

Photo by Francis Frith, taken between 1850 and 1870 ©Victoria and Albert Museum, London

Plumptton Rocks

Tucked away just off the busy A661 Harrogate to Wetherby road, near Spofforth, is a most surprising and unexpected gem of a landscape. Most of you will be familiar with Plumptton Rocks, possibly having driven past its rather large brown heritage sign. Hopefully a good number of you may have visited it. For those of you who have never been, when you do, you are in for a treat! What you will discover is a setting quite unlike the surrounding countryside and one of the most unique landscape gardens in the country.

Plumptton is a product of Mother Nature, human intervention and luck (and some bad luck)! Let me explain. The current garden covers approximately 30 acres comprising a six acre lake mingling with a dramatic outcrop of millstone grit and nestling in an ancient woodland setting. Before the last Ice Age, grit stone covered a

very large part of Yorkshire, having been formed from sediment from the delta of a great river that flowed from the Scottish Highlands. The vast majority of the grit was eroded away by glaciation and we are left with clusters of more resistant rock outcrops, such as Plumptton and Brimham Rocks.

After the Ice Age vast swathes of forestry formed and Plumptton eventually became on the eastern fringes of the Royal Forest of Knaresborough, which ran west towards Blubberhouses. The woodland at Plumptton forms part of the last vestige of this once great royal hunting forest. Stone Age man started working the grit stone and there are clear signs that Plumptton was used as a Stone Age quarry. It is likely that the Devils Arrows monoliths at Boroughbridge came from Plumptton.

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At the time of the Norman Conquest Plumptton was in ownership of my ancestors, the Plumptton family. They developed the estate for the next 700 years. The lake was originally two fish ponds to provide food for Plumptton Towers. There was a fenced deer park, which more or less fits in with the present woodland. A plan of 1587 shows the parkland, woodland, boundaries and roads remarkably similar to the present situation. Plumptton may be thought of as an 18th Century landscape, but the foot print is medieval.

This period dovetailed in a tumultuous time in the Nation's history and the



John Carr's dam at the moment

family suffered greatly in the Wars of the Roses, Reformation and Civil War. Eventually, the senior male line ran out of money, luck and heirs. Rather than allowing the estate to be inherited by a distant cousin, who was a Church of England vicar (my ancestor, Henry Plumpton), the Catholic heiresses of Robert Plumpton, who died in 1749, obtained a private Act of Parliament enabling the entail to be broken and the estate to be sold.

At this exact time one of the great fortunes was being made by Henry Lascelles, who from his trading activities in the West Indies through sugar and slaves had laid the foundations for an enormous spending spree on land in Yorkshire. He directed in his will that his heirs had to invest one third of their respective inheritances in land (at that time about £250,000). One of his sons, Daniel, bought the Manor of Plumpton, comprising approximately 2,500 acres, for £28,000. He at once orchestrated through his land agent, Samuel Popplewell, an extensive redevelopment of the estate. John Carr of York was employed firstly, to provide plans for modernising the ancient Plumpton Towers and then latterly after regretting the cost of meddling with property refurbishments, to design a new house. A grand stable block and offices were built, together with a walled garden. The village was moved and a square of workers cottages built, together with new farmhouses, gate lodges and barns. The house was started but the building stopped in 1762 as Lascelles had bought the

neighbouring Elizabethan manor and estate of Goldsborough, where he went to live.

Thus as the infrastructure for an estate had been put in place, now they turned their attention to the gardens and the unique landscape to the south of the house. Carr prepared plans for

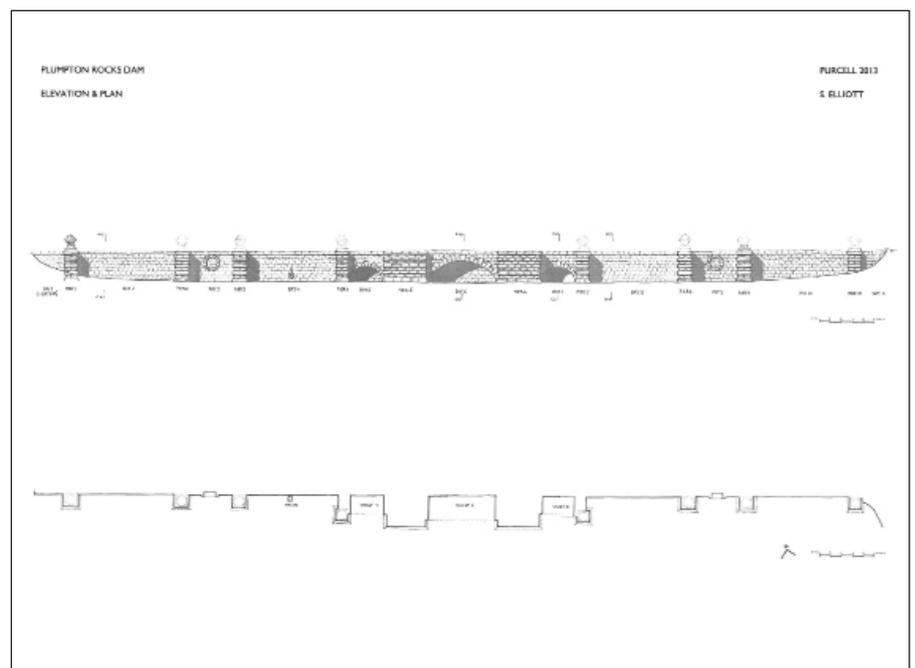
a new dam to allow the two fish ponds to be merged into one. The structure was very ornate with ball finials, alcoves and an oculus. The dam head was secured, not without difficulty, in 1755. The stones are massive and quite how they put the whole thing together is intriguing without modern machinery. Lascelles, who was not known for his even temper, complained bitterly that he had wanted a cascade of water over the dam as at Fountains Abbey.

Carr designed the beautiful boat house with a stone arched ceiling across a rock inlet. Popplewell was planting the woodland with Scots firs, yews, hollies and rowans from trees he had purchased

from Mr Perfect's nursery of Pontefract. Walks were placed around the lake, through and along the rock formations. A number of view points were sited with benches and several were hewn out of the rock. It is possible that Thomas Chippendale made these as part of his biggest commission for furniture for Harewood House. Daniel Lascelles died in 1784 childless and left his estates to his brother Edwin Lascelles.

Although the family was not living at Plumpton it is clear that they were very fond of the garden, in particular Edwin's wife, Lady Fleming, took a keen interest in the place. It is likely that Lancelot 'Capability' Brown would have visited Plumpton at this time whilst working at Harewood, but no evidence sadly survives to show he had any involvement. Humphry Repton certainly did visit in 1800.

At this time Harrogate was being developed as a tourist attraction based on the spas. Plumpton with a number of other attractions locally such as Fountains Abbey, Harewood and Knaresborough became very popular for excursions. Artists such as Girtin, Dall and most famously Turner (his first commission in oils in 1797) were commissioned to paint the garden by the Lascelles family. Travel guides wrote of the splendours of Plumpton and, perhaps because it looked so



Plan of the dam to show how it will look post restoration

unusual, it was viewed as a Chinese sublime landscape. This was Plumpton as a garden at its zenith.

In the 19th Century the garden was maintained extensively and the arrival of the railways gave tourism in the locality a further boost. A café and market garden were run out of the central block of the stable block, now known as Plumpton Hall. But the tide was turning again. The catastrophe of the First World War, with the horrendous loss of manpower and the introduction of higher taxes to pay down the national debt, created an environment alien to the maintenance of landscapes. Much timber was taken at this time from the woodland to help with the war effort.

The Twenties and Thirties provided a thin veneer of normality. The arrival of the Princess Royal in 1924 who married the Harewood heir provided a fresh impetus to picnics at Plumpton. It is said Queen Mary described the garden as, 'Heaven on earth' following such a trip.

The Second World War was the last straw. Following the death of the 6th Earl of Harewood in 1947, massive death duties forced huge land sales of the Harewood estates. My Father, Edward de Plumpton Hunter, a 24 year old solicitor with a passion for the history of his family, was able to persuade the Trustees to sell the Rocks, with approximately 30 acres, to him. There is no doubt that this act of the heart saved the garden at a time when parks and woodland were being clear felled.

