



YORKSHIRE GARDENS TRUST

NEWSLETTER

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AUTUMN 2016

A Fine Celebration: A Private View

Noble Prospects: Capability Brown and the Yorkshire Landscape



The Countess of Harewood opens the private view

A large gathering of Yorkshire Gardens Trust members and Friends of the Mercer were treated to a fine celebratory evening at the Mercer Art Gallery in Harrogate on 24 June. The brilliant exhibition to celebrate the tercentenary of the birth of Capability Brown fulfills all expectations and has been masterfully curated by our own Karen Lynch. Encompassing the extensive work that Brown achieved in Yorkshire and showing paintings, plans and other historic material, much of which has not been publicly exhibited before, the exhibition gives an insight into the creation of landscapes which we now think of as beautifully natural views but which in so doing underpin the genius of 'the Great Brown'.

The historic exhibits are accompanied by Simon Warner's film which explores how Brown's Yorkshire sites have survived with varying fortunes into the present day.

The large scale installation *False Perspectives* by Kate Whiteford OBE has been inspired by the way Brown

transformed the English Landscape through the manipulation of scale and perspective. This is in the main gallery area; a fine complement which beautifully stimulates further contemplation and thought. The exhibition was opened by the Countess of Harewood, President of Yorkshire Gardens Trust who was accompanied by the Earl of Harewood.

Continued overleaf,

Inside This Issue

Gardens & Visits	Page
Austwick Hall	14
Hornby Castle	22
Midsummer Picnic 2015	13
Scarborough	15
'Groups' News	
Conservation	10
Research & Recording	10
Schools' News	12
Small Grants	11
Future Visits	
	7
Other Items	
AGM 2016	4
Book Review	18
Chairman's letter	3
Cost Cutting	2
Inundation at Flower Show	18
Joint Lecture 2016	20
Noble Prospects	19
Plumpton Rocks	8
Refugee Day	24
Resource Hub	16
Calling a Spade a Spade	2
The Gardens Trust	17



Val Hepworth, Jill Rakusen, Karen Lynch

Lady Harewood, living in a Brown landscape, expressed her delight in opening the exhibition. We were very pleased that Jill Rakusen could be with us. The book written by Karen to accompany the exhibition is dedicated to the memory of her mother Philippa (Pippa) Rakusen, founder member and benefactor of Yorkshire Gardens Trust. After arrival drinks the evening began with a welcome and introduction by Jane Sellars, the Cultural Services Manager for Harrogate Borough Council, who is overall curator at the Mercer. YGT Vice-president, Nick Lane Fox thanked everyone involved with the exhibition especially Karen and Caroline (Lady Legard), the Mercer and our sponsors. Elizabeth Nelson of Savills (representing all the sponsors), Jane Sellars and Lady Harewood were presented with flowers. Karen received flowers and a special gift to great applause.

The two exhibitions are a delightful complement to each other and should not be missed; both are free! Our book written by Karen is also a must; so do buy one or three! Our thanks to the volunteers from YGT (co-ordinated by David Rhodes) who are going to welcome visitors to the exhibition over the summer weekends before the exhibition closes on 11 September. We're hugely proud of both Karen and the exhibition.

Val Hepworth

The Gardens Trust AGM and 2016 Conference

The Gardens Trust is holding its
Annual General Meeting at 3.15 pm on Friday 2 September 2016 at Robinson College, Cambridge
Any member of Yorkshire Gardens Trust is entitled to attend but is asked to register at
info@thegardenstrust.org.

At the same venue The Gardens Trust and Cambridgeshire Gardens Trust have jointly organised
the 2016 Conference 'A Tercentenary Conference on Lancelot 'Capability' Brown' from
Thursday 1 September until Sunday 4 September 2016.

**Details of this are available at <http://cambsgardens.org.uk>
and on The Gardens Trust website. www.thegardenstrust.org**

Yorkshire Gardens Trust

President	The Countess of Harewood
Vice Presidents	Peter Goodchild Nick Lane Fox Caroline Legard
Chairman	Val Hepworth
Treasurer	David Tiptaft
Membership/Events	Louise Amende
Newsletter	Tony Cleaver

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Cutting Costs

Yorkshire Gardens Trust is constantly aware of using its income to the best advantage and reviewing costs. It has been suggested that to save on the considerable cost of postage, instead of posting to every member a copy of the annual report together with the AGM agenda, the annual report would be available at the AGM and the agenda be printed in the Spring Newsletter. Copies of the Newsletter could also be available to members on request. At the moment this is just a suggestion; if you have any ideas on it please contact the chairman or any member of Council.

Calling a Spade a Spade

You will read in my Chairman's Letter that YGT would not exist without the dedicated voluntary support of our active members. Calling a spade a spade; despite being in a good financial position, with a membership in excess of 300, dedicated Vice-presidents and a number of dedicated members who are very actively involved in running YGT, if the Trust doesn't have more trustees and helpers then it will fold. The bottom line is having more trustees.

