

Figure 1 – Parterre before restoration, photo Nick Lane Fox

Restoration of the Parterre Cascade at Bramham Park

Three hundred years after it was abandoned, Robert Benson's design for the cascade falling into the parterre on the garden front of the House, is being restored.

Visitors to Bramham have often been perplexed by the view into the garden from the House. On the face of it there is a classic Baroque 'patte d'oie' or goose-foot of five rides converging on the balcony outside the Gallery door. However, the cardinal central ride was rather disappointing. Since the restoration of the House before the First World War, the parterre has been filled with an Edwardian rose-garden leading to a dry pond and waterfall on the facing wall. Surrounding this was an extensive mown lawn and the hint of another dry pond above that: not at all the dramatic effect that Robert Benson intended (Figure 1).

The plan of Bramham Park, drawn by John Wood the elder for Benson in about 1728, annotates this spot with "Parterre with the Cascade, Water falls 21 feet on thirty Steps" and various contemporary descriptions exist for this feature. The following is attributed to Edward Southwell in 1724:¹

We lay at Bramham, Lord Bingleys new Stone house with a Hall of an exact Cube 30 feet high & Square richly adorn'd with stone. Corinthian pilasters & all the rooms well proportion'd & perfectly well finish'd, with different kinds of Cornishes, mouldings, carvings and Gilding.

The House in the main & Gardens front have 11 windows wth 2 Colonnades of Doric pillars. We rode wth Ld Bingley thro' his 3 noble woods, all cut out into most

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Bramham Park	1
Council Report	3
Burton Agnes - 19 Feb	4
Beverley - 3 Mar	6
AGM - 16 Mar	8
Duncombe Park - 23 April	9
HS2	11
Jervaulx Abbey - 29 April	12
Himalayan Garden - 13 May	13
Summer Picnic - 4 June	14
Significance of historic landscapes	15
Schools	16
Cons & Planning	17
Small Grants	18
Events list	20
East Riding Project	20

beautiful Stars & Avenues, but all of underwood. The Wilderness near the House was high, & full of Stars, & in the main Avenue there is a cascade wch falls 30 steps & 21 feet in Height, tho' there are to be two others, the greatest a fall of 40 feet, & both on each side of an Obelisk 26 feet high. The Cluster of Doric pillars at Entrance into the Court was very Beautiful.

In 1727 Sir John Clerk of Penicuik wrote this in his diary:²

From Wetherby turning off by the right for 3 miles we went to my Ld.

¹ 'Account of my Journey begun 6 August 1724', Yorkshire Archaeological Society Archives, MS 328.

² Diary of Sir John Clerk of Penicuik (Journey to London in 1727), Register House, Edinburgh, No.2107, Box 82

Bingley's house. This fabrick is very indifferent outwardly but is tolerably good within and well furnished. The garden and parks are worth seeing for the cascades are very pretty and the stone work admirably executed. The greatest fault here is that there are too many of these cascades. That which is seen at the back of the house is very pretty. The water falls from a receiver or pond down some 80 or a hundred steps each about 3 or 4 inches high and then seems to tumble down an artificial rock. The stones here are of an excellent kind and the lime is good both easily got. We pitched at the Black Horse where the ale is excellent. From this place we came to Ferrybridge where we din'd and at night...

So what happened to this cascade, which Southwell and Clerk both noted? Another account of a visit to Bramham in 1728, this by John Baker, a linen draper of Cornhill, might give a clue:³

1 Jul From Tadcaster went to the Seat of the Ld Bingley which is new built but a very bad house, bad architecture, bad rooms, worst furnished & very dirty, especially his Lordship's own room, the bed etc. made of Ticking & most exceeding dirty fit for his Lordship. The gardens ill laid out with small triffling [sic] cascade with little or no water, went four hours out of the way to see this confounded place. Saw Lady Hastings at a small distance and got to Womersley to dinner a little before four.

From this decidedly negative account it sounds as if the water supply was proving inadequate and it seems that the cascade was remodelled once, if not twice to make the most of the water that there was, before the whole system was abandoned sometime in the mid-18th Century. The reservoir pond (now known as the Queen's Hollow) and the site of the stepped cascade to the parterre were both grassed over.

Early 19th century pictures show the parterre as a thick shrubbery (Figure 2), before the House was rendered uninhabitable by a disastrous fire in 1828. The gardens and landscape were kept up during the 80 years before the



Figure 2 – 19th century painting of front of house and part of parterre

House was finally restored and early photographs show the parterre as a plain lawn, surrounding the central sundial. There is, however, no evidence of what the remains of the last three steps of the cascade into the parterre looked like at this stage.

Detmar Blow designed a rose-garden with teardrop-shaped yews for the parterre, when he rebuilt the House, starting in 1906. The cascade and its terminal pond remained as dry features and my great-grandmother and grandmother both grew rockery plants there. Thus it remained throughout the 20th Century, until the 2001 Landscape Conservation & Management Plan for Bramham suggested a further hydrological study to assess the viability of restoring all the water features in the designed landscape. This study by the Geography Department of Leeds University measured the water flows and losses of the whole system over a year and concluded that the three supply springs could supply enough water for one of the two sets of historic cascades using the original gravity-feed, but a recirculating pump would be needed to make both work again. It also quantified the amount of water leaking from the T-Pond and showed us that this needed fixing before any other part of the system.

Money to help with this possible restoration became available through Margaret Nieke at Natural England and to unlock this we commissioned a scoping report to cover repairs to the T-Pond and restoration of the Queen's Hollow to Parterre cascade. The T-Pond repair work was carried out over the winter 2011-12 and saw 3,300t of clay puddled to reform the base, before new turf-topped retaining walls were

constructed. It now again looks as it did when first constructed.

Even before work had started on the T-Pond we began to investigate what remained of the Queen's Hollow to Parterre Cascade and in January 2011, Durham University carried out a geophysical survey. They detected the remains of a retaining wall in the Queen's Hollow and the remains of the stone cascade across the lawn to the parterre, so, that same summer, we commissioned a dig of 4 trenches across the feature at different points. The archaeologists found elements of the remains in all of the trenches, ranging from a well-preserved lining for the reservoir with walls and a cobbled clay bottom, to a partially demolished 10'-wide cascade and later culvert.

Before the T-Pond was even finished,



Figure 3 – Excavation of the parterre, photo Nick Lane Fox

in February 2012 design work began on the Queen's Hollow to Parterre Cascade. We explored various options: doing the whole scheme as originally described, or leaving the existing cascade as it was but with flowing water and various options in between. Settling eventually on the original scheme and reserving judgement on the final remaining three step cascade until we had dismantled and examined it properly, we progressed to the next stage of uncovering the whole of the cascade in June 2012 (Figure 3). This, for the first time, showed us the whole feature and revealed at least three phases of construction between 1700 and 1740, consistent with ongoing water supply problems.

Having decided on a design, we put the project out to tender, which almost inevitably revealed that it would cost more than the funds we had available.

³ Diary of John Baker, Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies, Aylesbury, D-X1069/1/2

What quantity surveyors call ‘Value Engineering’ and what the rest of us call making savings had to be faced. We decided to delay restoration of the dismantled cascade and the Queen’s Hollow reservoir and carry out the work to the remaining 3-step cascade falling into the parterre pond. This would include the water supply, drainage and recirculation system – all of which could be used for the wider scheme. We minimised the work which would have to be undone when we can finally reconstruct the rest of the system.

Work started just after the New Year and dismantling of the existing cascade soon revealed an earlier, more formal scheme inside it (Figure 4). This, of course prompted much discussion about what should go back, however, ultimately there was not enough of it left to reconstruct and we proceeded with repair of the existing cascade, although we are replacing the undecorated parterre wall either side of the cascade with two vermiculated pilasters and four vermiculated panels. Strong evidence of these was revealed on taking the wall apart. Another design



Figure 4 – Remains of early cascade, photo Nick Lane Fox



Figure 5 – New concrete liner, photo Nick Lane Fox

change prompted by archaeological evidence on dismantling was to the dimensions of the parterre pond. The measurements for this had been taken from a geophysical survey, but when the ground was excavated, we found the original clay lining around the pond and the original pond wall under the parterre wall. The pond was longer and narrower than we had thought, but the ratio of its length to width was the same as the parterre in which it sits. Its sides also met the parterre wall at the vermiculated pilasters which we are replacing: altogether a tidy set of connections.

Construction is progressing well: the parterre wall has been backed by a massive new concrete retaining wall and the pond has a waterproof concrete liner, onto which the stone walls will be fixed (Figure 5). A new water supply pipe has been laid from the T-Pond and an overflow pipe now gives into the fire reservoir tank under the colonnade of the House. The chambers for the pumps and control gear are all in place. Project completion is planned for mid-July (Figure 6), but stonemasons work at their own pace and cannot be hurried,

nor can the electricity board, who work to their own timetable in providing the power for the pumps.

When we removed the Edwardian rose-garden from the parterre in 2009, we did so in anticipation of the cascade and pond restoration work. Now that this is nearly complete, the question of the parterre design needs answering. There is no evidence of what the original scheme looked like and I am looking for ideas for what we could put back which would be in keeping with an early 18th century landscape and complement the restored cascade. Perhaps we should run a design ideas competition.

Nick Lane Fox

Note from Editor: there is an excellent section on the Bramham Park website that gives a detailed history, many photos old and new, historic maps and the extensive restoration work being undertaken.