Over the course of the next 60 years he continued with the garden opening but shunned commercial development. He politely turned his back on offers to turn Plumpton into a theme park and numerous offers for caravan parks. Storms in the 1950's and 60's had a significant impact on the woodland and a rather more naturalistic feel took shape with self seeding trees and the rhododendrons and laurels spreading. During this time a more sympathetic approach to protecting and appreciating the importance of historic landscapes came into play and Plumpton was designated as a Grade 2* in English



JMW Turner, Plompton Rocks c1798, *courtesy of Harewood House Trust*

Heritage's Register of Historic Parks and Gardens. A conservation area was also created to reduce the pressure and impact of development on a fragile environment.

My Father's aim was always first to preserve and then to start a sensitive restoration. He was not alone with his desire for a restored Plumpton. Many friends have helped to raise the profile and research the history of Plumpton, not least the YGT. He, with their invaluable help, certainly achieved the first objective before his death in 2010.

In 2010, I was able to purchase the remnant parkland to the east of the Rocks, which had been ploughed up in 1982. This allowed the Rocks to be reconnected with the parkland setting and remaining Carr buildings. The subsequent inclusion of Plumpton on English Heritage's Buildings and Landscapes at Risk Register in 2012 opened the way for an application for funding under Natural England's Higher Level Stewardship Scheme. The application was successful.

This has paved the way for reports to be made on the current state and condition of the landscape. Natural England funding will allow the start of

a comprehensive restoration scheme for the lake, woodland, parkland and dam over the next two years. This is an incredibly exciting time for Plumpton and it is a privilege to be associated with the restoration of this much loved landscape at this time.

No doubt you will hear more about our restoration plans once the reports are completed through the YGT and our own website (www.plumptonrocks.com) in the coming months.

Finally, I would like to thank the Trust for so kindly planting trees in memory of my Father and Helen Lazenby, both founding trustees of the YGT earlier this year.

Robert Hunter

For more information on the history of Plumpton, please see Karen Lynch's excellent article "Extraordinary convulsions of nature": The Romantic Landscape of Plumpton Rocks' in the YGT Publication, With Abundance and Variety: Yorkshire Gardens and Gardeners across five centuries. Ed

Council Report

Dreams of Flowers

Twenty years ago my sister-in-law bought me John Dixon Hunt's newly published *The Oxford Book of Garden Verse*. Although no poet myself, I have had much pleasure from reading and re-reading this anthology: a source of inspiration, associations and pleasure and a mainstay for me ever since. John Dixon Hunt's selection ranges from Chaucer to contemporary writers and at this moment when the old year is turning to the new, I would like to share two fragments with you.

From the final verse of William Wordsworth's poem, *A Farewell*, (1815):

*O happy garden! Whose seclusion deep
Hath been so friendly to industrious hours;
And to soft slumbers, that did gently steep
Our spirits, carrying with them dreams of
flowers, ...*

Ruth Pitter's *The Diehards*, (1941), as you would expect from the title, addresses practicalities and sums up much of what I think actually having a garden is all about:

*We go, in winter's biting wind,
On many a short-lived winter day,
With aching back but willing mind
To dig and double-dig the clay.*

*All in November's soaking mist
We stand and prune the naked tree,
While all our love and interest
Seem quenched in blue-nosed misery*

*We go in withering July
To ply the hard incessant hoe;
Panting beneath the brazen sky
We sweat and grumble, but we go.*

And the final verse:

*The sense that we have brought to birth
Out of the cold and heavy soil,
These blessed fruits and flowers of
earth
Is large reward for all our toil.*



In the garden at the York Medical Society.

Left to right: Val Hepworth, Jenni Howard, Matthew Wrigley, Peter Goodchild, Jane Furse, Dick Knight, Penelope Dawson Brown, David Tiptaft, *photo David Rhodes*

Our love of gardens, designed landscapes and plants may at times require some hard labour but we are richly rewarded by the sheer pleasure, comfort and beauty that can lift our spirits even at the most difficult times. And we can keep dreaming even in the depths of winter ... thinking of small green shoots piercing the earth before exploding in masses of snowdrops, narcissi, hyacinths and a multitude of blossoms casting fragrance on the air.

And so it is with the Yorkshire Gardens Trust as we look forward to another fruitful year. A year when we hope to continue to build on our achievements, seeking to involve more people in helping with the trust, to dream and to gain the reward of sharing the pleasure as we work together. The past few months have seen some changes in the way that we are organising the Trust. You will know from the last newsletter that we are without a chairman, that there are various other roles that need a hand and that we would greatly benefit from some new trustees.

We are very grateful that Vice-President Martin Page has been able to chair the Council of Management meetings since Liz Simson finished her Chairmanship

at the last Annual General Meeting. The Trust has really benefitted from Martin's skills and whilst he will continue with the sub-committee to complete the Business Plan, he will no longer be chairing the Council. Nicola Harrison has also decided after a number of years to retire from Council, although she and her education sub-committee will continue to do their great work with schools. Our heartfelt thanks go to Nicola, cultivating the gardeners of tomorrow!

Doing our up-to-date Business Plan has also brought home to Council that we are now annually spending more than our income. Using up our reserves in order to run the Trust because we don't have sufficient volunteers is something that cannot continue. So you may wonder what is happening. Well I guess this is where I started ... industrious hours ... and ... dreams of flowers ... I have volunteered to be a temporary chairman of the Council of Management at least until the Annual General Meeting in April. I am hoping that with some industry and some dreams we can build a strong team for the Trust.

To this end, I and other trustees may

be contacting you, our membership, to enquire whether you can share your skills and talents with us. To perhaps help run a fund-raising event such as a lunch, grow on some of your special plants for a sale, or perhaps any photographers or artists could help design special trust cards for sale. Could you help with the administration of our membership or co-ordinating our events or editing our newsletter in the future? Would you like to join a fund-raising committee or even consider joining the 'team' as a trustee? Even the smallest amount of time you can give will help.

I'm sure that like me you look back and wonder where the years have disappeared to. Well I can tell you. Many of us have spent much of the past eighteen years enjoying Yorkshire's rich legacy of parks, gardens and ornamental landscapes through the Yorkshire Gardens Trust. I arranged the first steering group meeting in December 1995 and we 'just grewed'. Now we need to renew ourselves ... and keep dreaming!

If you would like to contact me with any ideas then do please get in touch. Tel: 01748 822617 or secretary@yorkshiregardentrust.org.uk

For the past year or so we have been holding our Council of Management meetings at the York Medical Society, a very fine historic building hidden away behind a narrow entrance on Stonegate with its own garden, which our meeting room overlooks. The photograph taken in the garden at our December meeting shows some of the trustees with Vice-President Peter and founder trustee Matthew Wrigley. Unfortunately Liz, Nicola and Vice-President Martin couldn't be with us. Trustee David Rhodes is at the operational end of the camera!

Val Hepworth

Thornton Hall Gardens - 6th July

On a perfect summer's morning about 40 members of the Yorkshire Gardens Trust met outside this pretty sixteenth century house for coffee and cake. We had a welcome and introduction to Thornton Hall gardens by Sue Manners who has lived there for the last 24 years. Amazingly during this time she and her husband have transformed the three grassed over walled gardens into beautiful lawns and herbaceous borders.

The Grade I listed house (Figure 1) was built in 1550 by Ralph Tailbois, when there were three distinct walled gardens laid out with Elizabethan raised borders and an avenue of trees to the entrance of the Hall. However in 1696, the windows tax forced Thornton Hall to block up many of its windows and, probably at the same time, the walled gardens were returned to orchards.

Sue started making the first paddock into a garden for her children to play in during the summer of 1995, without any great gardening knowledge. Slowly at first the gardening evolved and became a passion for her. She has since that time extended and added, dividing many plants and acquiring more. It is now a marvel of flamboyant colour and fragrance.

From the front entrance, one could get a glimpse of the delights which were to



Figure 1 – Main building,
photo Louise Wickham

follow. Through a small stone arch we could see before us undulating lawns with herbaceous borders. In the middle of the first lawn stood an extraordinary small topiaried box tree giving structure to the vision. Wherever one looked were wonderful colours. However this is no wild garden, it is beautifully kept with immaculate lawns, trimmed edges and not a weed to be seen!