We need several new trustees to bring fresh ideas and momentum and to take on small roles such as helping with the grant scheme, conservation and planning, events, publicity, and self-contained administrative jobs like Company Secretary and Trustee-support. Helpers who are not trustees would also be very welcome. If you think that you can help or know of someone who might like to join YGT and help us then do please get in touch with me to talk things over. Tel: 01748 822617; val@hepworthskeeby.co.uk

Val Hepworth

Chairman's Letter

We'll Gather Lilacs In The Spring Again.

Every May-time I'm reminded of my late mother who used to play and sing this lovely Ivor Novello song. She was of that generation, and I remember her box of sheet music beneath her baby grand piano; the latter a 21st birthday present from her father, my grandfather. The song is such a memorable piece written as World War II drew to a close. This spring the blossoms seem to have been particularly beautiful; dripping hawthorn hedgerows, smothered fruit trees and of course the heavily perfumed lilacs just making one feel good to be alive.

However, in amongst all this joy, a recent report on the state of the world's vegetation gives cause for concern. "The State of the World's Plants 2016", the first of what it is hoped will be an annual series, from the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, reports that about a fifth of vascular plants (green plants that have a good conducting system ie are not algae, mosses or liverworts), are threatened with extinction. After considerable research the authors estimate that there are 391,000 vascular plants – give or take – and of these 360,000 are flowering plants. But to cut to the quick – excuse the pun – about 31,000 plant species are useful for medicine, food and fodder. And as we all know, plants are the veritable staff of animal/human life due to their amazing photosynthetic ability utilising carbon dioxide and water to produce sugars and oxygen.

We now have satellites to record extinctions and Smart phones to record discoveries; very different from Capability Brown's time when plant hunters sent boxes of plants and seeds back to Britain. John Bartram of Philadelphia (1699-1777) spent thirty three years hunting plants for the London merchant Peter Collinson, sending hundreds of boxes on the long journey across the Atlantic. Early Bartram collections went to Lord Petre, Philip Miller at the Chelsea Physic Garden, the Duke of Richmond and the Duke of Norfolk. Robert James Petre of Thorndon Hall, Essex was the

foremost collector of North American trees and shrubs in Europe. Sadly he died in 1743 but his son, 8th Baron Petre continued his interests paying Brown £5,059.2s for his work at Thorndon Hall; a huge sum. The lake and some vestiges of the plantations remain, but much of the ground is given over to a golf club.

And so to 'the great Brown' and his tercentenary; we hope that you have managed to get to our exhibition, *Noble Prospects: Capability Brown and the Yorkshire Landscape*, at the Mercer Art Gallery in Harrogate – or indeed attended the private view and perhaps volunteered to guide and inform visitors for one of the sessions during the summer. Our book written by Karen Lynch is a must for anyone interested in Yorkshire's designed landscapes and gardens. It is a unique record, beautifully illustrated with many images not seen on public view before, and at £10 (+£2 pp) is very reasonably priced and would make a very nice present; so do buy one or three! We are extremely indebted to Karen, Caroline (Lady Legard), Jane Sellars and the team at the Mercer Art Gallery and all sponsors, supporters and donors who have made this seminal exhibition possible.

The YGT would not exist without the dedicated voluntary support of our active members such as Karen and Caroline, our researchers, webmaster, schools education, conservation and events sub-committees, membership and newsletter and of course our trustees. I am very sorry that Kath Gibson has recently resigned from an active role in the YGT. She has made an invaluable contribution, bringing her sage professional experience as planner and conservation officer and her wider interests, to both the Council of YGT and as Chairman of the Conservation Sub-committee and we thank her very warmly. We are now in the position where after twenty years the Conservation sub-committee really needs some new

members who could do a little bit to take this work of the Trust forward. It's a very good way of getting to know people and places in Yorkshire and making a valued contribution to the future. We are keen to continue our advisory and planning conservation role and despite the loss of Kath we have members of the Trust who continue to do this where they can, but extra pairs of hands would be very welcome. I would be pleased to explain further/ give help and you would be most welcome to join us to find out more – as Kath has written, the friendship and cake are always enjoyable additions!

I can't believe that it is more than twenty years since I organised the first meeting of the steering group to set up the YGT and I've been a trustee ever since; a good stint and just so enjoyable with many friendships forged, places visited and knowledge developed. However I have decided that it will be time at the next AGM to retire as Chairman. My current trustee period has potentially two more years to run and I'm happy to continue in that role if needed and to help with the Events Sub-committee which works very hard on your behalf.

We do need more trustees, otherwise to be perfectly blunt the YGT will fold. We're currently at six and falling below five means that we can't function, so it would be good to have a few more around the table at our quarterly meetings. However I'm delighted to write that a new member, Nigel Tooze, has agreed to take over from David as YGT Treasurer starting on 1 October. David has been looking after our finances and providing a witty exposition at our AGM's for more years than I can remember and we're hugely indebted to him. It's great to welcome Nigel to the team – as I said to him 'managing YGT's finances should be a piece of cake compared to those of the Richmond Georgian Theatre Royal' where he's also volunteered. So huge thanks to David and Nigel.

