert advice is needed more than ever now that the Garden History Society doesn't have the funding for conservation that it previously received from English Heritage. Despite being

the statutory consultee for planning matters affecting historic parks and gardens it has little money for the role; a concerning development.

So here we are: casting an eye back through history but thinking about the way forward, we hope that our efforts will add to a good legacy for those who follow us. Just keeping fingers crossed!

*Val Hepworth*

## Small Grants Scheme and the Family Trust Funding



The tree planting at Helredale Triangle, Whitby (photo I Hepworth)

We have now distributed the remainder of the £3,000 from the family trust in Oxfordshire. The last tranche of money (£535) we have given to Belle View School, Bradford, for trees, stakes and guards to develop their managed outdoor classroom in the historic woodland behind the school. This woodland has a public footpath running through it from which all the new trees are visible. The planting has been carried out in association with the Bradford Environmental Action Trust (BEAT). Belle View School is a larger than average-sized girls school with students from urban areas of well above average social and economic disadvantage.

Overall we have spent quite a lot of time allocating the fund and have tried to cover different parts of Yorkshire and different needs and age groups. The other groups that have benefited are: The Friends of Abbeyfield, Esk - £150; Psychological Therapies – allotments - in Hull - £560; Brunswick Organic Garden, York - £1,055 and The Helredale Triangle, Whitby – £700 (see Newsletter Summer 2011). Penelope and I were delighted to be invited to the tree planting at The Helredale Triangle on the 8<sup>th</sup> March where we were joined by YGT local member Anne Dennier who does so much in the Whitby area. A great group of youngsters from East Whitby Primary School helped the

local parks staff put the trees in place watched by the Mayor, Representatives of Whitby in Bloom and ourselves. See photo.

Turning to our own **Yorkshire Gardens Trust Small Grants Scheme**, as you will know, sometimes the projects to which we allocate funding take longer to come to fruition that any of us anticipate. You will remember this was the case with our grant to York Gate garden at Leeds, and it has been somewhat similar with the **Nelson Gate at Duncombe Park** which was a recipient from our 2009-10 year. The Nelson Gate alongside the A170 road near Helmsley, has been a painstaking and costly restoration only completed in May, but it is a triumph for everyone involved and a very visible statement of good craftsmanship securing the future



Barry Hearsey receiving a gift from Jake Duncombe before cutting the ribbon at the Nelson Gate, Duncombe Park (photo V Hepworth)



of our heritage. Peter, Penelope and I joined Jake and Raffaella Duncombe with Giles Proctor of English Heritage, Barry Hearsey and Beth Davies of the North York Moors National Park Authority, architect Peter Pace, Ebor Stone stonemasons and representatives from the Country House Foundation and the War Memorials Trust for the ribbon cutting at midday on May 22<sup>nd</sup>. The work is a great credit to the estate and everyone involved. See photo.

From the 2010-11 scheme year we have now given grants to **Beaumont Park, Huddersfield**, £500; **Cannon Hall, Barnsley**, £130 and very recently £430 to the **Derwent Riverside Project at Malton**. Trish Leach of the latter project writes that they really appreciate the continuing support of the Trust for the Castle Garden and are getting some more volunteers and more groups using the garden including Brownies and Rainbows. Our grant, for which Scheduled Monument Consent had been obtained, was for some tree felling and replanting and maintenance works to veteran trees.

We have currently (2011-12) agreed to support projects at Guisborough, Halifax, Harrogate, Saltaire, Todmorden and York. In September



Early view of the Garden of Remembrance, Todmorden



Present view of the Garden of Remembrance, Todmorden (photo P Clarke)



Shaw Park; Jenni Howard with Jason Parker, chairman of Shaw Park Restoration Group (photo A Tupholme)

2010 some of you will have enjoyed a visit to the Gisborough Priory Gardens which are run by volunteers and local residents. We have offered a grant of up to £350 for fruit tree restoration, taking and grafting cuttings from the old trees. Shaw Park, Elland, Halifax also has an active Friends group who approached us for help. Shaw Park has much historical significance remaining with its follies and views and mini parkland, footpaths and tree clumps across the valley. We suggested that specialist historical research should be a first step in order to underpin the park's future and support the possibility of its designation as a conservation area and as a park listed by English Heritage. We have offered a grant of £500 for historical research and the possibility of another £500 as match funding towards

a *Your Heritage* (HLF) grant for ground and plant surveys to supplement the council's recent tree survey. In Harrogate, the Friends of the Valley Gardens, have been active for a number of years and have applied for help with the planting at the Old Magnesia Well Pump House. We have agreed to give a grant of £1,000 towards the supply of long lived structure planting of trees and shrubs related to the history and context of this area.