Go to www.bramhampark.co.uk/VISITING/GARDENS%20AND%20PARK/



Figure 6 – Project nearing completion, photo Nick Lane Fox

Not the Chairman’s letter – Building a bright future for the Trust

These are exciting times for those of us who want to look after the ‘green heritage’ of Yorkshire. Throughout the region, many of our important designed landscapes are getting a new lease of life (for example Bramham), thus encouraging greater interest from a wider audience. We know that members such as you support the YGT as you are passionate about our historic parks and gardens. The Trust already does so much but the Council feels we could do more and we have the perfect opportunity now.

In 2016 YGT will celebrate its 20th Anniversary and some of us are already involved in planning for that year, making sure as well that the Trust continues to flourish into its third decade and hopefully beyond. We are working to ensure we have healthy financial resources but people’s time is equally important. We have been fortunate that some individuals have dedicated much of their valuable time and we would like to thank the following, whose roles are changing:

Liz Simson as Chair has stepped down after three challenging years but she is staying on Council. She wants to spend more time on Research & Recording and Archives and will continue to fulfil the vital role of Company Secretary.

Val Hepworth is taking a sabbatical as Conservation Chairman, whilst still attending Council and the Conservation Committee.

Penelope Dawson-Brown has confirmed that 2013 is her final year managing Events. However she too

will attend Council and Conservation Committee and retain an involvement with Archives.

We are indebted to each of them for their devotion over our founding years and very much appreciate the fact that their knowledge, experience and wisdom as regards Yorkshire gardens (and much more) is still available for us to call on.

We still need to find a Chair to lead us and represent YGT in other forums but the Council members will in the interim fulfil this role, ably supported by Vice President Martin Page. David Rhodes has taken over as Conservation Chairman during Val's sabbatical, although she is still managing the Small Grants Scheme.

Penelope is of course still taking care of the remaining 2013 Events, but David and Dick Knight have put together ideas for Events over the years ahead, up to our 20th anniversary. Some of these (and other suggestions) have now been pulled together by Susan Kellerman into a draft programme for 2014, which is already being firmed up and, we think, looks very exciting.

Yorkshire's parks and gardens are a wonderful resource for us all and we at YGT want to be a part of passing them on in good fettle to future generations. We can do this with your skills and a little of your time, so do get in touch with any Council Member about how you could get involved even in a very small way. To do so, please email secretary@yorkshiregardenstrust.org.uk or ring 01904 347056.

As a reminder here are those responsible for each area:

Events organisation	Susan Kellerman, Dick Knight
Research & Recording	Jenni Howard
Archives	Liz Simson
Conservation	David Rhodes
Small Grants	Val Hepworth
Education/Schools	Nicola Harrison
Communications (Newsletter/Website)	Louise Wickham
Finance	David Tiptaft
Membership & Events administration	Louise Amende

YGT Council

SNOWDROPS AT BURTON AGNES



Figure 1 – Burton Agnes Hall viewed from the Walled Garden

photo Penelope Dawson-Brown

February can be an 'iffy' month when it comes to venturing out but the day we visited Burton Agnes the weather excelled. Driving over the Wolds with its sweeping landscape dusted in frost, was a treat in itself and a picture just waiting to be immortalized on a David Hockney canvas. We met in the café close to the Hall for coffee and patisseries, however in no time members were tempted outdoors to buy plants. Few could resist the fabulous array of potted *Iris reticulata* in their various hues, a tiny plant but oh so desirable! I think we all ended up buying at least two or three each!

Before we explored the woods with their wealth of snowdrops, there was ample time to wander round the Elizabethan Walled Garden recreated by Susan Cunliffe-Lister soon after

she arrived here in 1989. Then it was mostly under grass with a small vegetable garden. Today it is one of Yorkshire's most visited gardens divided into different compartments separated by paths, borders and hedges. Mrs Cunliffe-Lister's renowned and imaginative potager is where she grows a wealth of fruit and unusual vegetables, including old fashioned varieties following the traditional method of crop rotation. Seeing it in winter with its uncluttered views across to the magnificent Elizabethan Hall (Figure 1) where Mrs Cunliffe-Lister's son Simon and his family now live, gave us a different perspective of a timeless place whose beauty is found throughout the seasons.

In summer roses burgeon on bowers and fruit trees are heavy-laden. Neatly hoed rows of vegetables are guarded by scarecrows while in the glasshouses plump peaches and nectarines strive for perfection. All will be eaten, pickled or preserved for winter months following the traditions of Elizabethan husbandry. Mrs Cunliffe-Lister dries all manner of herbaceous flowers. Roses, delphiniums and peonies are amongst the choicest but such is their abundance at Burton Agnes that plenty are left in the garden to compensate. These are used to make

spectacular arrangements for the house or bunched-up to sell in the gift shop. Despite her many commitments which include her role as Lord-Lieutenant of the East Riding of Yorkshire, Mrs Cunliffe-Lister has always been a hands-on gardener spending many happy hours outdoors on hands and knees or harvesting produce.

We wandered on towards the woods, a welcome shelter belt from the bitter east winds which blow from the coast but thankfully not today. This was another area on the Burton Agnes estate which Susan reinstated. Unwanted plants and brambles needed to be eradicated and glades cleared to encourage snowdrops to flourish and multiply. And so they did, in great abundance and when she opened the gates to the public they poured in and have continued to do so ever since.

The snowdrop-walk follows a well-maintained gravel path leading the visitor through never-ending white carpets fringed with native evergreens predominately holly and Butcher's Broom. High up in the trees or peeping from behind their trunks, fun-loving sculptures surprise you: a well-fed spider (Figure 2) or hungry caterpillar makes this place an engaging nature walk for children. I particularly liked



Figure 2 – Spider sculpture in the woods,
photo Penelope Dawson-Brown

the little pig rooting amongst the snowdrops who took no notice of us as we gingerly approached thinking he might just be the genuine article!

The path ends at a large arable field over-wintered as stubble with views to the ancient 13th century church of St Martin's. Here the snowdrops had bravely conquered the margins as if, like foot soldiers, there was no stopping them. Returning along the same path but now at a slower pace, we took time to drink in the true beauty of an English wood as it stirs into life (Figure 3). *G. nivalis* predominately occurs in deciduous woodlands particularly where there is beech (*Fagus sylvatica*). This is a tree which thrives at Burton Agnes and much care has been taken to plant for the next generation.

No unusual varieties of snowdrops are found in the woods here though what species could outshine 'the common snowdrop'? Its compact habit and pearl-drop white flowers have captured our hearts and made it one of the Nation's best-loved flowers. The natural distribution of *G. nivalis* is western, central and southern Europe but it remains uncertain as to when exactly it came to Britain. It was first

mentioned in the herbals and florilegia of the late sixteenth century. Gerard (1597) includes it in his herbal as an ornamental plant but it was not until the late 18th century that botanical authors suggested it was widely naturalized or even indigenous. Could Gerard have possibly imagined that one day, as with the tulip, hybrids and cultivars from this tiny bulb would fetch a fortune? Interest in the genus *Galanthus* rapidly developed in the mid-nineteenth century when new introductions of *G. plicatus* were brought back by soldiers returning from the Crimea. Plant hunting flourished in Victorian times and soon many more species became available.

There are 20 species of snowdrops in the wild and presently some 2000 cultivars. Over the last six years galanthophilia has taken a hold of a discerning group of snowdrop-addicts (galanthophiles) who are prepared to pay crazy prices for just one bulb. Rare varieties don't always appear in bulb catalogues so collectors rely on private growers splitting up clumps and making swaps to sell on eBay. Recently Thompson and Morgan acquired the world's most expensive snowdrop *Galanthus woronowii* 'Elizabeth Harrison' for £725. This handsome variety with its golden yellow ovary and yellow petal markings arose in a Scottish garden a few years ago and has not been found anywhere else in the world.

After lunch in the café, Mrs Cunliffe-Lister welcomed us into the Hall Gallery at Burton Agnes with its fabulous original Elizabethan carvings

and plasterwork. Here she treated us to a delightful talk on how she created the New Elizabethan Garden and its intricate maze, her passion for growing fruit and vegetables and her constant determination to make Burton Agnes a welcoming place for all generations. It is not surprising that in 2005 she was given the prestigious Gardener of the Year Award.

Yorkshire Gardens Trust is hugely grateful to Mrs Cunliffe-Lister for the hospitality she so generously gave us that day and for her continued support over the years. Burton Agnes will always remain one of our most special places to visit. This February event was a poignant reminder that nature wakes early and we need to get out and experience it. Let us rejoice in the tiny snowdrop which made our day so memorable. Like the snow queen her beauty soon vanishes!



Figure 3 – YGT members enjoying the snowdrops in the woods,
photo Penelope Dawson-Brown

'A Monograph of Cultivated *Galanthus*' by Matt Bishop, Aaron Davis and John Grimshaw, first published in 2001, is a must for all snowdrop-lovers.

Penelope Dawson-Brown

Errata

In the previous Newsletter (Winter 2013, Issue No 32) in the article on the AGT/YGT Study Day at Bretton on page 13, the caption for Figure 2 is wrong. This was my fault as I did not check with Dick Knight who took the photograph. This is not a path, but an art work by Richard Long called *Red Slate Line*. My apologies to Dick and Susan Kellerman who had organised the day.

Also in the same edition in the article on Ness Hall, the caption for Figure 6 on page 6 was missing. It was 'Roses by the Thunder Box, photo Susan Beyer'.