Finally, huge thanks to Louise at the 'office' and do have a wonderful summer whatever the weather throws at us – we're gardeners, we're tough - and do get in touch with me or Louise if you want to know more about how you can help YGT. Tel: 01748 822617 or email: secretary@yorkshiregardenstrust.org.uk

*We'll gather lilacs in the spring again
And walk together down an English lane*

Val Hepworth

Yorkshire Gardens Trust AGM

Scampston Hall, 19 March 2016

Val Hepworth welcomed about 75 members to the 19th YGT AGM, reminding us that the 2005 AGM was held in Scampston Village Hall and that much earlier in 1773 Brown was at Scampston. The business of the AGM was transacted briskly and efficiently with Caroline, Lady Legard in the chair. Many thanks were duly given for the hard work and tremendous achievements during the year. David Tiptaft explained how the negatives in the auditor's report translate into the positive of a small surplus for the year and a broadly healthy financial position. Val highlighted the success of the events over the last year and outlined what was planned for 2016. Various people briefed the meeting on all aspects of YGT including the forthcoming *Noble Prospects* exhibition, the grant being made for Duncombe Park's Doric Temple, the education and research projects and the planned visit of refugees to Beningbrough Hall for which the National Trust has been very helpful both with the arrangements and in giving free access. These matters are recorded more fully in the minutes.

Following the AGM, Steffie Shields was our Guest Speaker. After lunch there was a choice of visits – the Hall or, to complement Steffie's talk on Brown, the landscape at Scampston designed by Brown. The day concluded with an optional visit to Deer Park Lodge. The following accounts deal with these elements.

Michael Horsley

Scampston Hall visit

How do you separate the people from the building? How can you not read the room without knowledge of the lives of those who walked, talked, eat and slept in the rooms we were guided around on our visit? Sir Charles Legard welcomed us up the steps, through large wooden doors between pillars into an entrance hall surrounded by portraits of his and the Hall's ancestors. And the story began.

The clothes may be unfamiliar, the pose somewhat staged by modern terms, but it's the faces in the portraits that draw you to search for their character. Each of these portraits was of someone intimately involved with Scampston, as the family has been here since the beginning of the 18th century. Gainsborough was a friend of Sir William St Quintin 4th Baronet and so it was not a surprise to find a Gainsborough in the entrance hall. The lineage depicted by Gainsborough over the fireplace of 5th Baronet Sir William St Quintin of Scampston was given depth by Sir Charles, as a man who married a wealthy heiress Charlotte Fane in 1758, and did not remarry after her early death, but concentrated on Scampston; and with no offspring or male siblings the baronetcy expired.

We moved on to the drawing room festooned with paintings, mainly landscapes, given plenty of light from the floor sashes. One painting illustrated an interest in Duncombe Park: William Herbert St Quintin (1851-1933) married Violet Helen Duncombe in 1885. A painting of King Herod stood proud, on all four legs - that made him a St Leger winner!

Leaving here we ascended the stairs where Sir Charles explained the detail that was put into the restoration of Scampston, the painstaking research applied to the damaged wallpaper, copied using a woodblock and recreated to the original. We admired the porcelain collection of Sèvres, Derby and Chelsea established by Lord Hillington.

Bedrooms always give a more intimate insight into the family than the formal rooms can, and on the four-poster bed was the quilt and tester given as a wedding present in 1880 to Sir Charles' grandmother. A delightful Louis XV secretaire sat in the bow window with three sashes overlooking the estate. From the right-hand-side you could clearly see the Deer House, the Wolds and the bridge over the lake.

Down to the sitting room and a 1766 Gainsborough reminded us of the links again. A rural scene sat in the centre, of a swain lingering to talk to a young girl under a tree. Again, wall paper restoration from 1860 was needed in here matching the 1860 carpet.

Other paintings included Antwerp Cathedral (1625 Pieter Neefs), and a river scene by Breugel. There were pre-Brown landscapes illustrated by William Harlow (1750) either side of the fireplace. All were comfortably

surrounding a baby grand piano, sofas and armchairs.

My favourite room proved to be the library, with a bow window with full length sashes and the wall lined by books held in place with brass rails. In the dining room the 5th Baronet reappeared, reminding me of this widower whose wife died in childbirth, child stillborn, and he spent the next thirty years putting his energies into Scampston. I mused that grief often meant that the one left filled their days so as not to notice the loss, much to Scampston's gain.

The clock chimed on the third hour and it was time to move on.

We took a short drive to the Deer Lodge, originally designed by John Carr in 1850, followed by later additions in 1969 and 1980; and all retaining a delightful character with gothicised windows and trefoils. The carriage would bring visitors from the hall to the house for tea, and for them to enjoy the reflected view back to Scampston Hall and the lake. We, like the visitors of old, were treated to delicious tea and cake, and the opportunity to examine maps orientating the Deer Lodge with the Hall and its estate.

This gave me an opportunity to reflect on the day, and how at lunch in the Conservatory, I had a conversation with Caroline, Lady Legard; and asked her how it felt to have people walking through what was, until relatively recently, her home. She explained that Scampston was part of the historic culture that should be shared and appreciated by more than the incumbents. She felt it was important that the public could appreciate the value of this maintained heritage, alongside the fact that such a responsibility required constant maintenance; and making it relevant to each successive generation was an ongoing challenge. Without Caroline and Charles' generosity, and the hospitality of those at the Deer Lodge, our historic language would be limited.