The **Victoria Hall Gardens at Saltaire**, front the Victoria Hall built by Sir Titus Salt in 1869. The application was submitted by Shipley College who use the site and who would like to incorporate the renovation of the gardens in the spirit of the 19<sup>th</sup> century design with horticultural training for their students. As part of their course

the students will propagate the box and other plants and will use the renovation to learn topiary techniques. We have offered £500 for the project.

In Todmorden the Civic Society are engaged with raising funds to restore the town's **Garden of Remembrance in Centre Vale Park**. The garden opened in 1921 and one of Britain's prominent sculptors, Gilbert Bayes (1872-1953) whose parents originally came from Todmorden, produced a group of figures for the First World War Memorial. We have agreed to give Todmorden Civic Society a grant of £1,000 towards the repair and re-pointing of the memorial wall supporting the name tablets of the fallen. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century Centre Vale Park was part of the Centre Vale estate. After conveyance to Todmorden Corporation in 1910, the late Georgian kitchen garden became the public park's rose garden and this was the chosen site for the War Memorial. It

is hoped that the restoration work can be completed by 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2014; the eve of when Britain declared war on Germany.

Finally we have agreed to give £1,000 to the Friends of **West Bank Park, York** for the renovation of the **rose garden**. West Bank Park is significant in Yorkshire's horticultural history as the site of the Backhouse nursery and makes a wonderful contribution to the historic green spaces of York. This is another park where we have had a lovely Trust visit and where we feel that the Friends group would value our support and advice alongside that of York City Council's horticultural officers. Penelope has been involved with West Bank Park and the Friends for some time and Pickering nurseryman, Ian Roger has also offered to help. West Bank Park, like many others, would benefit we think from an overall conservation and management plan. Such a plan would help all those

involved with a park understand the history and evolution of the park, what is significant, and identify the best way forward for the future. To help groups think about management plans we have put together an advisory note, *Caring for Designed or Ornamental Landscapes of Heritage Value*. This will be available on our website.

The forms for the new **Small Grant Scheme, 2012-13** will also be available on our website from the beginning of August. Again we have allocated £6,000 and hope for some good applications; do please spread the word. The closing date is 30<sup>th</sup> November 2012.

*Val Hepworth*

## 'A most agreeable valley'

### The development of the landscape at Bretton Hall, 1720 - 2012

Research and Recording Study Day at Yorkshire Sculpture Park, nr Wakefield, West Yorkshire WF4 4LG

The Association of Gardens Trusts, Yorkshire Gardens Trust and the Yorkshire Sculpture Park, in association with the Garden History Society

**Friday 21 September 2012, 9.45am to 4.30pm**

Spend a day in 'a most agreeable valley', in the most agreeable company of experts and enthusiasts from across the country at the Yorkshire Sculpture Park in September. Discover more about the history of Bretton Hall and its estate and hear how the recent restoration project (with £500,000 funding from Natural England) aims to manage and protect the historic landscape, providing a space in which artists and visitors can explore, be inspired, and enjoy both nature and art.

Morning talks will be followed by guided walks after (a most agreeable) lunch.

If you haven't yet signed up for this second Yorkshire Study Day, don't delay any longer! The Study Day at Studley in May 'sold out', and proved to be a most successful event, with participants coming from all over England. You can find out more about the day on the YGT and AGT websites: [www.gardenstrusts.org.uk](http://www.gardenstrusts.org.uk)

To book a place email the AGT [co-ordinator@agt.org.uk](mailto:co-ordinator@agt.org.uk) or phone 020 7251 2610



## Schools

We had a good response to our offer of willow packs to schools during the latest winter planting season. 16 out of 30 member schools opted to receive the packs, which contained six 40-60cm high bare-rooted Goat Willow trees, rabbit guards, mulch mats and planting guide. Packs were delivered to schools in February for immediate planting by children and teachers.