Sue walked round with us, telling the story of the unfolding gardens over the

years. They had systematically taken in hand each walled garden in turn. By now all three of these gardens are as one (Figure 2) with edge beds, island beds, a summerhouse, ponds, seating areas, clever use of wood and stone and an exhibition of exquisite statues by Lloyd Le Blanc and the late Judith Holmes Drewry (Figure 3) among the shrubs and flowers. The views from the gravel and succulents garden are breath-taking.

Sue does not usually propagate her own plants but has been extremely clever in her choice of heights and colours. There are many of our usual roses, clematis, peonies and all the July herbaceous plants, which we love in our gardens. However, she has introduced many new and exciting varieties of everything. I was particularly taken by an incredible silver-blue almost luminous eryngium, the name of which we were unfortunately unable to discover. Sue has been so clever in her transformation of these gardens. She obviously visits other gardens for ideas as well, though how she finds time is difficult to imagine!

My favourite tip, which has transformed my own garden, was their use of a light battery-operated Flymo

strimmer/edger which has given all her beds immaculate edges! How they manage to keep the garden to such a high level of order with such a small amount of help was beyond many of us... We had a magical trip round this wonderful garden and were all amazed by its glorious floriferous abundance (Figure 4).



Scilla Kealy

Figure 3 – Garden sculpture,
photo Scilla Kealy



Figure 2 – Pond and surrounding flower beds, photo Louise Wickham



Figure 4 – Colourful border, photo Scilla Kealy

STOP PRESS

This is the last YGT newsletter from our current Editor.

Louise Wickham is stepping down as YGT Newsletter Editor for a second time, having had rescued it in timely fashion and saved our reputation by delivering two editions each year, which I know are greatly appreciated by the members and many others beyond YGT.

I want to thank Louise for all her time and expertise. She is an incredibly talented person behind her computer and has provided the YGT with an understanding of the world of publishing, resulting in the professional standards as evidenced in this edition.

Thanks also for her patience and tireless efforts chasing authors for their articles and managing to keep to deadlines (a fairly onerous task at times) and also for liaising with the printers in York to bring each edition to print and dispatch on time.

Louise has offered to continue with her role as the YGT Webmaster, an offer that the Council are very happy to accept and I do refer you, once again, to visit the YGT web site- www.yorkshiregardenstrust.org.uk. You might learn all sorts of interesting things.

Thank you to Louise on behalf of all at Council and our membership.

Volunteer Appeal

Following swiftly on... Is there anybody amongst our members who feel they could step into the role of Editor? It is a vital role for the YGT and help is needed.

The job description is highlighted above. It must appeal to someone, I hope? If you are feeling ready to tackle a new challenge please contact me on 01423 734430 or liz.simson@btpopenworld.com

Liz Simson

The 'visitor experience' at historic parks and gardens

On leaving the chateau by the entrance to the marble courtyard, you will be on the terrace: you should stop on the top of the steps to consider the position of the parterres, water features and the fountains of the 'cabinets'. You should then go straight to the Latona fountain and stop to contemplate Latona, the 'lesars', slopes, statues, the royal allée, Apollo, the canal and turn around to see the parterre and the chateau.

This is the start to a version of the *Manière de montrer les jardins de Versailles* (Way of showing the gardens of Versailles), a guide written by King Louis XIV first in 1689 and subsequently revised up to 1705 as the gardens were developed. As with all matters relating to Louis' creation, it was a political statement about the size and complexity of the garden that required a guide, though it did have a practical purpose to stop visitors getting lost! I am sure Louis would have approved that over three hundred years later, there is now an app for your smartphone or tablet to do a similar thing (see www.chateauversailles.fr) with a whizzy 3D map (Figure 1). Whatever the technology used, these



Figure 1 – Versailles app

visitor guides seek to show and explain the designed landscape. Louis' original version was highly prescriptive as this absolutist monarch wanted to control what the visitor saw and, more crucially, what they experienced.

In Britain, those creating gardens in the early 18th century took a more *laissez-faire* attitude, often in keeping with their politics. This extended to their visitors and how they experienced the gardens. Many garden layouts had oblique references in the garden buildings or their design that only those 'in the know', usually their acquaintances or relatives, would appreciate. As the fame of these gardens spread, visitors unconnected with the owners started to come. The first specific garden guidebook in Britain was probably the one written for Stowe in 1744 by Benton Seeley (Figure 2). Other guides followed for popular gardens such as the Leasowes, Hagley and Blenheim Palace. Traditionally though most visitors were accompanied by the head gardener of an estate, until mass tourism took off in the mid nineteenth century with the arrival of the railway network.

The popularity of garden visiting remains undimmed. In 2012, there were 44 million visits to gardens in UK versus 26 million visits to historic houses¹. Furthermore, 42% of British adults say they visited an historic park or garden in 2010². So why the enthusiasm for historic parks and

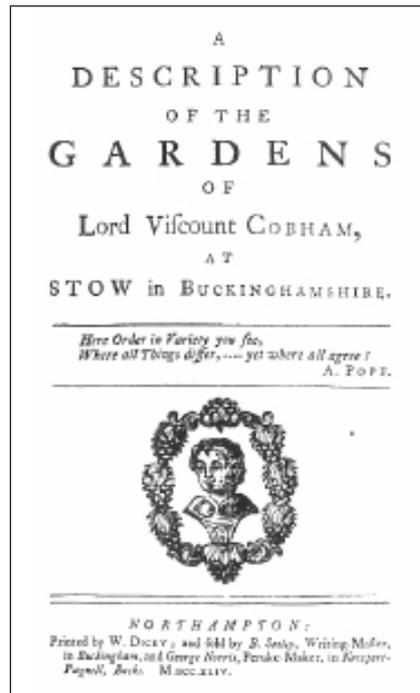


Figure 2 – Frontispiece from 1st edition of Seeley's guide to Stowe

gardens? The main reason given for visiting them³ is personal enjoyment or satisfaction (46% versus 38% for historic buildings). 21% said the reason was to accompany children, probably as it was an outdoor space but let's hope that it was also to inspire the younger generation. However only 13% of respondents went to an historic landscape as a result of a recommendation to visit, as opposed to 25% for historic

house visitors. Last year a third of the UK population visited a heritage website⁴, with half wanting to 'learn about history or historic environment' and just under a fifth taking a virtual tour of a historical site.

So today do we still 'absorb' or experience these historic parks and gardens in the same way, through printed guidebooks, leaflets and maps and, if we are lucky, a personal tour? Is this enough to enthuse the next generation of historic garden advocates (and potential YGT members), who may be used to more dynamic presentations? This is the area that I have been exploring over the last year, in trying to determine the answers to these questions.

Despite the numerous 'restorations' and 'recreations' of historic designed landscapes, it is still hard sometimes to fully appreciate what is there to see without some interpretation. Historic views are often hidden and modern day conveniences can

1 Day Visits 2012 Survey, Visit England

2 *Taking Part: The National Survey of Culture, Leisure and Sport Adult and Child Report 2009/2010*, DCMS

3 *Attending heritage sites*, Centre for Economics and Business Research Ltd, 2007 (for English Heritage)

4 *Taking Part 2012/13 Quarter 1*, DCMS

intrude. *V&A - An ace cafe with quite a nice museum attached* was the slogan for an advertising campaign run by the museum in 1988 and I wonder whether this may be applicable to many of our historic landscapes who strive to become a popular leisure destination. The amount of information given to visitors on the history of such sites is patchy and not always correct... It is hard at times for visitors to understand why these designed landscapes were created in the first place. Through muddled presentations, they can often merge into one and lose their identity. This then is a problem for the owner who struggles to attract sufficient visitors and income to support the running costs.

Some interesting work done by Tony Conway and Debra Leighton⁵ at the University of Salford has demonstrated a relationship between what they call ‘**Substantial Staging**’ (or what is there to experience or see) and ‘**Communicative Staging**’ (or what story can be told) at historic visitor attractions. They argue that only when both are at a high level, will the visitor be ‘fully immersed’ and get the most out of their visit. Clearly when relating this to historic gardens, the immediate problem is what can be physically seen now on the ground.