Jenni Howard

Scampston Landscape Tour

After lunch on the AGM day we were treated to a tour led by Margaret Nieke ably assisted by Val Hepworth – both knowledgeable about Scampston. We were able to identify some of the features referred to in Steffie's talk that are the hallmark of a landscape designed by Brown.

The Park at Scampston, now Registered Grade II*, was laid out by Sir William St Quentin to a design by Lancelot Brown during the 1770s; it incorporated earlier 18th century landscape features and a formal garden thought to be by Bridgeman.

In the conservatory we were able to examine a map drawn by Percival Luccock (c1731) showing the Bridgeman layout which had been overwritten with a later design with remodelled lakes.

We were provided with a copy of notes produced by John Phibbs in 2015. He suggested that the overwriting of the earlier map was perhaps during initial discussions with Brown.

To quote from these notes “he [Brown] balanced the landscape south of the house by extending the parkland to the south-west and opening views to the Wolds ... [balanced as] ...he combined the bridge over the Malton to Scarborough road (now A64), the Deer House and Ice House (all of which had been built before he arrived) into one composition with his new cascade.”



Image 1: The parterre and beyond, the Middle Fish Pond.

We were now ready to explore and started in front of the house looking south (as Brown intended) beyond the parterre, across the Middle Fish Pond to the bridge (c1775) over the A64 (Image 1). From here we passed the Pump House (1778) before seeing the fine Palladian Bridge (1770s) (Image 2) with its three arches spanning the Lower Lake. The bridge also conceals the Lower Lake dam. The water flowed over this to the stone edged reflecting pool behind the bridge. From the bridge there was a good view south along the length of the Lower Lake as it curved gently to the right to the cascade (1774 rebuilt in 20th century) at the other end.

After admiring the view we continued along the eastern bank of the lake past mature trees and what would be a carpet of daffodils (we were just too early for them to be in full bloom). There are groups of yews surrounded by the remnants of box which provided a lower layer. Here there was a sympathetic play area to engage visiting children.

Progressing over a stone bridge, not listed but with interesting detail, views opened to the east with a horse shelter (mid 18th century) with well detailed brickwork set adjacent to the perimeter trees. Horses were bred at Scampston and there are several shelters remaining including those adjacent to the car park. On re-entering a belt of trees we came to the Ice House (late 18c or early 19c) framed by a mature horse chestnut and ash. In front of the Ice House was a paved apron where ice from the lakes would have been broken up before being stored. The Ice House had a fine modern iron gate rather than a traditional solid wooden door. From here we crossed above the cascade with good views across the lake, High Fish Pond, and saw a heron as it flew away from us; it is a good place for wildlife. As we had dallied up to this point, time was now short and we headed back across the parkland of the Plain admiring the scattered trees and view of the hall. These trees included many fine specimens, one of which was a particularly good 18th century Spanish Chestnut. Passing to the west of the Hall which formed the main approach there were again some good trees under planted by carpets of bulbs.

For some of us this rounded off the day as others prepared to visit Deer Park Lodge for tea and cakes. It had been good to view the landscape whilst the ideas from Steffie's talk were still fresh in our minds.

Michael Horsley (Images by Michael)



Image 2: The Palladian Bridge at Scampston (1770s)

Election of Officers

At the last AGM there was a query about how we elect the officers of YGT. The Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Yorkshire Gardens Trust state that the affairs of the Yorkshire Gardens Trust shall be managed by the Council of Management. Council members are the trustees and directors of the company. The numbers of the Council shall not be less than five and no more than twenty. The trustees are elected at the AGM. One third of the trustees, or the number nearest one-third retire from office at the AGM but shall be eligible for re-election.

At the Council of Management meeting immediately after the AGM the Council elects a Chairman and appoints officers. They may delegate any of their powers to committees consisting of such member or members of Council as they think fit.

Future Events

Visit to Wortley Hall Gardens

South Yorkshire S35 7DB

Thursday 15 September 11am-3pm; £15 including lunch



The gateway to the Community Vegetable Garden at Wortley Hall.

Visit to Wressle Castle

between Howden and Selby, East Riding of Yorkshire

Wednesday 5 October 2016, 1.30 pm - 3.30 pm; £12 including refreshments

by kind permission of the Falkingham family.



The visit will start with an illustrated talk by Ed Dennison who has undertaken research and surveys of this late 14th century Grade I Listed castle and its associated gardens; followed by a guided tour with Ed and Margaret Nieke, then tea and cake in the village hall. Wressle is a ruined palace-fortress intended as a high status residence rather than a fortress. By the late 15th century the castle had two gardens and a third was added around 1472-1517; it is privately owned so this is a great opportunity to view it. There is no disabled access to the site; please wear stout footwear and waterproofs.

To book for these events, YGT members should forward the YGT Events Booking Form (as sent in June 2016) to the events secretary or request a form by emailing secretary@yorkshiregardenstrust.co.uk.