Ed

Beverley gardens, lost and found

YGT walk, 3 March 2013

In the 18th century Beverley became one of the places to live and was a social centre for the East Yorkshire gentry. There were many grand town houses, often with equally grand gardens. Many of the houses survive but little, if anything, of the gardens. So our visit was very much concerned with visiting the sites of gardens past but also included more recent gardens and public spaces.

In Beverley the history of the grand garden dates from the 17th century and earlier, the evolution of garden styles being influenced by developments in the nearby country houses¹. In preparing the visit I was unable to find much information relating to Beverley gardens but the houses and their owners are reasonably well documented². An interesting account of the life of the 18th century gentry in Beverley can be found in the diaries of John Courtney³. With time, as elsewhere, garden styles evolved from formal and geometrical to landscaped and natural. The ground plans of the gardens as they were in the 19th century can be seen in the OS maps of the time. Today the town open space is dominated by Westwood and other pastures⁴ but there are also a small number of public gardens dotted around the town.

My report describes the visit in the sequence in which we viewed the various sites so it would be convenient for anyone interested to repeat the visit independently. We met in Saturday Market at the Market Cross, as donated by Beverley MPs Sir Michael Warton and Sir Charles Hotham in 1714. Not a garden in itself but Sir Charles was a major influence on the development of the formal garden in East Yorkshire.

Coronation Garden, 1955, North Bar Within. This is one of Beverley's few modern gardens and certainly its largest and best. There is a sensory garden developed by the Civic Society and a private burial ground survives at the western end where many famous

Beverley names of the 19th century can be seen. The original development was as a burial ground built by Henry Ellison in 1829, partly for Saint Mary's church and partly for his family and friends. At the time Henry Ellison owned a number of properties in the vicinity and lived in Saint Mary's Manor across the road.



Figure 1 – YGT members at Saint Mary's Manor, photo Penelope Dawson-Brown

Saint Mary's Manor, North Bar Within (Figure 1). As with many of Beverley's grand houses, there have been several houses and gardens on this site. A house was built in 1670 by James Moyser, one of the architects of Nostell Priory. The Moyseres were principal members of the circle of the 3rd Lord Burlington, along with Sir Charles Hotham of South Dalton and Colonel James Gee of Bishop Burton and may have exchanged gardening ideas and even gardeners. In particular Thomas Knowlton and Thomas White worked for many of the East Yorkshire gentry. In 1724 the Saint Mary's garden was described by an anonymous visitor: 'beautiful gardens which in four acres of ground contain a great variety of avenues of firs, of parterre, of statues; and also of arbours, seats and vases in trilliage work; besides two seats one of Ionic pilaster, the other of Doric pillars painted by Parmentier' (possibly James Parmentier, painter and a French resident of Hull).

Around 1794 Henry Ellison demolished most of the house and built anew. At the front of the house a garden was banked

up behind a high wall, presumably to screen the house from the busy street. The gardens were converted to a natural style. The 1852 OS map shows a park with vinery, hot beds, and conservatory with geometrical flower beds close to the house in the fashion of the time. The garden is now lost to housing development.

Bar House, North Bar Within and Without. This is another site that has had many houses or at least many facelifts. In 1656 it was probably the largest house in town when Sir Michael Warton acquired it, he being one of the richest commoners in England. A medium size garden survives behind the house and has been recorded in the first half of the 20th century in paintings (Figure 2) by both Fred and Mary Elwell who lived there for many years. The house as it is seen today is the result of remodeling by Beverley architect William Hawe in 1886. It is interesting to note that Hawe began his career as a landscape gardener.

New Walk, 1780. Beyond the brick edifice of North Bar is North Bar Without and then New Walk. New Walk was developed to be a tree



Figure 2 - *The Lily Pond, Bar House, Beverley, East Riding of Yorkshire* by Frederick William Elwell, 1914. Courtesy of East Riding of Yorkshire Council: Beverley Art Gallery

1 Neave, D. and Turnbull, D. *Landscaped Parks and Gardens of East Yorkshire*. Georgian Society for East Yorkshire, 1992
2 Hopkins, P. *The History of Beverley*. Blackthorn Press, 2003
3 Neave S. and D. *The Diary of a Yorkshire Gentleman: John Courtney of Beverley 1759-1768*. Smith Settle, 2001
4 English, B. *Beverley Pastures*. Beverley Civic Society, 2013

lined promenade by the corporation with a view to providing a suitable focus for gracious housing. This was successful, especially as a 19th century development, with everything from imposing terraces to big houses with big gardens.

Norwood House, 1770, Norwood. Our access was to the back of the house via New Walkergate. In its day Norwood House gardens would have immediately adjoined those of Saint Mary's Manor. Norwood House was another rebuilding on a site of a previous house, for Jonathon Midgely (attorney) and adjoined the Assembly Rooms of 1761. The original garden was of three acres but, following Midgely's death, the garden was much extended in 1803 by William Beverley who had married Midgely's daughter. The garden was now in the natural style with a large fish pond, island and boathouse also summer house and monument. The house became Beverley Girls High School circa 1908 and recently has been restored as offices and a restaurant. This is one place where we can gaze into the site of a former garden and still see grass and trees. Much of the garden area survives as sports fields.

Memorial garden, 1917, Hengate. Hengate was another good address in the 18th century with the Constables of Constable Burton at number 10. 19th century OS maps show garden plans behind most of the houses which adjoin the much larger garden of Saint Mary's Manor. These gardens, along with those of Norwood House and Georgian House (demolished) to the north effectively surrounded those of Saint Mary's Manor. The site of the Memorial gardens was formerly Saint Mary's House, home of Clive Wilson of the wealthy Hull shipping family. The house was destroyed by fire in 1917 and Wilson made a gift of the land to the corporation. After the war a memorial was designed by R. H. Whiteing and carved by Vincent Hill of Beverley. The hard landscaping has recently been refurbished and on a garden shed on the east side there is a copy of a painting by Fred Elwell who painted many Beverley subjects between the wars. This is one of many paintings in an Elwell trail around the town.

Lairgate House, late 17th century, Lairgate. Now a hotel, the house was remodeled circa 1780 for John Lockwood, a lawyer. Behind the house was a long narrow garden: the layout can be seen in the OS map of 1853. Lockwood was also the owner of Walkington Lodge where there was a garden designed by Adam Mickel so we can assume that he was a garden enthusiast. The Lairgate garden was lost to housing development in 1957: it may have been the last survivor of the great gardens.



Figure 3 – Lairgate Hall,
photo Penelope Dawson-Brown

Newbegin House, 1689, Newbegin. Built for Charles Warton, it was one of the first of the 'country house in town' style. In 1771 it became the home of John Courtney, well known for his diaries. The garden was on a large domestic rather than the park scale as at Saint Mary's Manor and, especially, Norwood House. At one time some additional garden was added immediately across the road and adjoining that of Lairgate House. A substantial garden area survives around the house but I don't know what it contains. Newbegin was another of Beverley's good addresses. Numbers 6-8, built in 1780 for Sir James Pennyman, who married the well-to-do Mary Warton. Number 10, from 1746, belonged to Thomas Gee of Bishop Burton. The OS map of 1853 indicates elaborate garden design for all these houses.

Woodlands. The terrace on the south side has the small front gardens which became usual practice from circa 1870 onward. There is an unusual 'nature strip' down the middle of the road.

Westwood Hall, 1854, Westwood Road. This was the house and garden of Richard Hodgson, owner of Hodgson tannery. The original large garden

has been partially lost to housing development, the remainder seems informal. The rest of Westwood Road has many small Victorian front gardens most of which make a good show in the summer. Both sides of the road have great variety of Victorian architectural styles and the whole makes a very interesting vista.

Westwood. Apparently not 'The' Westwood, this is a large area of public open space with a long history. There are Iron Age and Bronze Age barrows, evidence of medieval ploughing, an 18th century racecourse and the remains of 18th and 19th century windmills. Largely treeless since 1765 except for Burton Bushes, an SSI, and Newbegin pits. In 1835 the area was declared a pasture belt to separate the town from the encroaching arable farms. Today Westwood is much used by local residents but has no facilities beyond the occasional bench. It is jealously guarded by the locals in this primitive condition, any ideas of buildings or parking areas are vigorously opposed. In the summer months the public share this space with grazing cattle an arrangement managed by the town's 'pasture masters'. There are three other Beverley pastures, Hurn which adjoins Westwood to the north, where the racecourse is located, Figham and Swinemoor, to the east of the town.

Open spaces. Returning from Westwood toward the town centre there are a number of green spaces. First there is the intriguing 'Archery Field', the archery connection not apparent in local history. Next are some green spaces in the housing developments of the 1930s. Greyfriars Crescent encloses a large crescent shaped area of grass and trees and nearby, along The Leases, there are very wide grass verges. Both improve the outlook of the adjoining houses and add pleasant character to the suburban streets. Off Champney Road there is Fisher Square, a welcome space in the middle of a former council estate. Happily there are good examples of green space elsewhere associated with more recent housing developments.

Lairgate Hall, 1765, Admiral Walker Road (Figure 3). There had been several earlier buildings on this site. The present building was built for

Thomas Pennyman in 1765 and very extensive gardens developed. The bay windows on the west side were added to allow the long garden view to be enjoyed from the house. The OS map of 1852 does not give the impression of elaborate planting seen in the other large houses and it may be that the garden had been simplified by this time. Admiral Walker was the last of the many residents of the Hall and, following his death, much of the land was used for council housing with the road cutting through one corner of the property leaving an attractive green triangle of grass and trees.