This is where technology comes in. Visitors can now use their phone or tablet to see historic views from original paintings, photographs or computer generated recreations in situ. Old maps and plans can be superimposed on their modern counterparts to highlight historic routes. Features in the landscape can be explained in as much detail as the

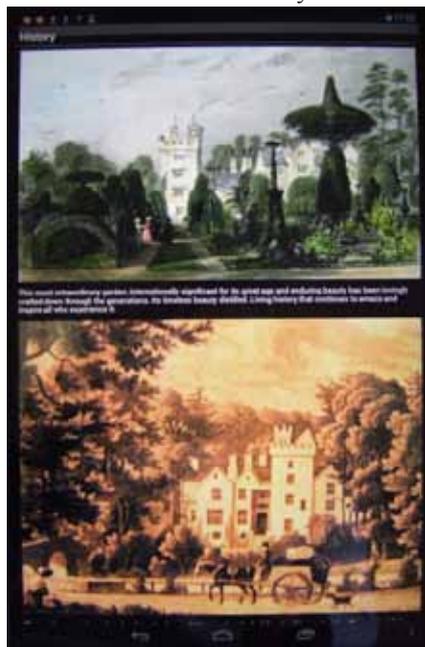


Figure 3 – Levens Hall app

visitor wants. There is also scope for a personal audio tour.

However this is not enough. There needs to be a coherent (and factually accurate as possible) story or narrative, charting the development of the garden by its owners, designers and hands-on gardeners. The best technology in the world will not make up for a poor telling of a story. Two examples of what I see as missed opportunities are the apps for Levens Hall (www.levenshall.co.uk/levens-hall-gardens-historic-topiary-in-cumbria/levensgarden-the-app.html) and a Repton walk at Sheringham Park, Norfolk (<http://www.uglystudios.com/reptonwalk/>).

The Levens app for Android (Figure 3), while full of beautiful (modern) photos, is largely taken from the website. The history section has both old images of the garden and text, though the former is not always related to the latter! The map provided is not interactive and you have to flip between that and the descriptions of various parts of the garden. There is also no indication of a route in the main gardens, although one is provided for the park. I am though assured by Chris Crowder, the head gardener

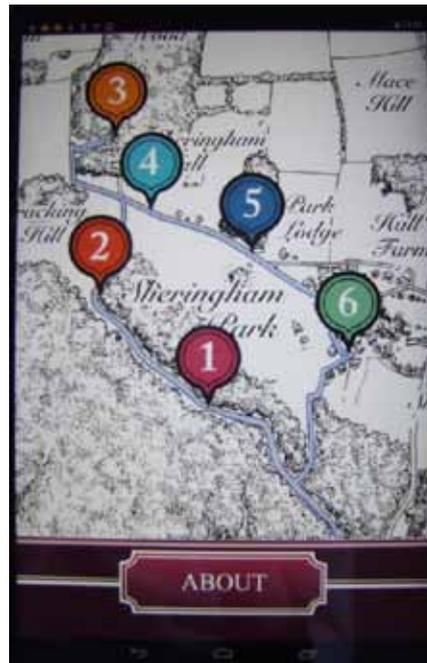


Figure 4 – Sheringham Park app

at Levens and its creator, that the app is fully interactive on i-Phones and i-Pads...

The app for Sheringham Park (Figure 4) is quite simple, based around a map of the site and six points of interest along a trail. If you are on site, then your GPS should tell you where you are (though I have not tried this!). At each point is a view taken from Repton’s Red Book.

However this is where it fails as the picture quality is poor when viewed on anything larger than a smartphone screen. Repton’s beautiful drawings in particular suffer from this. I would have thought that it was possible to get good quality reproductions, given the National Trust own the original book. The text to accompany the pictures is a bit limited but you are directed to the NT website to find out more about Sheringham’s history. It is a pity that, as with many other NT properties, the historical information on the website is practically non-existent.

I would be interested to know of any good garden guide apps (historic or otherwise) or indeed any others for heritage sites that you think are innovative. This is a new area but one I feel could be incredibly valuable in promoting interest in our historic designed landscapes. I would also welcome your comments and any suggestions you have for sites that you think would particularly benefit from this new technology.

You can either email me at info@wickhamconsulting.co.uk or if you prefer, phone me on 01977 663471.

Louise Wickham

5 “Staging the past, enacting the present!” Experiential marketing in the performing arts and heritage sectors’, *Arts Marketing: An International Journal*, Vol. 2, No. 1, 2012, pp. 35-51

Policing the past, protecting the future

Heritage crime – never heard of it? Not sure what this has to do with gardens? Not something that concerns you?

Think again! As a prelude to a talk on this topic in March, the opening event for the 2014 YGT programme, we are reprinting here an article from English Heritage's Conservation Bulletin (2013) by the National Policing and Crime Advisor at English Heritage, Chief Inspector Mark Harrison. In it, Mark presents a comprehensive picture of how crime threatens our heritage assets: demolition of listed buildings, vandalism, arson, theft of metal from roofs, theft of statues and other garden ornaments, graffiti and what measures are being taken to protect these assets.

On Tuesday 25 March (more details in events programme), Dr Pete Wilson, Foresight Coordinator at English Heritage, will talk about heritage crime and how it affects gardens, parks, and other ornamental designed landscapes. He suggests that we can all play a role in combating it.

For more than 100 years and through a succession of statutory measures, Parliament has recognised the need to protect England's irreplaceable stock of historic sites and buildings and more recently its shipwrecks and military remains. The most important purpose of the legislation is to prevent unauthorised alteration or destruction of heritage assets, but another is to protect them from criminal damage or theft.

So what exactly do we mean by heritage crime? As far as English Heritage is concerned, it is 'any offence that harms the value of England's heritage assets and their settings to this and future generations'. What has until recently been less clear is the role of the different enforcement agencies, local authorities, the police, English Heritage and the Crown Prosecution Service in tackling that crime. Alongside a lack of expertise

and inadequate understanding of the nature of the loss and harm that is being caused, this has meant that the task has not been fulfilled to its full potential.

In March 2010, English Heritage and the police service, through the auspices of the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO), recognised the need for a more coordinated approach to tackling crime and anti-social behaviour within the historic environment. As a contribution to English Heritage's new Heritage Crime Programme, I was seconded as a Chief Inspector from Kent Police to act as Policing and Crime Advisor and to devise a framework for a sustainable and coordinated approach to reducing heritage crime and anti-social behaviour.

A scoping exercise was then undertaken to determine the level of support for the development of a partnership model and a shared national definition of 'heritage crime'. Discussions with appropriate enforcement agencies, professional heritage bodies and community groups showed broad support for a partnership model built around five objectives:

- Identification of the risks to assets and their settings;
- Prevention of crime;
- Capability of delivery within existing resources and structures, in particular existing Neighbourhood Policing and Community Safety Partnerships;
- Sustainability; and
- Capacity to grow its coverage and effectiveness over time.

Our next task was to find out how the introduction of Police and Crime Commissioners would influence the delivery of community safety plans, and in turn to consider how the historic environment be integrated into such plans.

To underpin the willingness to collaborate at both a strategic and local level, the Police Service, the Crown Prosecution Service, English Heritage and Canterbury City Council and Dover District Council endorsed a formal memorandum of understanding in February 2011.

In a parallel initiative, an Alliance to Reduce Crime against Heritage (ARCH) was formed to harness the enthusiasm of the wider heritage community and to galvanise action to tackle heritage crime at a local level. Members of ARCH include the National Trust, the Church of England, Crime Stoppers, the Ministry of Defence, English National Parks, the Woodland Trust and the Historic Houses Association, as well as a wide range of archaeological and historical societies.

At a conference organised by ARCH in March 2012 representatives of a wide range of organisations came together to learn more about the Heritage Crime Programme and how they could tackle heritage crime in their local areas and communities.

The National Intelligence Model requires all UK police forces to carry out an annual Strategic Assessment of the scale, extent and location of crime and anti-social behaviour and make recommendations about future policing and partnership strategy and tactics. The first strategic assessment for the historic environment was published by Kent Police in November 2010 and recommended the following priorities in relation to the historic environment:

- Criminal damage
- Unlawful excavation and removal of articles
- Architectural theft including metal theft

- Unauthorised works and alterations to listed buildings.