Plumpton Rocks Restoration

The Return to Heaven on Earth

Members of YGT may recall that I wrote an article back in the winter 2014 edition of the Newsletter on the history of the landscape garden at Plumpton and ended with a brief outline of the restoration plans. It is with much joy that I can report that after two years of labour, ingenuity, cost, patience, concern, worry, graft, cost, skill, worry, humour, resourcefulness, sensitivity, cost, pragmatism, worry and dedication that numerous gifted individuals who have been involved in this complexed project are bringing the restoration to a successful and momentous conclusion.

It is hard to explain quite what this means to me and actually to believe that we are at this stage at all. It may sound a bit over the top but the place is practically part of my DNA. I was lucky enough to be brought up with the Rocks quite literally as my playground. I would spend hours playing around the lake, running enthusiastically but slowly after my siblings during the school holidays in endless games of tig. I am sure at that time I never gave any thought to the fact how lucky I was to have unlimited access to a Grade 2* historic landscape garden of the sublime and picturesque genre. I was more interested in the unlimited number of hiding places among the rocks when an unwanted and dull member of the family came to visit and it was time for me to make a sharp exit to avoid a wet, sloppy kiss.

In my early teens we moved 150 miles to North Northumberland and for the next ten years I only rarely visited the garden. However, I can still remember the intensely strong emotions and connection that a visit would arouse in me. I do believe that a beautiful landscape can touch the soul and perhaps that is one of the reasons why gardening is so popular. I also believe that a family connection with a place can make it a special and spiritual place. I am

sure this has had a very large impact on me. The Plumptons have owned Plumpton Rocks for over 800 years and that is after the near 200 year period that the Lascelles owned it. So I think that a desire to restore the Rocks has been embedded in me for as long as I can remember, initially subconsciously but as I became more involved in the running of the garden it became obvious that this was a long term wish. No piece on the restoration of Plumpton can be written without mentioning the enormous contribution made by my late father, Edward. He bought the garden back into the family ownership and ensured its survival. There have been many others who have played important roles such as the much missed Helen Lazenby, YGT and our own fishing syndicate. These individuals and groups kept Plumpton in the public profile but the idea of a major restoration scheme still seemed a very long way away, particularly in these times of austerity.

The breakthrough came when I was asked by English Heritage four years ago if I would mind if they placed the landscape on their register of buildings and landscapes at risk. They said this may open the way for some funding. It certainly did, I was introduced to Margaret Nieke of Natural England and proceeded to

make a successful application for Higher Level Stewardship. This would open the way for a substantial amount of funding to enable the restoration of the remnant parkland I had recently purchased together with a comprehensive scheme for the restoration of the woods, desilting of the lake and restoration of the dam.

A series of investigative reports were commissioned from a variety of consultants in 2013 and 2014. It was frustrating not to just start the work, but there were complex issues to consider with regard to the ecology of the site and to plan the restoration. By the summer of 2014 we were ready to make a start on the parkland restoration.

The parkland covers about 36 acres and had been ploughed up in the early 1980s for arable. From estate plans going back to the 18th Century it was clear it had been a parkland setting with a number of individual specimen trees. It was designed at that time to provide the setting for the John Carr mansion that was never completed and still provides the setting for Carr's magnificent stable block and associated farm buildings. An estate plan of 1587 confirms that the parkland has the roots of its design in medieval times, with the boundaries and road plan as it is today. At that time the park and Rocks served as a deer park and fish



Image: The restoration of the dam.

ponds for the ancient Plumpton Towers which was badly damaged by parliament forces after Marston Moor and demolished by Daniel Lascelles in the 1750s.

The restoration of the parkland was an easy task to achieve. The arable fields were sown with a meadow mix, re-fenced and 80 individual parkland trees planted in parkland guards. Phil Lyth of Yorkshire Farming and Wildlife had expertly analysed the series of maps we had over the ages and was able to provide a plan for where the new trees should be sited. We knew from the Harewood estate records (thanks to Benedict and Catherine Thompson McCausland) the varieties of trees that had been planted during the 1760s.

The next phase was, for me, the scariest. With any landscape which has formed and developed over hundreds of years it difficult to know where to take it back. We know that over the last 100 years, due to the increase in the cost of labour, the woodland has developed a much more naturalistic form thanks to self seeding trees and a reduction in continuous maintenance. With the advice of Historic England it was felt that we should open up the 18th Century vistas and recreate the views that Turner would have been familiar with when he had his first commission in oils for two views at Plumpton in 1797. Over 120 large trees were taken down around the lake and dam. Opening up the long lost view of the lake looking south was perhaps the most dramatic outcome. This view had been lost for at least 150 years and I lost a certain amount of sleep whether we should proceed with such a major, perhaps reckless change that would take many years to recover. Happily, the near surgical skills of our team of tree surgeons have restored triumphantly the long lost views of the lake both north and south, together with the glimpse of the boat house from the dam. The work to the creek has been a revelation, removing years of rhododendron growth to allow the dramatic rock formations to reappear.