We have been preparing a list of good fruit and vegetables for growing in schools – specifically selected for harvest before or after (rather than during) the long summer holiday. The list, along with packets of early carrot



Seedlings in the greenhouse ready to be planted out  
*(photo courtesy of St Catherine's Catholic Primary School, Sheffield)*



Children and staff having good fun planting out!  
*(photo courtesy of St Catherine's Catholic Primary School, Sheffield)*



Children at St Catherine's Primary busy filling the new raised beds with topsoil  
*(photo courtesy of St Catherine's Catholic Primary School, Sheffield)*

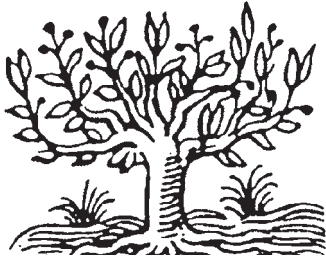
seeds were mailed to each member school in March. The list is now available on the schools-members' area of the YGT website.

In April, radish and runner bean seeds were mailed to all member schools. The radish for early (even repeat) sowing and harvesting, before the summer holidays; the beans should be ready for the children to harvest when they come back from their summer break.

As well as the regular donations to all schools, St Catherine's Catholic Primary School, Sheffield, was granted a YGT Schools Grounds Development and Gardening Club award this Spring. We are delighted to report that the £200 cash award from the Trust was match-funded by the school's PTA and as a result, the school has been busy building raised beds, raising young plants in their existing greenhouse and planting out. Thank you very much to St Catherine's for allowing us to share their gardening photos with you - children are obviously having a great time! It is really encouraging to be able to see the Trust's donations being put to such good use.

Finally, I would like to welcome Sue Lindley, a garden designer and former teacher, to the YGT Schools Development Group. Meanwhile, Lucy Porritt is having a break from some of our activities while she has her baby – we look forward to seeing you again soon!

*Nicola Harrison*



Registered Charity No. 1060697

YORKSHIRE GARDENS TRUST

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## Visit to Gledhow Valley Woods

**Sunday, 2 September at 2 p.m.**

Now part of the suburbs of north Leeds, the Woods were once part of the Gledhow estate. Originally monastic land that was taken by the Crown on the dissolution of the monasteries, it became a private estate in 1601 when it was bought by the Thwaites family. They built the Hall and developed the surrounding lands, including the erection of a bath house ('Gipton Spa') in 1671. A hundred years later, Jeremiah Dixon bought the estate and made significant improvements both to the house and the landscape. In the next two centuries, it was owned by a succession of Leeds dignitaries as the area became popular as an upmarket suburb. Despite many changes around it, large parts of the designed landscape remain including the Hall, icehouse (both privately owned) and the

## Events

- **Wednesday, 8<sup>th</sup> August, 2 p.m.** - Bustardthorpe and Bishopthorpe, York
- **Sunday, 2<sup>nd</sup> September, 2 p.m.** - Gledhow Valley Woods, Leeds (see below)
- **Friday, 21<sup>st</sup> September** - AGT study day at Bretton Park (see page 18)
- **Wednesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> October, 10.30 a.m.** - Risby Park, East Yorkshire
- **Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup> October** - Helen Lazenby Memorial Lecture, Leeds: 'The Pleasure and Pain of Research: J.M.W. Turner's exploration of Yorkshire' by Dr Patrick Eyres
- **February 2013 (date to be confirmed)** - Snowdrops at Burton Agnes Hall, East Yorkshire
- **Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2013, 11 a.m.** – Guided tour of Beverley, East Yorkshire
- **Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup> March, 2013** - YGT AGM at RHS Harlow Carr, Harrogate

bath house. We will be taken on a guided tour of the valley and parts of its adjacent Conservation Area by the local ranger and members of the Friends of Gledhow Valley and Conservation Area group, culminating in a visit to the interior of the bath house and some refreshments.

**Cost: £6 to include refreshments**



Gledhow Hall by JMW Turner, 1816