The second assessment was conducted on behalf of English Heritage by Newcastle University, Loughborough University and the Council for British Archaeology in October 2011. It found that about 75,000 crimes affected protected buildings and sites every year – an average of 200 incidents a day. It also showed that the biggest single threat is metal theft and the most threatened type of building is a church.

In May 2011, English Heritage published the first National Heritage Protection Plan (NHPP). This sets out how English Heritage, with help from partners across the heritage sector, will identify, prioritise and deliver heritage protection at a time of unprecedented social, environmental, economic and technological change. Heritage crime has been identified as a discrete activity within the NHPP and is now known as the Heritage Crime Programme (HCP).

Since the launch of the HCP, active partnerships have been set up across England and practitioners and community groups are already gaining the skills and competence to tackle and investigate heritage crime. They have been helped in this by a nationwide series of conferences, seminars and workshops that have so far been delivered to more than 6,000 practitioners and community activists.

Elements of the English programme have also been reviewed and adopted in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Eighteen local authorities and community safety partnerships, including the Peak District National Park Authority, have recently added their signatures to the Memorandum of Understanding and many others have highlighted their intention to engage in the process during 2013. Meanwhile, the membership of ARCH continues to grow, with more than 160 groups and organisations now working together to share intelligence and press for action

at a local level.

In parallel, the Crown Prosecution Service has implemented a national network of 14 senior prosecutors to act as Heritage Crime Coordinators and an increasing number of English police services have appointed officers to act as single points of contact for matters relating to heritage crime, a function that is often aligned to the investigation of offences within the natural environment.

Understanding of the extent of crime and anti-social behaviour and its impact on heritage assets will continue to develop as the annual assessment regime adopts the full range of quantitative and qualitative research methods.

Over the initial lifetime of the National Heritage Protection Plan (2011–15), English Heritage and its partners from across the heritage sector will be encouraging local authorities and community safety partnerships to implement the partnership model and to become signatories to the Memorandum of Understanding.

English Heritage has now published a range of on-line guidance for owners, community groups and heritage practitioners that will include:

- Risk assessment
- Crime prevention measures
- Heritage crime impact-statements
- Interventions, prosecutions and alternative disposals
- Sentencing guidance (forthcoming)

Other initiatives will include the development of awareness briefings and training courses to raise the level of knowledge and understanding of risk assessment, preventative measures, investigation techniques and evidence gathering and forensic methods.

Our final objective will be to further extend the membership of the Alliance to Reduce Crime against Heritage.

How will we know that we are starting to make a difference? In just over two years ‘heritage crime’ has come to be frequently used in academic journals, parliamentary proceedings and across the media. The academic sector has also recognised that the theme of heritage crime provides a rich and diverse opportunity for research and innovation.

In the coming months and years, our ability to record and analyse intelligence data in an accurate and consistent manner will provide us with a better chance than ever before to highlight high-risk locations and take preventative action that will start to bring the menace of heritage crime under better control.

To keep up to date with English Heritage’s Crime Programme visit www.english-heritage.org.uk/professional/advice/advice-by-topic/heritage-crime or follow on Twitter at @EHHeritageCrime.

Follow me on Twitter @EHHeritageCrime

New edition of Conservation Bulletin - Heritage Crime now available for download at:

<http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/publications/conservation-bulletin-70/>

*Mark Harrison
FSA - National Policing and Crime
Adviser, English Heritage*

Wentworth Castle and the Conservatory

We are nearly there. Our wonderful 'Iron Winter Garden' has been restored and planted up with a central space for events and displays outlining the history of this magical space.

Better known as the Conservatory and featured in the first 'Restoration' television series back in 2003, it is being planted up as I write, its sparkling 'wavy glass' in place and all the ironwork newly restored and painted. The collapsing jungle outside has been replaced with a terrace for summer events and the whole linked to the main gardens, bringing visitors the chance to enjoy the space whatever the weather.

The potting shed, a later addition by the family, has been adapted and new rooms added for educational visits. We finally located the original water tank for the Conservatory under its screening, erected perhaps in the 1950's when the only man working at the teacher's training college was the elderly gardener!

The west side of Wentworth Castle is also now on view, its honey coloured stone particularly beautiful in the late afternoon light. Its rooms on this side are now a great deal brighter since the

overgrown planting has been cleared away and planting on the lower levels carefully chosen to green up the new beds.

The 'quiet' opening will take place in early November, but we are looking forward to a period of sustained growth over the winter before we really celebrate in spring of 2014.

Members who visit in June will be able to hear about the restoration of this wonderful glass house during the annual midsummer picnic, complete of course, with strawberries and cream.

*Jane Furse
October 2013*



Almost finished, *photo Jane Furse*

Pateley Bridge Visit, 9th October



Pat Wilson describes the iron bridge at Castlestead, *photo Ray Blyth*

As the event was being hosted by the Historic Parks and Gardens section in the Nidderdale AONB Study Group, I knew we would be in for a treat at the

Pateley Bridge day and was not disappointed. We were welcomed with refreshments at Pateley Bridge Council Chambers, where a display recording the group's work illustrated gardens in Pateley Bridge and neighbouring parishes. Presentations given by Marie-

Anne Hintze, Margaret Waterson and Sheila Wilkins then highlighted the detailed research that the group had

done. Without this kind of research, places like Sparrow Park would become forgotten and a thread lost in the fabric of a town like Pateley.

We then went upstairs to visit the Nidderdale Museum where every effort is given to maintaining and presenting the area's rich social history. Not



Comparing Tudor House garden with old photographs, *photo Ray Blyth*

having been to the museum for thirty years, I was in awe of the extensive range of artefacts and the fascinating way they were displayed.

When we returned to our meeting room it was set out ready for lunch. The treat continued!

The afternoon walk was led by Pat Wilson and took us along the riverbank of the Nidd, firstly to Harefield Hall, where we were able to compare old photographs with the difficult to maintain steeply-sloping terraced garden of today. Continuing on, we had glimpses of Castlestead across the river that was spanned by an iron lattice 100ft long bridge. We were told how George Metcalfe, who had a mill at Glasshouses, had made a large mill pond in the form of a lake, as part of his designed landscape with a boathouse and island.

Permission had been given for us to see the garden at Tudor House. In the early 20th century it was occupied by the gardener of Bewerley Hall and at that time there was a knot garden in front of the 17th century house. The formal design had been referred to as being like those of the Pope's garden, and suggestions were given as to why it

should have been thus described.

Yorke's Folly (now only two of its original three stoops) was visible on the horizon. This was built by John Yorke, of the now demolished Bewerley Hall, as an eyecatcher in the 1760s.

Access into the private garden of Abbey Lodge had been given and we were able to see a formal corner of the Bewerley Hall garden. The summerhouse and corner tower of Bewerley Hall remain. The spirit of Mary Yorke's garden survives with the enthusiasm of its owner.

The tour ended with a visit to Fishpond Wood. We were all given a copy of the Study Group's pocket booklet *Victorian Gardens Pateley*

Bridge, the final treat to a memorable day. Thank you to Pat Wilson for an informative walk, where I didn't even notice the miles.

Ray Blyth



The detached tower of the former Bewerley Hall, photo Ray Blyth

Three Haggas Jubilee Wood A woodland and meadow creation project

The initial impetus for the creation of Three Haggas Jubilee Wood on the Escrick Park Estate arose out of the Woodland Trust campaign to plant 6 million trees in the Queen's Jubilee Year, 2012. As of December 2013, we have planted almost 10,000 deciduous trees and shrubs on 10ha of formerly arable land to create the largest area of new native woodland in the Selby District.

Those figures, however, represent a tiny fraction of the story that has unfolded over the two years since Beilby Forbes Adam first seized the opportunity to engage with the Jubilee Woods Project. Beilby, alas, in the wake of his MA in Landscape Architecture, has gone on to

gainful employment, leaving Rosalind, his mother, to pick up the baton with vision and determination. Working with myself and Tango Fawcett, the Estate Conservation Advisor, Rosalind has developed the Three Haggas Jubilee Wood project into a radical and unprecedentedly holistic approach to the creation of new woodlands in the working rural landscape.

Those of us of a certain age who were blessed with a rural childhood have become increasingly aware that during the past 60 years, the flowers that were commonplace in our youth have declined to devastating degree. This is not simply a harking back to the

sunny uplands and golden afternoons. According to the State of Nature Report 2013, since 1990, despite a 5% increase in woodland cover, there has been a decline in of 19% in woodland plant diversity¹. According to Plantlife, Ancient Woodland Indicator plants have declined by 34%².