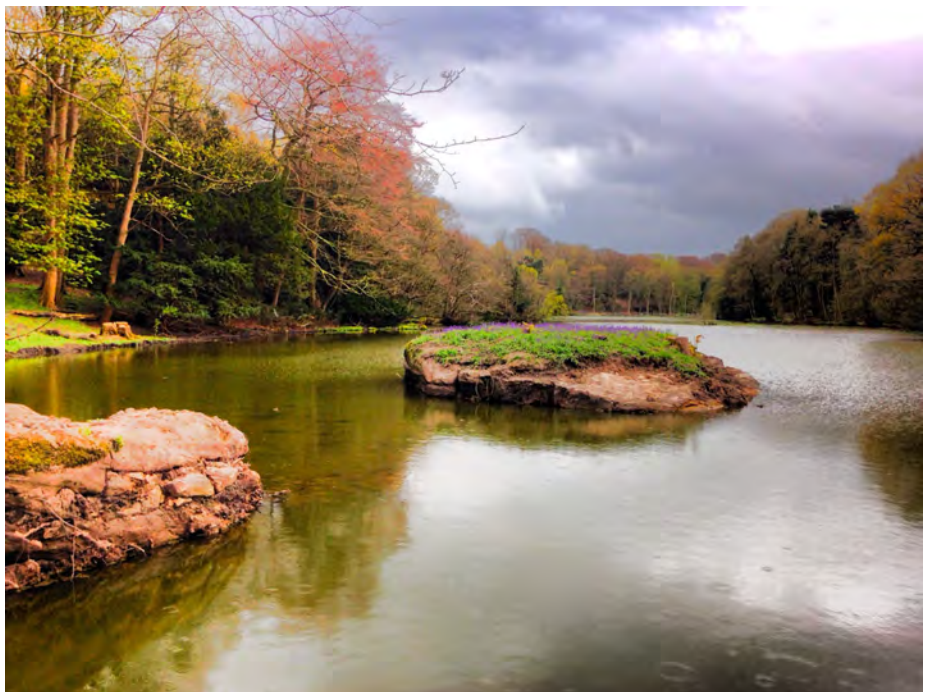


Image: Two islands, painted by JMW Turner in c.1778

By far the most challenging aspect of the restoration has been the desilting of the creek and northern end of the lake to remove 200 years of silt and take the lake back to its original size of the 1750s. .

Not only would this mean the removal of 100s of tonnes of silt to be deposited in the park, no easy task due to the access and difficulty to manoeuvre heavy machinery, but this had to be done in winter! Fortunately, our conservation architects, Donald Insall, together with an amazing team at Aecom for the engineering work and contractors, Fox, rose to this challenge on time and on budget. We were lucky with the weather too! Two islands that Turner painted have been rediscovered at the top of the lake and the creek has been restored from a muddy mess to a tranquil pool that Girtin painted. .

By now we had extinguished the Natural England Funding and it appeared the project would stop short of the last aim of the restoration, the dam. The dam had been somewhat overlooked and under researched over the last few decades, mainly because it had become lost to a large covering of ivy and obscured to the south by a battalion of sycamores. The tree works enabled us to remove the trees and the dam was a tantalising

project. Historic England, who had made a substantial grant for desilting work, wonderfully agreed to make a large grant, but this still needed a matched element which I was not able to meet, having exhausted my own resources on the works to date. Magnificently the Country Houses Foundation agreed to make a grant and the dam was going to be restored after all. Hooray!

John Carr's structure is something worthy of Vanbrugh. All six ball finials are being reinstated, worthy of a wedding cake and the restored dam will be a fantastic feature. Many thanks must go to the skill of Historic Property Restoration who are leading the work.

The restoration of the garden has been a great achievement and I am enormously grateful to everyone involved. The results are extraordinary and I am sure that Plumpton's position as one of the most significant landscape gardens in the north will be re-evaluated.

It is hoped that the gardens will reopen to the public at the end of July, see www.plumptonrocks.com for details. The garden will also feature in the BBC's new adaptation of Swallows and Amazons, to be released in August.

Robert Hunter

Conservation News

It has been interesting to note that, over the last few months, there have been proposals for several large scale development projects which have the potential to impact on historic designed landscapes. These include a new motorway service area in the Aire Valley below Temple Newsam, Leeds, a golf development with 500 houses at Rossington, Rotherham and a new Innovation Technology Centre for Bradford University based at Milner Field, Bingley. While this upswing in the economy is to be welcomed, it reinforces the need to make sure that we reach as wide an audience as possible with our message about the significance and potential vulnerability of Yorkshire's parks and gardens.

On a smaller scale, we are concerned about York House in Malton, where there is proposal to build a new link to the Talbot Hotel and convert both to a hotel, which includes the alteration and reconfiguration of the gardens. At the time of writing, while the

submitted Heritage Impact Statement deals with heritage assets that are part of the garden layout, it does not consider the garden as a whole, nor does it seem to recognise that the garden is the historical setting of the Grade II* Listed Building and an integral part of the ensemble of listed elements. We have advised that the garden should be properly recorded, including levels, and that a separate assessment, carried out by an appropriate specialist in garden history, should be undertaken. This should then form the basis for the production of a Conservation Management Plan for the garden and the listed garden features in it and for designing an appropriate landscaping scheme, based on historical evidence and precedent, which minimises harm to the significance of the site.