Treasure House, 1906, Champney Road. The library from which the Treasure House has recently grown was built in 1906 with a major extension in 1928. About this time gardens were laid out to the side and rear of the building. These still exist but are looking a little tired. OS maps show extensive gardens across the road, probably in the grounds of the earlier registrar's house.

Festival of Britain Garden, 1951, Lord Robert's Road. Something of a lost corner and therefore of little benefit to the community. However nice to know where there is some sheltered seating. Another rather tired garden waiting for its summer revival in garish

municipal plantings. It may have a future as the land opposite is to be redeveloped.

Stonemasons' garden, 2010, Minster Yard North. A small space opposite the Minster North door, this is one of 39 sites on the Beverley Town Trail, Medieval Guilds and Crafts. A stone table has examples of masons marks found in the Minster.

Saint John Street. Some of the oldest houses in Beverley are here. Hidden behind these houses are a surprising number of fine private gardens and a substantial stand of trees. There was an open day featuring some of the gardens in the summer of 2013.

Hall Garth, Keldgate. Opposite the South side of the Minster, the Garth a rough field, the last remains of a vast medieval park. After church ownership it passed to Sir Michael Warton of Bar House. In living memory the remains of a walled garden survived but the nature of the garden is unknown. The remaining open space is valuable in that it opens views of the Minster in an otherwise crowded area.

Hotham House, 1721, Eastgate. We finish on an anticlimax. Nothing remains of the large house and garden designed for Sir Charles Hotham

by Colen Campbell. The house was probably the most luxurious building in Beverley but was little used and was demolished in 1758. I have found nothing which describes the garden which might have been the best and biggest in town. Sometime in the 1730s the second Sir Charles had an extensive garden laid out on his property at South Dalton. This is well documented and much of it remains as one of the best preserved 18th century Rococo gardens in the country.

Looking back we see that Beverley had at least four truly grand gardens, at Hotham House, Lairgate Hall, Norwood House and Saint Mary's Manor. In addition there were numerous smaller gardens of considerable style if not size, of which Newbegin House and Lairgate House were amongst the best. There is more to explore that is outside the area of our walk. Sadly little remains to take the place of this great gardening period, just a little undistinguished corner here and there. Today our main garden entertainment in town is in miniature with gaudy hanging baskets and municipal planting.

Jim Godfrey

AGM, RHS HARLOW CARR, HARROGATE

March 17th, 2013

After the business meeting, the Chairman Liz Simson introduced Martin Walker, YGT member and Head Gardener at York Gate, Adel, Leeds. His talk, entitled '*Plants and Planting Styles at the RHS Chelsea Flowers Shows*', drawing upon his own experience as competitor and winner of several gold medals, illustrated and compared different planting styles and fashions at the Chelsea Flower Show in recent years.

What makes Chelsea so special? Not only has it been going for a hundred years but it also provides a setting for displaying the best current styles in gardening as well as more traditionally inspired designs. A rigorous selection process narrows down the 80 applicants to a final 20 exhibitors. Particular

challenges for the competition include what Martin termed 'the postage stamp challenge': within a fixed rectangular space, achieving an effective design which reflects the chosen theme and conveys a particular atmosphere – not forgetting the interaction between elements of the garden and the landscape that surrounds it.

Recent winning designs contain some recurrent features. 'Modern' designs, such as those by Andy Sturgeon (2010) or Cleve West (2011) show the importance of structure delivered by architectural elements in the hard landscaping with stone pillars or metal sculptures. An element of formality is provided by straight lines, clipped hedging, contrasting with the softness of natural planting, cloud effect box



Figure 1 – The Broad Walk,
photo Anne-Marie Hintze

bushes and a muted colour palette with astrantia, aneth, euphorbia, iris and aquilegia for instance. The widespread use of multi-stemmed trees such as birch is particularly noticeable. Chelsea also includes traditionally inspired gardens (for which Martin Walker admitted a sneaking preference) as well as those illustrating new ideas

for dealing with environmental issues: introducing permeable surfaces for paths, incorporating bird boxes or bee hives as garden structures, or revisiting the productive allotment garden with raised beds and architectural features.

A Chelsea garden is ‘a moment in time’: it is brought into existence in the space of three weeks and will only last a week before being dismantled. But Chelsea does not exist to impose rules and trends, but rather to offer visitors and gardeners a sense of atmosphere and ideas to inspire and adapt.

After lunch in the recently opened Bramhall Learning Centre (2010), we were given a guided tour of Harlow Carr gardens by Marilyn Elm, a lecturer in garden history and garden design. She retraced the history of the development of the site from the discovery of sulphur springs by the owner Mr Wright who, around 1844, landscaped the gardens and constructed a bathhouse and an adjacent hotel to attract visitors to the mineral springs. In the early part of the 20th century the gardens were taken over by Harrogate Corporation. In 1946, Col. Charles Grey leased 10 acres of land at Harlow in order to create “a Wisley of the North”, a garden in which varieties of vegetables or flowers suitable for cultivation in the northern climate could be trialled and developed. A new phase in the garden’s history opened in 2001,



Figure 2 – The Winter Walk,
photo Anne-Marie Hintze

when Harlow Carr amalgamated with the Royal Horticultural Society.

Our circular route through the garden took us from the Bramhall Centre and Library towards the Alpine zone, past the richly flowering winter heathers. Marilyn pointed out the original entrance gates opening out onto the perspective of the Broad Walk (Figure 1) with its double border of contemporary planting and across the stream towards the focal point of the Doric columns in the woodland. The Alpine House contained a wonderful display of some of the 2000 plants in the collection and led us towards new features such as the Foliage Garden and the Scented Garden. The former trial bed area has been replaced by a *potager*, with raised beds for vegetables and flowers intermingled on hazel and willow supports. A spring garden, inspired by Pippa Rakussen with hellebores, galanthus,

scilla and primroses was in full glory despite the chilly weather and a long established limestone rockery is being painstakingly cleared. The walk took us past the former bathhouse, now an exhibition space, and back along the banks of the streamside garden to the recently reprofiled and extended Queen Mother’s Lake and the annual and perennial meadows. After a quick tour of the *Gardens Through Time* exhibit (Figure 3), we returned to our starting point via the Winter Walk (Figure 2).

It was very interesting to observe the new developments in this garden, how the particular problems of drainage are being tackled and the new emphasis on family friendly features. My only regret, speaking personally, is that the unique Museum of Gardening is no longer available to visitors, but I look forward to return visits to see different seasonal faces of this garden.

Marie-Anne Hintze



Figure 3 – Exhibit from ‘Gardens Through Time’, photo Anne-Marie Hintze

Duncombe Park, 23rd April 2013

23rd April proved a good day for our visit to Duncombe Park. On the approach through Helmsley, the late spring the daffodils by the stream were at their best and were a cheering start to an excellent day.

We were welcomed by Jake Duncombe. He remarked it was good to see so many people who were interested in Duncombe as a garden. He referred to an entry in the visitor’s book that all there was at Duncombe was grass and trees and that these could be seen anywhere. Our guides for the day were Val Hepworth and Peter Goodchild both of whom were very well prepared having researched the estate

thoroughly and they came armed with copies of old maps and prints to set the landscape design in context. Jake accompanied us for the morning adding his own knowledge which we all much appreciated.



Figure 1 - Tuscan Temple,
photo Michael Horsley

The Duncombes bought the estate in 1689 and developed the house, pleasure grounds and parklands over succeeding generations. The overall composition remains as one of the great achievements of the early 18th century “Grand Manner” style on a par with Castle Howard, Bramham Park and Studley Royal. It is well described in Arthur Young’s detailed description published in 1770/71 and starts promisingly “Mr Duncomb’s ornamented grounds ... cannot be viewed without a most exquisite enjoyment”. There have been only relatively minor additions and these have not obscured the initial design.

The terrace, the great glory of the garden, was conceived between 1713 and 1724 with the Ionic temple at the northern end by Vanbrugh and the sculpture of Father Time attributed to Nost in front of the house. The Tuscan or Doric temple, by Thomas Robinson, at the southern end of the terrace was added in 1730. Jeffreys' map of 1771 shows the carriage drive from the south from the York turnpike at Sproxton. The recently restored Nelson Gate was added at this entrance in 1806. The parterre gardens by William Andrew Nesfield adjacent to the house were added in 1843. The Conservatory which is in a woodland clearing to the south of the house was built in 1851-2 and initially housed exotic tropical plants under the care of Michael Rochford as head gardener.



Figure 2 - View from Tuscan temple, photo Michael Horsley

The tour started in the forecourt to the house, itself the central feature of the designed park, and now flanked by the 2 square wings. Peter explained how the design carefully fits the natural land form and is in a style influenced by Bridgeman. The layout was compared to "a plan of his Grace the Duke of Queensberry's seat at Ambresbury in Wiltshire by Ch. Bridgeman 1738". Although we entered the garden through the north wing and then round to the east front, Peter explained further how moving through the house from west to east the whole was conceived as a series of spaces of different proportions. This rhythm continues to



Figure 3 - Mill Bridge, photo Michael Horsley

the east of the house with the bowling green with raised grassed surround, flanked by yew hedges before crossing the grassed terrace and opening further to the view across the Rye valley. These views were designed like theatre sets and Peter was able to show us pictures of examples by Inigo Jones from Britannia Triumphans, Luminaria and others. There are also parallels with crescents such as the Grand Crescent at Bath. The yew hedges here and elsewhere would have been clipped formally but now have a more relaxed form. Jake commented that due to the weather last year not all the usual pruning had been carried out.