If you remember kicking through meadows as a child, raising clouds of butterflies, you will probably be aware of recent conservation concerns regarding them. Flower-rich meadows have declined by 98% during the 20th century³. Some 65% of grassland species have declined over the past 50 years; a quarter of them are threatened⁴.



Become a Friend of Hagge Woods Trust and have a Square Share in your name

Adopt a square share, one of our fund raising projects, *drawing by Lin Hawthorne*

It should not be thought remarkable therefore, that these losses are paralleled by declines in the many thousands of invertebrate species that depend on them. The significance of the ground layer in both wood and meadow is much underestimated. The plants therein form the base of the ecological pyramid that is the feeding and breeding locus for an incredible diversity of insects and other invertebrates, birds and mammals.

The evidence for enormous losses in rural biodiversity is overwhelming and it has all happened in my lifetime. The Three Haggis Jubilee Wood Project has been framed to address some of these issues.

At the planning stage, it became clear that the creation of our new woodland should involve more than the simple mass planting of trees. If woodland is to become something greater than a plantation, it must be viewed as a whole ecosystem. With too much new woodland planting, an essential element of the woodland tapestry is lacking; to wit, the establishment of a diverse ground

flora. We also paid attention to the field layer that lies in glades and rides between stands of trees. Open rides, with their characteristic tapestry of variables light/shade/shelter/aspect are the preferred habitats of up to 60% of woodland flora.

With this in mind, we designed the woodland with a graduated woodland edge of flowering and fruiting shrubs and small trees ranging through to a high canopy of forest trees, arranged in 12 coups to increase edge diversity and allow coppicing at a later date. The coups surround some 40% of open space in the form of open glades and wide rides, which have been sown with fine, non-competitive, lowland grassland flora, to mimic the floodplain meadows that once were so much a part of the rural heritage on the fertile Ouse-Derwent floodplain. We will manage them as hay meadows. The carefully balanced and site-specific meadow and tree/shrub mixes are of high botanical conservation value and we know that every species included is host to a diversity of fauna. With sympathetic management, this arrangement will produce the structural diversity that provides a haven for a wide range of wildlife, buzzing with insects, alive with birdsong and replete with the wild flowers and fine grasses they all ultimately depend on.

Timely and consistent management is key to the success and for us, this has meant prioritising it from the outset. In particular, lack of attention to weed



Cornfield annuals used as nurse crop for fine meadow grasses, *photo Mike Cowling*

control risks creating a plantation with a ground flora of nettles, docks, brambles and thistles. Dense colonies of these notorious weeds are antipathetic to the establishment of a diverse ground flora in both grassland and woodland.

One of the primary strategies to prevent this was the preparation of a stale seedbed, a technique familiar to agriculturists and organic growers. In brief, this involves preparing a fine seed bed and then treating any emergent weeds before sowing the meadow mixes. The meadow mixes were sown at a rate approaching the higher recommended rates to give a weed-excluding density of cover. For similar reasons we chose to include a nurse crop of cornfield annuals.

From a May sowing, the annuals produced the most glorious panoply of colour by early August, which we had more or less expected. What took us by surprise, however, was the instant attraction this became to bees, butterflies and other pollinators, so numerous as to make the meadow shimmer with life and colour, swept by swallows by day, and by bats who came to hunt at dusk. Most of us were made breathless by the beauty, and some of us were transported by memories of how things used to be. It has also led us to explore the possibilities of retaining a headland of cornfield annuals and, further, to develop a relationship with the Cornfield Annuals Project⁵ with the aims of providing a conservation resource for insects, and a space for much-threatened annual arable flora.

In terms of human engagement, it was a triumph. In terms of project costings, it is possible that they will fall within the limits of a Forestry Commission Grant for community woodland. Such grant aid will not, however, cover our ambitions to research and publicise our findings regarding the



Fifty volunteers from the community get together to plant a thousand trees on 1st December 2013, photo Mike Cowling

ecological and holistic creation of new native woodlands, so that others can create diverse woodlands of their own. Nor will it cover the raising and introductions of woodland and meadow plants to further increase the biodiversity of our site. Nor, indeed, will it accommodate our intentions to offer the wood for the recreation, well-being and education of local schools and community. It was inevitable therefore that we became a charity and the Hagge Woods Trust was formed in 2013 to help fund and forward our ambitions.

We believe that the creation of a Hagge Wood is a viable proposition for returning biodiversity to the working rural landscape. The potential for rolling out similar projects across the countryside is enormous and the ultimate vision would be an interconnected network of biodiversity hotspots.

Much more than this is the Hagge Wood's potential for engaging the community, our children and grandchildren and reconnecting them to intimate contact with a natural world

on their doorstep. We can raise the bar for beauty and biodiversity in the rural environment, and in doing so, restore the wonder that should be part of our heritage.

To discover more about the development of the Three Haggas Jubilee Wood, you can visit www.threehaggasjubileewood.org.uk. To find out more about Hagge Woods Trust, and especially if you feel you would like to donate to the project, go to www.haggewoodstrust.org.uk.

Lin Hawthorne



Schoolchildren from Fairburn School examine the diversity of plants in the field layer, photo Tango Fawcett

1 Burns F, Eaton MA, Gregory RD, et al. (2013) State of Nature report. The State of Nature partnership.
 2 Bromley, Dines et al, Plantlife International Ghost Orchid Declaration: Saving the UK's wild flowers today. Salisbury, UK 2009.
 3 Floodplain Meadows partnership website/Open University
 4 Burns F, Eaton MA, Gregory RD, et al. (2013) State of Nature report. The State of Nature partnership.
 5 The Cornfield Annuals Project is managed by a partnership between the Carstairs Countryside Trust, the Ryedale Folk Museum and the North York Moors National Park Authority.

Conservation and Planning

YGT is preparing a new Business Plan and in support of this initiative Conservation has produced a series of aims and outcomes. One major change is a revue of the objectives to:

Assist in the preservation and conservation of the natural and built heritage of designed landscapes, parks and parkland.

On a similar proactive theme we have negotiated with the Joint Conservation Committee of GHS and AGT to produce a model response to certain planning applications. In addition we have produced one of our own related to Local Development Frameworks by the numerous Local Authorities [LA's] in the region.

Members may not realise that Yorkshire as a region consists of four ceremonial counties. These embrace at least twenty-two LA's, two National Parks and two Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Most of them having a statutory duty to the Garden History Society, who then consults us over planning issues related to registered historic parks and gardens. This sounds quite onerous on a small charity like YGT but we have developed model responses and identified members per county to assist with the work load.

Casework

Jane Furse continues to represent YGT as a hardworking Trustee at Wentworth Castle. Jane has played a role in the restoration of the conservatory an outstanding achievement of coordination and cooperation [see article by Jane on page 11, Ed].

Numerous LA's have consulted YGT over various aspects of their policy work and we have generally responded with support and encouragement but regrettably not had the resources to investigate these lengthy documents in detail.

English Heritage have just circulated their consultation over the Government's intention to separate the legal section [potential name *Historic England*] from the property section [potential name *National Heritage Collection*] to form a new charity. Michael Heseltine back in the 1980s created EH as a governmental quango and it was advocated then that eventually the property arm of EH would become a charity similar the National Trust. Members may also recall that last year British Waterways became a similar charity.

YGT will discuss the consultation in the New Year and members may make their own response via: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/english->

[heritage-new-model-consultation](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/english-heritage-new-model-consultation)
heritagecons@culture.gsi.gov.uk

Planning Applications

YGT has received six main planning applications to consider this session and most of those did not warrant a response. Many of the consultations dealt with issues adjoining historic parks and gardens or minor modifications to existing approvals.

An interesting development was a number of applications to install sustainable biofuel systems a development YGT welcomed subject to minor details. On a similar basis, a theme of restoring conservatories is headed by the projects at Wentworth Castle and Scampston Hall.