We also remain concerned about Reginald Farrer's rock garden in Clapham. Following discussions on site last year, Historic England have recorded the site and

produced a detailed report which is now publicly available. However, we are still not in agreement about the best way to reinstate the water features and discussions are ongoing at the time of writing. This will be the last newsletter article from me as, due to changed circumstances and increasing demands on my time over the last few months, I am no longer able to continue as a trustee of the Yorkshire Gardens Trust and Chair of the Conservation Committee. The two years that I have spent as a trustee have been very rewarding, and I have especially fond memories of the good company and delicious cakes and scones that have helped us through our meetings - thank you Val and all the other bakers! If you are interested in helping with the Trust's conservation work please get in touch with Val, your contribution would be very much appreciated.

Kathryn Gibson

Research and Recording Group

Our activities go from strength to strength, aided by the external volunteers we have attracted who have learnt about our work from our contact with local history groups. In particular, we are pleased to be working with the Nidderdale Historic Parks and Gardens Study Group, many of whom are also YGT members, for our latest project.

We are now researching and recording in three areas: East Riding (our pilot area), Selby District and Hambleton District, the latter two being in North Yorkshire. The details and reports, as we complete them, can be found on the YGT website. The first site completed for Selby is Carlton Towers.

We still would welcome volunteers from within the YGT. I did a recent audit and found **at least** 437 historic parks and gardens within the various parts that make up Yorkshire. 120 of those are on the Historic England Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest but 157 currently appear to be unrecorded (that is, not on the Parks and Gardens UK database). So we have a long way to go!

Louise Wickham

Chair, Research & Recording

webmaster@yorkshiregardenstrust.org.uk

YGT Small Grants Scheme 2016 and 2017

This year we had three applications for support under our Small Grants Scheme. The Friends of Prince of Wales Park, Bingley have withdrawn their application and unfortunately Incredible Edible Brighouse did not fully meet our grant criteria. However, we are delighted to report that the repair/restoration of the Tuscan Temple at Duncombe Park is making very good progress. The image below right, taken 3 June, shows the last capital being lifted (by Gary and Craig from Ebor Stone) onto the last column.

Jake Duncombe writes:

Pevsner described the terraces at Duncombe Park in North Yorkshire as 'one of the most extensive and boldest landscaping enterprises of England'. YGT's association with Duncombe Park dates back to 2010, when the Trust agreed to contribute £500 towards the cost of survey work at the Nelson Gate, prior to an extensive restoration project which was completed in spring 2012. A further sum of £1,000 was granted in 2012/13 towards the replacement of all 10 columns (including capitals and bases) at the Ionic Temple, a project completed by summer 2015. Following on from the success of these projects, and the high standard of restoration achieved, YGT has now agreed a further grant of £1,000 towards the replacement of all 16 columns at the Tuscan Temple, together with renewal of other eroded stonework. All columns have been replaced with stone sourced from the Dunhouse quarry in Co. Durham, and work is scheduled to complete by November of this year.

The 'before' image shows the very poor state of the Tuscan Temple before the work began. The Tuscan Temple dates from c.1730 and is attributed to Sir Thomas Robinson, listed Grade I. Its successful restoration will remove it from Historic England's Buildings at Risk register and along with a Higher Level Stewardship Agreement with Natural England to restore other historic and natural features of the designed landscape, will ensure that the Grade I historic park and garden will give pleasure for many years to come.

Small Grant Scheme 2017

We have now been running the grant scheme for twelve years starting with grants of £500 to both Thorp Prebend House Garden in Ripon and the orchid house at Helmsley Walled Garden in 2003/4. The trustees have agreed that we will have the application form and notes for 2017 on the YGT website as usual and are delighted that fellow trustee Ray Blyth has recently volunteered to co-ordinate the scheme. We are also grateful to Maddy Jago who has reviewed our grant scheme and made helpful suggestions for the future.

So if you are aware of anyone who would welcome the opportunity to apply for a grant of up to £1,000 then please point them to our website or if you would like further information or to help then please do get in touch with Ray or with me.

Val Hepworth



Tuscan Temple, Duncombe Park, before restoration
Image: Jake Duncombe



Tuscan Temple, Duncombe Park: the last capital being lifted onto the last column.
Image: Jake Duncombe

Schools' News

In this year, the tercentenary of the birth of Lancelot 'Capability' Brown, we have been marking the event in schools by raising awareness of the great English landscape designer and his Yorkshire landscapes; encouraging schools to get out and about into the landscape; and, in particular, to recognise that many of the trees planted as part of Brown's designs almost 300 years ago, are still standing majestically in the landscapes of today. By focussing their celebrations on trees, schools can readily bring a 300 year history to life whether through travelling to visit a Brown site in Yorkshire; visiting a local parkland or woodland; or simply exploring the landscape in their school grounds from a new angle!

Early in the year, each of our 42 YGT-member schools, received a gifted copy of *A Little Guide to Trees* by Charlotte Voake, a publication highly recommended by 'Junior Education Plus' and the 'School Librarian', among others. A commemorative bookplate in each marked that this was a gift from the Yorkshire Gardens Trust on the occasion of the tercentenary of the birth of Capability Brown. We are very grateful for a generous anonymous donation which was used to purchase these special books. We were also pleased to be able to support a local independent bookshop in York to supply and distribute the books.