We crossed the bowling green to the statue of Father Time to reach the curving grass terrace with the Ionic temple seen to the left. Following the terrace to the right there were glimpses through the trees down to the River Rye far below and further to the left to Helmsley in the distance before reaching the Tuscan temple, see Figure 1. The terrace is now backed by less formal, more varied hedging. We were privileged that the Tuscan or Doric temple at the south end had been opened for us to admire the fine coffered ceiling and plasterwork. Sadly the stone of the columns surrounding the temple is crumbling but repairs will have to follow those of the Ionic temple for which grants are underway. From the Tuscan Temple there are views to Helmsley and the castle. We were able to compare these to "a view from the Doric Temple at Duncombe Park 1794" by William Sawrey Gilpin. This view is remarkably unchanged – see Figure 2. From the temple a further grass terrace, the south terrace, continues. The grass banks here are cut less frequently to the benefit of the wild flowers.

Time didn't permit us to follow this

terrace. Instead we returned along the main terrace and continued to the Ionic temple. Again there are good views which from here encompass the parkland. The temple is surrounded to the north by a very substantial rustic bastion forming a Ha-Ha. The bastion continues alongside the Yew Walk on the return towards the house. These yews have remained unclipped for many, many years and now form an amazing tunnel.

After being fortified by an excellent lunch at the Parkland Centre we were ready to set out for the Nelson Gate via the Sproxton Drive. Our route took us across the west front of the House and contoured down the escarpment through Park Hill Wood to reach the river. This is crossed by an attractive stone bridge with a triple arch span possibly designed by Foss in 1813, see Figure 3. This is the site of the old Sproxton Mill. All that remains of this 12th century corn mill is the archaeology. The drive curves upwards through pasture with clumps of established trees visible to the right in what are now arable fields. The rougher texture of the pasture contrasts with the smoother arable fields. On breasting the rise, ahead at some distance the Nelson Gate comes into view where the drive reaches the turnpike south to York.



Figure 4 - Nelson Gate, photo Michael Horsley

Nelson Gate was restored last year. On initially hearing of this project the YGT quickly allocated a small grant which acted as seed money to other bigger funders. After admiring the restoration, see Figure 4, we retraced our steps along the drive back over the mill bridge then turned right to follow the river past the cascade. This is the only

man made water feature in the designed landscape.

Leaving the river we followed the old line of the drive with the woodland closer to us on the left and nearer to the edge of the old deer park to arrive back at our starting point. There was much

that we hadn't had time to explore such as the Conservatory with its more "modern" planting and the links to Rievaulx with its further terrace. These will have to be left as the subjects for further visits. Tired we returned to our cars thanking our guides and with

thanks to our host for sharing all their knowledge and providing so many insights into the designed landscape of Duncombe Park.

Michael Horsley

HS2 in Yorkshire: Phase 2 West Midlands to Leeds

The proposed route of HS2 through Yorkshire does not, at least at this early stage, ring quite so many alarm bells as Phase 1 has done for historic designed landscapes further south (e.g. Hartwell House in Buckinghamshire). This account of the route has been put together from information on the official government websites (<http://www.hs2.org.uk/phase-two/leeds> and <https://www.gov.uk/hs2-phase-two-initial-preferred-route-plan-and-profile-maps>). However, a word of warning: I have found the website maps are slow to download, quite difficult to manipulate, read and understand, and printing off detailed sections requires the patience of Job!

The route plan is shown against a background of OS maps; and a portion of each map depicts the profile of the line in relation to the ground – for example, showing where the line is in a cutting or on an embankment, bridge or viaduct. It is the lie of the land and the details of construction of the line that will inevitably determine visual and sound intrusion.

Just before crossing from Derbyshire into South Yorkshire, the route passes between Renishaw village and Renishaw house and garden, home of the Sitwells. It then heads towards Meadowhall, Sheffield, where a new station will be built. Just beyond this, the line will pass close to the M1, skirting the much degraded park of Thundercliffe Grange (built 1776–85 by John Platt for the 3rd Earl of Effingham), sliced across by the motorway itself some 50 years ago. Fortunately for both Wentworth Woodhouse and Wentworth Castle (listed Grade II* and I respectively on the EH Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest), the line passes several kilometres distant from the present-day parks. Near Birdwell

and across Hoyland and Blacker Hill, once part of the vast Wentworth Castle designed landscape, where there are a few remaining built structures which survive, and where some lost features of the original eighteenth-century landscape can still be traced, trains will be taken through cut-and-cover and tunnels.

The park which appears to be the most adversely affected is that of Walton Hall, where the line skirts the southernmost tip of the lake. Walton Hall is a Grade II* mid-eighteenth century building on an island, and was the home in the nineteenth-century of Charles Waterton (1782–1865), explorer, who dedicated his life to observing and protecting the local wildlife, and created what is sometimes described as the world's first nature reserve. It is now part of a hotel, Waterton Hall.

The line passes some 3 km west of the western end of the lakes at Nostell Priory, listed as II* on the EH Register (the house is Grade I). This is the only National Trust property in Yorkshire which might suffer from the proximity of the line: the topography here might mean there will be noise and visual intrusion.

After Nostell, the route passes some 1½–2 km east of Oulton Hall, now a hotel and golf course, and listed Grade II for both building and park (a Repton landscape). Just north of Oulton, the line divides, with one branch continuing towards Leeds, and another going first north and then eastwards towards Church Fenton to connect to the East Coast Main Line nine miles to the south-west of York. The II* landscape at Ledston Hall (the hall itself is Grade I), is probably too far away to be adversely affected by the line.

Approaching Leeds, where a new station, Leeds New Lane, will be built for HS2, the main line passes approx. 2 km south of the park at Temple Newsam (a Brown landscape, Grade II), and the Church Fenton spur passes just to the east of the park, on the far side of the M1, which curves around the park. Standing outside the mansion, the motorway is mostly though not entirely hidden from view, but the noise of traffic can be heard very clearly. Whether the sound of HS2 will be heard above the constant rumble of traffic is difficult to judge.

The line to Church Fenton will pass 1–2 km distant from the remaining Parlington landscape and the gardens of Lotherton Hall.

Having said that most of Yorkshire's historic designed landscapes – the direct concern of the YGT – may escape the worst effects of track construction and operation of the trains, it must be added that this should not be construed as complacency about its impact. Although Yorkshire's famous historic parks and gardens may escape the worst of HS2, many smaller, cherished plots will not be protected. Whatever one's attitude to HS2, it will inevitably affect many people's daily lives, causing noise and spoiling views. It will inevitably, in the short or long term, intrude on, disturb, damage, or even destroy areas of ancient woodland; nature reserves, SSSIs, and natural habitats; undesignated but valued local green spaces; lakes and reservoirs; and tracts of open countryside that are vital places for people to exercise, find peace, and enjoy nature.

Susan Kellerman

This account is based on a report prepared for the YGT Conservation Committee, April 2013

Visit to Jervaulx Abbey



Figure 1 – Ian Burdon explaining site to YGT members, *photo Sylvia Hogarth*

Ignoring seasonal blustery winds and rain showers, 35 members of the Yorkshire Gardens Trust gathered at the Jervaulx Abbey car park to meet our guide, Mr Ian Burdon on the 29th April (Figure 1). Ian's parents, Major and Mrs W V Burdon, bought the ruined Cistercian Abbey and parkland in 1971 and two generations of the family have been very active and successful in the huge task of restoration and conservation of this once extensive and complex range of monastic buildings. The current programme of care, which is in its final phase, is based on a 66 page document drawn up by the architect Martin Stancliffe in 1983 and has been supported in part by English Heritage but largely financed and carried out by the Burdon family.

After an introductory talk, we crossed the road to view the parkland and see the Abbey ruins in the context of the original water engineering systems, which included three fish ponds, so typical of Cistercian buildings. The spring water source is the same as that utilised by the monks in 1152. It took the monks 250 years (1152 – 1537) to build the Abbey and its many associated buildings using local stone. Since the Dissolution the buildings have been passed to the Crown Estate three times and much stone and lead sold to raise funds. What remains is still substantial. We started our tour at the remains of the 13th century Lay Brothers infirmary including the large associated drain that carried latrine waste away below ground level. Next to the Infirmary is the earlier (12th century) Lay Brothers Quarters including their dining room, parlour, store dormitory and the night stairs where the Lay Brothers went

from their beds to the church for services.

Segregation from the monks continued into the Abbey Church as the Lay Brothers were restricted to the western end of the Church. Little of the church walls survive but the late 12th century south-west door is the most complete architectural feature and is a good example of late Norman, dog-tooth ornament (Figure 2). After viewing the church, cloister and chapter house, we moved on to look at the monks' quarters including their kitchen, dining doom, dormitory, night stair, latrine and infirmary. The infirmary was not only for sick members of the community but allowed space for the care of elderly and infirm individuals.

As we moved through the buildings, Ian described the current process of restoration of walls that are covered in plants and look romantic but fragile. In fact in many places the plants are protecting the walls (Figure 3). An archaeological team from Lancaster University is involved in the meticulous recording of walls due for conservation. Firstly the two outer layers of wall are photographed and the dressed stones numbered. The walls are then taken down and all parts saved. Many of the associated plants, such as aubretia, but not ivy or tree seedlings, are also carefully removed and stored. Finally the walls are rebuilt using the same



Figure 2 – South-west door, *photo Sylvia Hogarth*

numbered stone and rubble bonded with slow drying slaked lime and the plants replaced to grow again on the walls. Every care is taken to ensure that water cannot sit on or in the stonework as freezing water causes much damage. The South Transept is the last place to be repaired in the current programme as it is invaded by ivy. Much of the stone rebuilding is done by local stonemasons.