At Cliffe Castle, Bradford, Anne Tupholme, Peter Goodchild and I failed to influence Bradford in their approach to the historic importance of this landscaped park. The new play area has sadly been constructed at a pivotal location in the parkland, meanwhile the existing play area now lies derelict. Attempts are in hand to try and get HLF to review the primary objectives of their funding to spread the potential resources across the site's marvellous features rather than cherry pick out of character schemes.

David Rhodes
YGT Conservation Chairman

Small Grants Scheme

When I wrote about our Small Grant Scheme last summer (Newsletter Issue 33) we still had two grants outstanding from our 2011-12 scheme. Well we are now down to one. In July we gave the Friends of **West Bank Park**, York, £1,000 to go towards the repair and replanting of the rose garden. As many of you will know West Bank Park is significant in Yorkshire's horticultural history as the site of the famous Backhouse nursery which included the legendary rock garden constructed

in the 1860s, a major influence on Victorian rock gardening. West Bank opened as a public park in 1938 and the original rose garden dates from this time. Following our grant we are pleased that Penelope Dawson-Brown has joined the steering committee of the West Bank Park Heritage Centre and Café. This will be situated in the old Park Keeper's House and is currently supported by York City Council. Its primary objectives are to engage the local community in celebrating West

Bank's exciting horticultural history. It is an ambitious project, which will need major funding but is now gaining both local and national support.

The remaining grant from 2011-12 is to Todmorden Civic Society for the **Garden of Remembrance in Centre Vale Park, Todmorden**. We understand that the work to restore the memorial wall, to which we are contributing the tablets, statue and dedication, should be almost finished. Anne Tupholme and I

hope to see the completed work soon in order to pay the grant of £1,000. The memorial will be rededicated on 12th October 2014, a fitting tribute at the centenary of the start of the First World War.

As the projects that we are supporting from our 2012-13 Small Grants Scheme are completed, we give our funding. In June, £200 was paid to fund a new park bench at **Sherburn-in-Elmet**. We have also paid £600 to the **Gledhow Valley Conservation Group** to assist with the production of an interpretation board on the history of Gledhow Hall, park and designed ornamental landscape. To quote from the board: "Allerton Gledhow' was made up of land that by the early 14th century had been gifted to Kirkstall Abbey by its medieval owners. Gledhow was purchased as part of the Manor of Chapel Allerton in 1601 by the Thwaites family, who built the first Hall and developed the estate. By the mid to late 19th century, mill owners and merchants developed other grand houses and lodges near the artery route of Gledhow Lane, renting and buying property from each other.' Getting this and its 'sister' board produced has taken some time but we congratulate Christine and the Group for their tenacity and patience.

Caroline Kernan and I have had several visits to **Friarwood Valley Gardens**, Pontefract this past year. Caroline had managed to gather together suitable plants from a friend who was retiring

from her nursery and in July Liz Clayden, of the Friends of Friarwood Valley Gardens, came over to collect them. When we visited in November to hand over our cheque for £1,000 it was just so heartening to see the great improvements to the park [see photo]. We really admire the Friends group who have made such a difference and just keep going, even when the local authority arranging the Liquorice Festival managed not to include the park in the literature or on the signage (a bed in Friarwood Valley Gardens has liquorice plants and these were grown in the Valley from the 1600's to the early 1900's).

Despite this little setback, the gardens are very well used with people doing ad hoc litter picking and with events from Yorkshire Day to a Lantern Festival in October. This Festival organised by the Lionesses had paper lantern making workshops and then a lantern procession to the park starting at Pontefract Castle. It must have been quite magical: glinting and glowing lanterns in the dark, followed by hot drinks made by the Friends, perhaps an idea to be 'borrowed' by other voluntary groups. We also understand that the park is to be used for part of the NVQ horticultural practical qualifications.

You may have caught a news story in August where our small grant contribution for the restoration of the **Ionic Temple at Duncombe Park**

was listed alongside major contributors. The Grade I listed temple designed by Sir John Vanbrugh and built in about 1720 has been considered 'at risk' since 1985 due to water causing extensive erosion to the soft sandstone columns.

Two hundred thousand pounds has been raised and restoration work is beginning, so we expect to pay our grant soon.

We are waiting to hear from our other 2012-13 grant approvals. The tree planting at **Peasholm Park, Scarborough** is being carried out this autumn/winter and the management plan for **Boston Park, Rotherham** is currently being finalised.

This year, 2014, we have made some minor changes to the format of our application form, which we think makes it easier to use. We also moved the closing date to the end of September to enable time for visits to the applicants before the worst of the winter weather ... perhaps because of that we have not yet had any snow! We have had four applications: Plumpton Rocks, Knaresborough for parkland trees, Scampston Conservatory, Malton, for exhibition materials particularly connected with the Richardsons who built it, Abbey House Youth Hostel Physic Garden, Whitby to improve the planting and labelling and The Sunken Gardens, People's Park, Whitby to restore the stone walls, seating and planting.

They are all worthy projects and quite contrasting. Both Plumpton Rocks and the walled garden and landscape at Scampston Hall are Grade II* on the English Heritage Register meaning that they are of exceptional historic interest. Neither of the gardens in Whitby is on the Register but do have an interesting history, are locally/regionally significant and are supported by local volunteers. Members of the Conservation sub-committee have been to see all the applicants and at our meeting in January the grant applications will be discussed in order to put proposals to the Council of Management for a final decision.

Elsewhere in this Newsletter you will be able to read Robert Hunter's fascinating account of Plumpton Rocks, but I would like to add that David Rhodes and I visited the Rocks



Friarwood Valley Gardens. Caroline and Val presenting the cheque to Liz Clayden of the Friends in front of the restored sensory flowerbed, *photo Bob Clayden*.

a few weeks ago to see the memorial tree planting for Edward de Plumpton Hunter and Helen Lazenby. In 1996 Edward was one of the (signatory) subscribers to the Yorkshire Gardens Trust Memorandum and Articles and Helen was the documents witness, so although The Rocks are sublime, a wonderful landscape that I love, they are for me also tinged with sadness.

We held our first Midsummer Picnic there on a rainy Friday evening, the 20th June 1997. Helen and I made a pre-picnic visit with Edward to work out the logistics of the event and I have a lovely photograph of them both standing gazing across the lake from the 'Lovers Leap' view point. In their memory twenty six Scots Pine trees (called 'firs' in the 18th century) and two yew trees were planted last March to replace trees lost over the last century. The yews have done very well but some Scots Pine trees on steep slopes have died, probably due to the prolonged cold/freezing conditions and then water run-off later on, resulting



Plumpton Rocks. Robert and David with some of the new trees planted in memory of Edward and Helen, *photo Val Hepworth*

in insufficient water. These are to be replaced probably in slightly different locations. The photograph shows David and Robert with the young Scots Pine on the plateau to the north of the 'Lion's Den' where the trees are doing well. It is good to think that Edward

and Helen's love of The Rocks will live on in the new tree planting and that this will be a small contribution to the enjoyment of visitors for many generations to come.

Val Hepworth

Schools



Wildlife pond with dipping platform (fenced), Sowerby Primary School

In September, Sue Lindley and I were delighted to visit Sowerby Primary School, Thirsk and present the school with a YGT Grounds Development Award, to help them transform an under-used space into a new sensory garden. The school has worked hard over the last few years to transform their grounds into a wonderful, additional, resource for learning and play. The headteacher, Mrs Yendall, was able to show us the wildlife pond with dipping platform; a variety of



Variety of living willow structures, Sowerby Primary School



Kitchen garden, Sowerby Primary School

willow structures; some newly planted trees that form the beginnings of a wildlife corridor and their productive kitchen garden, run by parents and children. We look forward to hearing how they get on creating their new sensory garden.

September also saw us sending out packs of native bluebell bulbs to all our member schools for planting later in the autumn. Our native bluebell, *Hyacinthoides non-scripta*, is under threat from the stronger, Spanish bluebell, so it is important to plant native bulbs to help conserve this intrinsic aspect of the British landscape and ecology. Children were able to learn about the role they can play to protect and conserve bluebells as they got involved in the planting, as well as having the opportunity to play in their own patch of bluebell woods in the future! As always, we would love

to see photos of your bluebells flowering in the spring.

Thank you also to St Catherine's RC Primary School in Sheffield, for continuing to send us photos of their activities in the school garden.

The Yorkshire Gardens Trust made an award to St Catherine's in March 2012 and the school used the award to help them build a series of raised beds which have been extensively gardened ever since! This autumn saw the children sowing Japanese onion sets. We hope these produce a good crop next year.

We look forward to supporting Yorkshire schools throughout 2014. Our awards scheme for individual schools



Willow tunnel, Sowerby Primary School

is currently on-hold. During this period of financial constraint, we will be directing funds to continue to support all member schools with regular mailings and gardening resources, rather than a select few through the awards scheme. Best wishes for another year teaching, learning and having fun in school gardens across the county!

YGT Schools team

Email Contact: nicola_a_harrison@tiscali.co.uk



Year 3 children having fun planting Japanese onion sets, St Catherine's Primary, Sheffield



Site for sensory garden, before work started, Sowerby Primary School

Events

Message from outgoing Events organiser

Dear Members,

I have lost count of the years I have been organising events, more recently on my own and in the past with Ray Blyth and Alison Brayshaw when we worked as a happy team. I have loved every moment. I have travelled every corner of Yorkshire looking at parks, gardens and stately homes. I have met some wonderful people from all walks of life who have opened their gardens, welcomed us into their houses or proudly shown us their public parks.

Most of all I have enjoyed the companionship of YGT members, many of whom have become true friends. We are bound by a love of gardens and historic landscapes not to mention the plants, trees and flowers which grace them with lasting beauty. Whenever I organised an event with a nursery nearby it was guaranteed we would all be in there buying as much as we could cram into our cars. Gardeners the world over just cannot resist a new plant!

We have had some fun, learnt a great deal and defied the most inclement weather because gardeners and garden-lovers are a tough breed. When visiting a garden they understand that there is no such thing as a perfect one. That of course is what we all strive for yet in reality there is always one sad area, the next thing to be done, the final challenge but once it is achieved along comes another! Gardeners, including myself, are always apologising for things way beyond our control: 'Oh, if only you had been here last week before the delphiniums were smashed by the wind' or 'this was the best year ever for my magnolia until last night's frost'.

Most of our members are fortunate enough to have their own gardens so on events when the weather is bad they freely empathise. They can cope with a wet garden, a dry garden and a windy garden as long as there is a good tea afterwards so I've always tried to make sure we had one, especially the clotted cream sort! Summer picnics are special events and well attended and it was such a great pleasure to host several of them at Low Askew. I want to take this opportunity to thank all those who have hosted events for the Trust and those

who have personally organised an event on my behalf.

Events continue to be a major source of income to the Trust so please go on supporting them. We do not seek to make a huge profit but it must be viable. Personally I believe we offer great value especially as most of them are private visits, something we all appreciate. I have been touched by your letters and e-mails after each event and this has meant a great deal to me. Thankfully no one has fallen into a lake or broken a leg on some tortuous garden path though I can recall a few narrow scrapes! Certain members are undoubtedly more adventurous than others so it is with a sigh of relief that I have managed to keep them safe under my watch.

Stepping down from events will give me more time to fulfil certain YGT projects I am involved with and other positions I have taken on outside the Trust. Rest assured, Dick Knight and Sue Kellerman have worked tirelessly to put together a great calendar of events for you in the coming year and I look forward to seeing many of you at these. If you have ideas for future events please let us know. Our aim is to keep you all happy enjoying a good day out. I end with a quote from the delightful writings of Marion Cran (1879-1942): 'Gardening speedily became a series of illuminating flashes; it was as strange to have to readjust the mental attitude with every added fact; it seemed something like a very short-sighted creature wearing constantly stronger and better glasses, so that the eye looked daily farther and farther into the wonderful world; daily widening the horizon, daily dispersing the film of ignorance, and seeing daily more clearly through the powerful lens of knowledge opportunities in the garden for beauties of form, colour, line and happiness'.

With my heartfelt thanks and very best wishes to you all

Penelope Dawson-Brown

2014

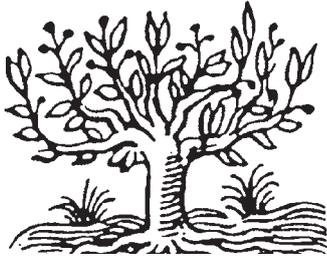
In addition to the AGM in April at Ripley, eleven events are planned for March to September 2014. Three of these are talks, one is a study day and the remaining seven are visits to properties across the region (including one to the lost lands of the West Riding, now in Lancashire). A lot of work goes into the creation of an annual events programme. Most of the individual visits have required trips to liaise with owners and to get a detailed plan worked out for the actual event. That is before the publicity and ticketing begins.

We want members to be enthusiastic about the programme and sign up for individual events so that these are full to capacity. Members should also recognise that apart from membership subscriptions, events are the only regular source of income for the Trust. The total money we receive for tickets must be in excess of the actual cost of mounting the programme and the price we ask for an individual event reflects those costs, bearing in mind the estimated number who will attend.

In short, we hope we are offering the opportunity for some excellent experiences in 2014. We would like you to think of taking part in even more of them, getting out and about with your fellow members. It really is a rewarding way of boosting support for YGT.

The 2014 Programme of Events includes full details of the first period (to June) and your first-half booking form. You can also get information from the members' area of the website.

Dick Knight and Susan Kellerman



YORKSHIRE GARDENS TRUST

Registered Company Number:
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Newsletter Editor

Louise Wickham

webmaster@yorkshiregardenstrust.org.uk

Research and Recording

The next stage ... I am sure you have noted from earlier Newsletters that YGT are being proactive and detailing twenty historic designed landscapes in the East Riding (all but one unregistered). Our Research & Recording team, consisting of myself, Louise Wickham, Yvonne Boutwood, Helena Anderson and Caroline Kernan with additional valuable help from Karen Lynch and Susan Kellerman, has reviewed the information provided by David and Susan Neave. So with the historical documentation now completed, we have to inform those responsible for the land of our information and hopefully add to their sense of heritage. This done, we aim to investigate these landscapes further and explore what remains of this history.

Stop Press!

Is reading the landscape something you may want understand for yourself, so why not join in and learn from these landscapes?

We will be running two workshops. The first, mid to end April, will focus on how to read a landscape from a theoretical point of view. The second, based at one of sites mid to end of May, will be a practical session learning to use visual documents (maps, plans and aerial photographs) in the morning. In the afternoon, the knowledge learnt will be used in situ to document the current state of the site and identify any potential threats.

If you want to know more or to sign up for the workshops, please contact me.

Jenni Howard
jennieastgate@outlook.com
01430 828932

Events March - June 2014

Tuesday 25 March, 2.30pm

Talk: **Combating Heritage Crime: You, Me, Everyone**

Dr Pete Wilson, Foresight Coordinator, Historic Environment Intelligence Team at EH

York Medical Society, 23 Stonegate, York

Saturday 12 April, 10am–4pm

AGM

Hotel de Ville, Ripley, nr Harrogate, and Ripley Castle gardens

Wednesday 7 May, 1-4pm

Rural Leeds, *rus in urbe*: the Hollies and Bardon Grange, Weetwood

Friday 16 May, 10am–4pm

Bramham Park: the restoration of the parterre cascade
(study day)

Bramham, Wetherby, West Yorkshire

Tuesday 20 May, 7.30pm

Biennial joint York Philosophical Society/YGT lecture

John Ruskin and Wild Flora: The Lancaster Drawings and Brantwood Gardens

Professor David Ingram, OBE, VMH, FRSE

Tempest Anderson Hall, Museum Gardens, York

Wednesday 11 June, 2–4.30pm

Clifton Castle, nr Masham, N Yorks

Sunday 15 June, 11am–5pm

Wentworth Castle: summer picnic, and restored Victorian Conservatory

Low Lane, Stainborough, Barnsley, S Yorks

NB Details of events July–September will be sent out later in the spring

Friday 4 July, 11am and 2pm

Havoc Hall, Oswaldkirk, and **Rewela Cottage**, Skewsby, N Yorks

Wed 16 July, 2pm

High Hall, Steeton, West Yorks

Friday 8 August, 11am–4pm

Browsholme Hall

Cow Ark, Clitheroe, Lancashire

Saturday 6 September, 2pm

Talk: **What does Politics have to do with Gardens?**

Louise Wickham

York Medical Society, 23 Stonegate, York