Figure 3 – Plants on the old walls, *photo Sylvia Hogarth*

The Abbey grounds are surrounded by rich and mostly peaceful pasture lands (except when the RAF are in training!) and grazing sheep reminded us that the basis of the Abbey's original very successful economy was wool. The area still presents a diverse habitat as recorded by the Uredale Natural History Group – their survey over 11 months found 202 different flowering plants including wild flowers and garden escapees.

We finished the visit with a very welcome and warming cream tea in the Abbey Tea Rooms (fresh scones to die for). A number of us also took advantage of the small nursery to stock up on spring plants and shrubs. Members who were not able to join us on this tour are encouraged to visit this beautiful site. The official guide book written by Stephan Davies is excellent and gives a real feel of the history of the place. A model of the Abbey buildings in the Tea Room also emphasises the scale of the complex.

We are most grateful to Ian Burdon for taking us around this very special place especially in view of his recent operation and new knee.

Sylvia Hogarth

Himalayan Garden and Sculpture Park

We met on a cool, windy, but mainly sunny morning in the car park and were greeted by the head gardener, Hannah, who directed us to the tea room for refreshments while everyone was arriving. We were accompanied by three hens that were determined to get their share of the biscuits. After a few abortive sorties into the tea room itself, firmly repulsed by the staff and visitors, they realised that they could get just as many biscuits by begging from those who were enjoying the sun on the veranda.



Figure 1 – Magnolia, *photo Kit Wherrett*

Hannah gave us a fascinating introductory talk covering the background to the garden and how she had come to work there. Having just finished her finals, she had no clear idea of the path she wanted to follow so came to the Himalayan Garden for a few months to catalogue all the plants, this included those that were not labelled as well as those that had labels, this sounded a daunting task. At the end of this she realised that she had found her niche in life. Her enthusiasm for her subject showed as she discussed her trips to the Far East to collect seeds and to help preserve the plants that were in danger in their native habitat and how that habitat was being destroyed, often to improve the look of the landscape for tourists. The Himalayan Garden is trying to preserve as many varieties as possible.

Before the present owners, Peter and Caroline Roberts, bought the property in 1996, it had been owned by the Dalton family. I was told that Mr Dalton, who



Figure 2 – Rhododendron, *photo Kit Wherrett*

ran London Zoo, grew bamboo there to feed Chi-Chi the giant panda. I had to wonder when I saw a small stand of bamboo if it was the remains of that grown for Chi-Chi.

Peter and Caroline Roberts decided to renew the rhododendron garden having found the remains of an old one in the woods and so the Himalayan garden was born after receiving advice from Alan Clarke, an eminent Himalayan plant collector, who said that it was one of the best sites for a Himalayan type garden because of its topography. They initially had to clear the heavy infestation of Japanese knotweed before they could begin planting so the first planting started in 1997.

The garden is normally closed on a Monday so we were very grateful to be allowed to wander around as we wished and told that we could spend as long as we wanted there. It is a beautifully designed garden which is well protected from the wind. This was quite obvious when we were there. The car park and nursery were quite blustery but the gardens themselves



Figure 4 – Summerhouse, *photo Kit Wherrett*

were so sheltered. The rhododendrons, camellias and azaleas were just coming into flower and were looking magnificent. The colours were so diverse, reds, pinks, whites and some eye-catching yellows. There were also many different daffodils still in flower. The Erythronium 'Pagoda' particularly appealed to me but by the time we reached the nursery they were sold out. We still managed to stagger back to the car heavily laden.



Figure 3 – Lake and sculptures, *photo Kit Wherrett*

As well as the wonderful plants there were over fifty sculptures spread throughout the garden (Figure 3). These were so varied that there was almost bound to be something to appeal to everyone's taste, the newest being 'The Wave' on one of the lakes. There was also a thatched Henry and Julius Caesar summerhouse dating from 1910 (Figure 4), with its original manufacturer's plate stating that they did thatching and repairs in the winter. The summer house, which had leaded windows and was panelled inside, was situated to side of the drive and overlooked the garden from its high vantage point. A Pagoda, which has been built in Bali, is going to be erected by one of the lakes shortly.

This is a garden which will be worth visiting again and again. The late spring this year meant that many of the plants had not yet reached their full potential and could be even more beautiful in a week or two. However had we gone later we would have missed the bulbs.

Kit Wherrett

Summer picnic at Rudding Park



Figure 1 – Coffee on the terrace,
photo Jean Pick

The sun shone and the sky was blue: in fact it was a ‘perfect day’ for Yorkshire Gardens Trust’s annual picnic held this year at Rudding Park. On arrival we were presented with a copy of an informative booklet* which covers the history of Rudding Park. This was written and researched by Helen Lazenby, Karen Lynch and Pippa Rakusen. Members enjoyed coffee and homemade shortbread biscuits which were served on the Terrace (Figure 1) after which we adjourned to the meeting room where Penelope Dawson-Brown introduced us to the present owners, Mr and Mrs Simon Mackaness.

Simon Mackaness then gave us a brief history of Rudding Park explaining that his father bought the Grade I listed property in March 1972 when it was unexpectedly put on the market by Sir Everard Radcliffe. It met all his criteria for a country house hotel and has since been developed sensitively by the family as a commercial enterprise. In 1997 following the success of Rudding House as a venue for conferences, banqueting and for corporate hospitality, a 50 room hotel was constructed of ashlar limestone to complement the main house. The Follifoot Wing was opened in 2010 providing a further 48 bedrooms, a fourteen seat cinema, gym and a spa. Ashlar stone was again used



Figure 2 - Gardeners Duncan and Adrian, *photo Jean Pick*

and came from a Doncaster quarry blending in perfectly with the main building.

Then came the exciting bit: a walk round the gardens led by gardeners Duncan and Adrian (Figure 2) who have separate responsibilities; Adrian is responsible for the main grounds and Duncan for the newly restored area around the extension. The landscape gardening has been designed by Matthew Wilson over the last three years. The planting schemes here comprise individual rooms divided by yew hedges which lead onto the terrace. These contain mixed planting and include herbaceous perennials, Allium and clipped box balls as well as newly planted silver birch.

Years of neglect had led the garden into decline and in 1945 Captain Everard Radcliffe sought assistance from James Russell of Sunningdale Nurseries. They became friends and sought to rediscover the vistas from the library to the south east by replacing the many old laurels and weedy trees that had grown up obliterating the Reptonian glades and vistas.

This area had again fallen into disrepair and Duncan Farthing was given responsibility for restoring it to its former glory. He led us through the *patte d’oie* and in one of the clearings we were able to see the large marble urn which had been brought from Crystal Palace. Jim Russell originally drew up plans for extensive

planting in this area some of which remain today. Duncan is still finding Russell lupins and trying to propagate from them.

The bright sun helped to enhance the vivid, striking and diverse colours of rhododendrons (Figure 3) and azaleas which merged together making a spectacular display. These were planted in the 1950s and 1960s and are at their best in June. Members took full advantage of the Picnic Area for lunch. We were treated royally by three members of staff who walked round and served us with delicious strawberries and cream (Figure 4).



Figure 3 – Stunning white rhododendron,
photo Louise Wickham

Our afternoon meeting point was at the remains of an ancient oak, part of the old Forest of Knaresborough. Here we met Simon to be escorted safely over the golf course to discover the four lakes and the boathouse beyond.



Figure 4 – Anyone for strawberries?
Photo Jean Pick

The 18 hole championship golf course golf was sensitively designed in 1995 to incorporate four old oak trees from the original plantings. These four oaks survived the gales of 1962 when so much of the parkland was devastated.

On our return to the main house we passed what used to be the Deer Park: an area of about four acres where deer

were enclosed. This now houses the Deer Park Pub which may be used by other Rudding enterprises. Part of the estate is home to caravans and holiday homes. The old walled kitchen garden is currently under restoration and will be planted up with herbs, heritage fruit

and vegetables for use in the restaurant.

This really was a day to remember in every way and we have come away feeling happy that Rudding Park is in such capable and caring hands.

Jill McCandlish and Jean Pick

**Note from Editor: the property is in fact listed as Grade II in the EH Register of Parks and Gardens, not I as stated on the front of the booklet. It is the house that is listed as Grade I.*

What is Significant about Significance?

It's getting increasingly difficult to avoid discussions on conserving our historic park and gardens without finding ourselves faced with the question 'But what is *significant* about it?'

Cadw and English Heritage (EH) have both produced guidance on why it's important to understand the significance of a landscape. They argue, perfectly reasonably, that it is difficult to know what it is that we are trying to conserve if we don't know what it is about a site that is important. Once we know what it is that makes a site special, then we can begin to find ways to conserve this, or manage changes to ensure that they have as little impact as possible on these special qualities. When we research a landscape and visit in order to record what is extant, that is the perfect opportunity to work out what is significant about a site and what features remain that embody that significance.

This approach to understanding a site has now been enshrined in planning policy too. The requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), which now underpins all planning decisions in England and Wales, must be taken into account in all planning decisions. Whilst significance is touched on all the way through the NPPF, it starts off laying out core principles, including that planning should 'conserve heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance, so that they can be enjoyed for their contribution to the quality of life of this and future generations'. So, if we want to conserve our historic designed landscapes and

explain to others what it is about them that need to be conserved, we have to be able to articulate their specialness!

Cadw and EH offer us some principles to help with managing change to historic landscapes: *Conservation Principles*. We can usefully describe a landscape in terms of where its importance lies, what *values* we can give it. So, think about a designed landscape you know well and see if it displays any of the following:

Evidential value: the potential to yield new evidence about past human activity; how it matters for future research – the humps and bumps of garden archaeology are a good example of this

Historical value: the ways in which a site is connected to past events and people; how it tells our national story – this could be with an artist, designer, writer etc., or be a place that evokes or illustrates past events, such as Petworth, West Sussex, which was extensively painted by Turner

Aesthetic value: the way a place can give us sensory and intellectual stimulation and how people respond emotionally – it doesn't necessarily have to be beautiful in the traditional sense! Its appeal might be designed or fortuitous. So many wonderful examples spring to mind – of whole landscapes or single features!

Communal value: the meanings we give to a place through our collective experience or memory of it; how it brings people together - this is particularly important for landscapes we cherish locally or places with spiritual value.

So how can we make sure that our research gets to the bottom of what is significant about the landscape? When you have completed your research and really understand its historic development and current survival, ask yourself what it is that makes this landscape special. You could follow the list of values (not all of them might be relevant) and write some short bullet points - include this with your research report as it will really help your CGT to work out what needs protecting and what can be changed without having a hugely negative effect on the specialness of the place. This crucial step can make all the difference to your CGT when responding to planning applications or talking to owners and your efforts might just provide the important nuggets of information that prevent a vulnerable landscape from losing what makes it special.

You can find more detailed information on how you might go about this on the 'Significance' section of the CGT 'Web Forum' – a section of the AGT website that you can register to use by going to www.gardenstrusts.org.uk/hlp.html

You can also read more about Conservation Principles and significance at <http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/professional/advice/conservation-principles/>

*Verena McCaig
Historic Landscape Project Officer,
Association of Gardens Trusts*

Schools



Figure 1 - Children of Stakesby School, Whitby, checking growth of onions after the long winter, *photo Stakesby School*

All member schools were sent onion sets by the Trust for planting last autumn and many of them survived our extra-long winter, as the children of Stakesby School in Whitby discovered (Figure 1).



Figure 2 - Children of Northstead Primary, Scarborough, digging their new pond, *photo Northstead Primary*

Northstead County Primary School in Scarborough was granted a £200 YGT School Grounds Development Award in November, to create a securely fenced pond at the school. A risk assessment has been carried out by staff and county advisors; the children have been



Figure 3 - Children of Northstead Primary, Scarborough, digging their new pond, *photo Northstead Primary*

involved in researching the wildlife they can hope to attract to the pond and most recently, the digging has started (Figures 2 and 3). Good luck with lining and filling the pond, planting up and finally, watching the wildlife arrive!

Apple trees of the heritage variety, Ellison's Orange, were delivered to the 18 member schools that requested them in February. The photograph below shows one of the trees being planted by the children in the grounds of St Catherine's Primary, Sheffield. A reminder to any schools that planted trees over the winter, to set up watering rotas to keep the trees stress-free over the school holidays - let's hope that this year, we'll need them!

In April this year, a £200 YGT School Grounds Development Award was granted to St Mary's C of E Primary School, Boston Spa to help develop their newly created school allotment. The school plans to use the allotment as a teaching resource, for children to learn not only where their food comes from, how it is grown and how good it tastes to eat; but also, a place where maths, science and economics can come to life. We look forward to hearing about their first 'Farmers' Market' where they hope to sell some of their produce to fund seeds for next season.

The children of New Park Community Primary School in Harrogate have been busy decorating their own plant pots and recycling containers to make their own unique hanging baskets – thank you for the photos!

This spring, the Trust provided all member schools with seeds to grow their own mini 'pictorial meadow', as developed by Professor Nigel Dunnett of Sheffield University. Schools were sent some of the same seed mixes that made such a wonderful impact at the Olympic park last summer. Hopefully, by now, lots of children and pollinating insects are enjoying their very own pictorial meadows in school grounds across Yorkshire.

Nicola Harrison



Figure 5 - Recycled hanging baskets, made by the children of New Park Primary, Harrogate, *photo New Park Primary*



Figure 4 - Children at St Catherine's School, Sheffield, planting their apple tree, *photo St Catherine's School*

Conservation and Planning

This year has been quite demanding as I tried walking in Val Hepworth's foot prints as Acting Chairman of Conservation. Despite taking a very well earned sabbatical Val is managing and reporting on the Small Grants Schemes and I am concentrating on Casework and Planning Applications, both of which have been quite demanding over the last six months. Even more demanding is summarising our work for the newsletter in a manner that does justice to the in depth casework reports that Val has done for many years in this Newsletter.

Casework :

There has been a constant stream of issues that Committee Members have taken on board in a variety of ways:

Jane Furse - represents YGT as a Trustee at Wentworth Castle, with the restoration of the Conservatory being the leading project of the moment.

Jenni Howard – Coordinates the outstanding survey work by Dr Susan and David Neave on twenty historic parks and gardens [HP&G] of the East Riding.

Susan Kellerman – has reported elsewhere on the initial consultation over the HS2 and what impact it may have on the historic landscape of Yorkshire.

In all there were at least two consultations per month in addition to our own pro-active work in trying to get English Heritage to register *Cliffe Castle, Bradford* and the *Kirklees Estate* as HP&G. **Anne Tupholme**, **Peter Goodchild** and I submitted applications and I am delighted to report that in June we were notified that *Kirklees Estate* is now a Grade II registered historic park and garden.

At *Alne Hall* and *Parcevall Hall*, **Anne Tupholme** in particular, has given advice and guidance on aspects of restoration and the potential of Heritage Lottery Funds. On a similar basis we have responded to various consultations related to the Howardian Hills AONB Management Plan Review, Hambleton's approach to a Local List of HP&G and NYCC Minerals and Waste Joint Plan consultation.

Peel Park, Bradford and Norfolk Park, S. Yorks – English Heritage are updating the information on these HP&G and Anne Tupholme and Martin Page supplied appropriate information.

Kiplin Hall, Richmond – An early application to HLF for funding towards detailed research has been successful and YGT has sent in a supporting letter for the next stage of the application.

Finally English Heritage have just issued a new **Landscape Advice Note**: *Examples of post 1945 Designed Landscapes included on the Register of Parks and gardens.*

www.english-heritage.org.uk/professional/advice-by-topic/parks-and-gardens/

Planning Applications:

The Committee so far this year have investigated at least fifteen planning applications in and or around HP&G and actually responded to almost 50% of the applications:

Ribston Hall, Harrogate – The LA refused a proposal for a waste recycling base, we had objected to. It was just outside the HP&G across the road and the other side of the river, in open countryside.

Wentworth Castle, Barnsley - YGT expressed concerns about a large overflow car park on grazing land. It is limited to a 28 day use per year and we are pleased that the LA negotiated appropriate landscape clusters in various locations.

Bretton Hall, Wakefield – Pleased to report the adjoining open-cast mining application was refused with numerous conditions and it is hoped it will not be appealed.

Allerton Park, Knaresborough – The application for restoration and conversion of the Temple of Victory as a modest holiday let was supported with reservations about the location of parking.

Hicklington Hall, Doncaster – Conversion to private dwellings. This we felt was over development with inadequate parking and recommend the garaging and tractor shed remain as

garages. Unfortunately our comments were a day late and not accepted.

It is important we keep a closer eye on the consultation period for applications.

Swinton Castle, Masham – We have supported a proposal to reuse semi-derelict buildings as a spa/ gym and restaurant, but expressed concern about detail and the loss of derelict greenhouses etc. We have recommended a Conservation Management Plan be produced to illustrate the short, medium and long term potentials for this important HP&G.

Dobroyd Castle, Calderdale – A modest workshop lean-to in a central courtyard will we fear destroy the simple courtyard and lead to more intrusions so we have objected to the scheme.

Cliffe Castle, Keighley – YGT supported the planning application and HLF grant proposal to totally remodel the post war restaurant, vinery etc but objected to the lack of historic correlation in the scheme. Bradford approved the scheme under delegated powers and we await the outcome of the HLF application.

At *St Ives* HP&G we had an issue over the construction of new cycle routes across the park and were informed that it was all permitted development.

We were so concerned about issues in Bradford that we sought a meeting with politicians and officers and this took place in early June. YGT made the case that in placing new uses and up grading existing ones in HP&G the LA might give more attention to the importance of the historic setting and its landscape features. Bradford defended their position saying they would give due accord to our position. A major issue had been the location of a new play area at *Cliffe Castle* in a prominent part of the parkland, deemed to be permitted development by the LA. Our case was that the existing play area might have been upgraded or both could have been located on derelict land and the historic parkland restored.

David Rhodes

Small Grants Scheme

Altogether we had nine applicants for our grant scheme 2012-13. This included a type of application that we'd not had before: a mature student wishing to pursue a PhD at the University of Sheffield, with Dr Jan Woudstra. We have agreed to grant him £1,500 over the three years of his study and we hope that he will in due course give the YGT a lecture and deposit his thesis where it will be readily accessible. The other eight applications were very varied and from across Yorkshire. But first of all, what of the grants that we agreed for the previous years? As is so often the case, projects applying for our help can be delayed for a variety of reasons so we are still paying out the funds for 2010-11 as well as 2011-12.

The final grant from 2010-11 scheme year has just been paid. We have given £1,000 matched by £1,000 from York City Council for repair work to **The Pikeing Well** on New Walk, York arranged by the Friends of New Walk. The Pikeing Well (grade II*) designed by John Carr was built in 1749 and is a feature of this historic Georgian Walk alongside the river.

There are two remaining grants to be drawn from 2011-12. Todmorden Civic Society are spearheading the restoration of the **Garden of Remembrance in Centre Vale Park, Todmorden** with a deadline of the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War in 2014. The work that we are supporting with a grant £1,000 has been much delayed by the weather but we hope that the repair and re-pointing of the memorial wall supporting the name tablets of the fallen will be completed during the course of this summer. The two replacement statues of those originally sculpted by Gilbert Bayes for the Garden are being carved at the moment and will be installed next year.



Figure 1 - West Bank Park pergola and new floribunda roses, *Rosa 'Golden Wedding'* nearest the camera, photo Penelope Dawson-Brown

Penelope Dawson-Brown has been liaising with those involved with **West Bank Park, York**, particularly the Friends groups and we are delighted that the rose garden has now been planted up with a hundred roses which should be getting nicely established with all our recent warm wet weather. It has been a long haul but our grant of £1,000 alongside funds from the Friends and York City Council should give much pleasure to many over the coming years (Figures 1 and 2). Incidentally I think Penelope is our first YGT trustee to appear on YouTube when she featured on a short film promoting a new project which would transform one of the Park's buildings into a Heritage Centre and café. Finally from 2011-12, the grant that we agreed to give to the Friends of Valley Gardens, Harrogate for the area surrounding the **Old Magnesia Well Pump Room** has been deferred because



Figure 2 - West Bank Park Summer Fair 30th June 2013. The Annual Summer Fair at West Bank Park is always well supported by local families, photo Penelope Dawson-Brown

the Friends are now keen to create a rockery in front of the building and they need time to do more research.

We have agreed to support all eight applications for 2012-13. From Rotherham, the Friends of Boston Castle and Parklands are hoping to recreate the old sunken garden within this municipal park laid out in the 1870's around Boston Castle, a shooting lodge built in 1775.

Boston Park was the first public park in Rotherham and offers fine views across the Don and Rother valleys. The grand opening took place on the centenary of the Declaration of American Independence, 4th July 1876. We have offered the Friends advice about their plans with a view to awarding £1,000.

After research by the Nidderdale Historic Parks and Gardens Study Group, a grant has been offered to **Castlestead, Pateley Bridge** for repair to the charming and unusual nineteenth century croquet pavilion. Those of you who came to the **Duncombe Park** visit in April cannot have failed to be concerned about the condition of the **Ionic Temple** on the North Terrace, so it will come as no surprise that we have pledged £1,000. The total cost of repairs will be in excess of £150,000, so our grant is very tiny but every little helps. The architect Peter Pace is in the process of commissioning the measured

survey of the temple which will form the basis of the listed building consent application. A discussion has been held about which stone to use and it has been agreed between the Estate, English Heritage and the architect that Dunhouse Quarry will be used again as this seems to have worked well at Castle Howard and in the Nelson Gates.

There are few public parks laid out since 1945 that feature on the English Heritage Register

but we do have a lovely example in West Yorkshire. Work started on **Friarwood Valley Gardens** in the centre of Pontefract in 1950 to a design principally by R W Grubb, the Borough of Pontefract Parks and Cemeteries Superintendent who said that ‘... every advantage has been taken of the situation of the land, and the type and depth of soil will allow the cultivation of almost every sort of plant, tree and shrub. The layout provides for many different kinds of garden, with terraces, rockeries, a winding stream interspersed with lily pools, and lawns running down to the water’s edge.’ Friarwood Valley Gardens is an extremely old site; from the thirteenth century, the area of the Dominican friary, and subsequently a cemetery and orchards. In 2012 a very enthusiastic Friends group was formed who approached the Trust for help.

Caroline Kernan and I have visited, advised and suggested that a relatively easy, quick and visually attractive way to improve the park would be to restore the sensory garden on one of the terraces that had been planted in 1960 but had subsequently been put down to grass. The volunteers had the terrace wall repaired before tackling the re-creation of the long flower bed using a variety of shrubs and herbaceous perennials. No original plans for this bed have been found so plants were chosen for scent and texture, to give year round interest and to be reasonably in period. Friend of Friarwood Valley Gardens, Liz Clayden has been very instrumental in getting the work done and has written:

“Thanks to the generosity of the Yorkshire Garden Trust the friends of Friarwood Valley Gardens have been able to restore the sensory garden. After only a week at least 24 of the plants were stolen and this was reported in the local newspaper. Everyone was horrified and a local garden centre kindly replaced some of them for us

whilst others were replaced by friends. The garden has really brightened up that area and it is greatly appreciated by all the public using the park including the disabled. We will be getting some benches to put in front of the bed shortly so people can sit and enjoy the sights, sounds and scents. Thank you for your support.”

We are giving the Friends £1,000 towards this project (Figure 3).



Figure 3 - Friarwood Valley Gardens. Two Friends planting the sensory garden – others on a break! *Photo Liz Clayden*

You will remember in the last newsletter that Louise Wickham wrote about **Gledhow** in the northern suburbs of Leeds. We have awarded the Gledhow Valley Conservation Group £600 to assist with the production of an interpretation board. These should be a good tool in raising public awareness of the historic features of this part of Leeds and will include information about the park and its buildings as well as notable residents. Susan [Kellerman] is liaising with the Conservation Group and we are waiting to see the draft design which is being worked up by Leeds City Council Parks & Countryside Department.

We really have had a breadth of projects this year. **The National Coal Mining Museum for England** based at Caphouse Colliery, Wakefield are creating an accessible, peaceful outdoor space for commemoration and contemplation and approached us for a grant. On visiting the site Jane Furse

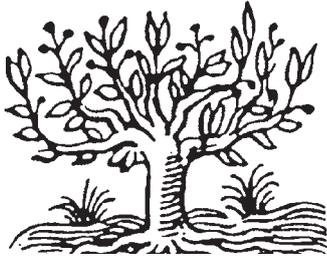
felt that some redesign would help to take advantage of the views, respond to the natural topography and help reduce the wind factor. Jane is progressing this application and we have put aside £1,000.

Peasholm Park, Scarborough holds many happy childhood memories for me. This is a fine public park laid out in 1912 with a Japanese theme and extended in 1924 to include Peasholm Glen, a natural ravine which was then planted with unusual and rare trees. We have agreed to support the Friends work in replacing five specimen trees and update and replace the Champion Tree Trail markers. Penelope has been liaising with the Friends; a dedicated group who work closely with the Parks Department and have recently won a Heritage and Environment Award. The Friends encourage children to help in the Park and in April some 30 children from the nearby Footsteps Nursery spent over three hours with the

Friends and the Lions Club planting young native saplings which included silver birch and rowan.

The event was covered in the local newspaper with a photograph of the children. The following day Linda Harper Chairman of the Friends discovered a great many of the children’s trees had been pulled out complete with stakes and guards. As you can imagine the children were devastated. Linda is now regularly patrolling the Park and when she sees youths drinking, she calls the police on her mobile and thankfully they are quick to respond to her call. This is the only way they can try to address the problem. It’s soul-destroying to hear these stories but we must keep on encouraging them. On a positive note, the Friends were thrilled to be given copies of some early photographs of Peasholm in an old album that Caroline had come across and bought.

Finally to **Sherburn-in-Elmet**



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Community Association who contacted us for help and were visited by David Rhodes who writes:

“All villages, towns and cities have a SLOP [Space Left Over after Planning] and at Sherburn in Elmet they had a semi derelict grassed area between the library and the Coop and the local Community Association decided to do something about it. The project was lead by Jo Brown and a landscape design was produced with appropriate desire lines. YGT were approached for funding but before we could respond primary funding was obtained and locals implemented the basic works. YGT funded a new park bench and the result is a well landscaped paved area that is no longer a SLOP.”

So well done (Figure 4).

Val Hepworth



Figure 4 - Sherburn-in-Elmet new park bench, *photo David Rhodes*

Events 2013

Thursday 25 July

Roger's of Pickering

Wednesday 14 August

Wentworth Woodhouse - NOW FULLY BOOKED

Tuesday 10 September

Peasholm Park, Scarborough

Recently voted 6th Best Bark in the UK. We shall be treated to a guided tour by The Friends of the Park who are the recipients of a Yorkshire Gardens Trust grant this year.

Wednesday 9 October

Pateley Bridge

Hosted by Nidderdale AONB Study Group, this is a full day trip to explore this fascinating town.

Cost: £16 to include coffee on arrival, entry to the Nidderdale Museum, delicious home-made lunch and guided tour.

2014

Saturday 12 April

AGM at Ripley, nr Harrogate.

Sir Thomas Ingilby will give a talk titled '*The Agony and the Ecstasy of Ripley - castle, model village, walled gardens, parkland and lakes*'. There will be a visit to Ripley Castle gardens to see the walled gardens, orangery, greenhouse and parkland and it is timed for when the National Collection of hyacinths will be in flower. The AGM itself and lunch will be in the Hotel de Ville, Ripley.

East Riding Project

The first sponsored part of the project is nearly complete, as Drs Susan and David Neave have completed the historical survey of landscapes of historical interest and on going to print, we are a week away from them submitting their report in full. This will bring us to Phase Two and the preparation of the information for public consumption! It has to be made accessible to planners and

conservationists at East Riding of Yorkshire Council, to the Parks and Gardens Database and possibly for publication by YGT and all in different formats! We have a group who have come forward to help, but if you feel there is a way you could contribute please contact me on eastgatehouse@uwclub.net or through the YGT website.

Jenni Howard