The Pippa Rakusen bequest again enables us to make two awards of £250 to schools this summer. The first will be a YGT Schools Grounds Development award; the second, offering to fund a school visit to the Yorkshire Arboretum.

We are also offering to pay for two schools to attend the *Noble Prospects: Capability Brown & the Yorkshire Landscape* exhibition and associated workshop at the



'A Little Guide to Trees' gifted to YGT schools by the Trust, as part of the 'Capability' Brown celebrations.

Mercer Art Gallery, Harrogate, as part of this summer of celebrations.

Finally, as 2016 draws to a close, we will be offering schools the gift of a small tree to plant in their grounds, to commemorate Brown in the most fitting way we could think!

Nicola Harrison

Continued from p.13, opposite.

The management plan and the enormous task of restoring the terrace to how it would have been in the time of John and Anne Yorke has been described in detail in Val's article in the Spring 2015 issue of the YGT newsletter. The resulting imposing and elegant walkway has many interesting and varied shrubs and trees on the upper side, whilst on the other are long views over the river valley - giving yet further glimpses of the surrounding 'grand and Romantic Scenery'.

The old menagerie, extended and known as Temple Lodge, is now the home of the Lawson family. Reaching the South Garden in front of the dwelling, we were ready for our picnic on the lawn with its customary luscious strawberries and cream - and without the rain. We had enjoyed a grand day in the company of enthusiastic and knowledgeable guides and greatly appreciated the opportunity to visit this historically important designed landscape of exceptional interest and beauty. Our thanks to Morven and Richard Lawson, to Val Hepworth, and to all who, behind the scenes, helped to organise the day.

Margaret Waterson

(Apologies to Margaret for this should have appeared in the Autumn Newsletter 2015- Editor) .

Visit to Temple Lodge Grounds, Richmond

Midsummer Picnic, 20 June 2015

Almost Midsummer's Day, and members of the YGT gathered on the site where once stood the stables belonging to The Green in Richmond. Having pulled on boots, waterproof jackets and over-trousers, and with umbrellas aloft, we were suitably equipped for our garden tour and summer picnic. Split into two groups, one led by Morven Lawson and the other by Val Hepworth, we were taken through an imposing 18th century gateway into the historic designed landscape of Temple Grounds.

Now on the English Heritage register of Historic Parks and Gardens, Temple Grounds were once part of the Richmond estate of the influential Yorke family. A mansion with about forty acres of land was acquired in the mid-17th century, as part of the marriage settlement of Mary Norton of St Nicholas in Richmond on the occasion of her marriage to John Yorke of Gouthwaite in Nidderdale. According to the Yorke family archives, after Sir John's death at only twenty nine years old, *'the widow added to the mansion and purchased other lands forming a beautiful property on the banks of the Swale'*.

Robert Harman's early 18th century plan of the town shows formal beds and symmetrical lawns near the house, with nearby walled gardens enclosing intricate geometric beds. Succeeding generations of the family continued to develop the grounds. In 1746 during the tenure of Sir John and Mary Yorke's grandson, John, and his wife Anne (née Darcy), Culloden Tower (also known as The Temple) was built. The tower celebrated the defeat of Bonnie Prince Charlie at the battle of Culloden and also served as an ornamental 'eye-catcher' from the Yorkes' home, The Green. Later that same century a menagerie - a fashionable edifice of the 18th century - was also added to the grounds. Eventually the formal beds

disappeared and the grounds were developed further, in the Picturesque style, with vistas, follies and 'natural' features being merged into a succession of romantic views.

In 1824, mainly for financial reasons, the estate was put up for sale and subsequently the mansion was demolished. The sale notice had described The Green as having grounds which were *'laid out with Great Taste'* and having *'delightfully diversified' walks, lawns and productive gardens*, all in *'grand and Romantic Scenery'*. Sadly, shortly afterwards many of the trees were axed and, over time, the grounds deteriorated.

However, after inheriting the site in 1991 Richard and Morven Lawson, assisted by the Countryside Stewardship scheme, began the conservation of the grounds. Over the centuries, much has changed; the formal beds and lawns have long gone but luckily there are many reminders of the glory of the Yorke's domain which survive happily alongside the later developments which we were to see on our tour.

Once through the gates, the driveway passes the site where the mansion once stood, and where now there is a series of community allotments. Nearby grows a larch which, Morven told us, appears in one of Turner's paintings of Richmond. Towards a bend in the river, we came to the old Mill Field. As Val Hepworth explained in the helpful leaflet she distributed, there once were corn and fulling mills on the riverside. Now, however, there is hay meadow and pasture, which the Lawsons ensure is not ploughed and is maintained in traditional ways. A delightful, evocative area, it is rich in wild flowers: at the time of our visit chimney sweeper moths fluttered amongst clover, buttercup, pignut, wood cranesbill and yellow rattle. Just beyond, at the foot of Mill Bank, we saw signs of the old mill leat where, partially buried, is a keystone

from the bridge over the leat and which is engraved with John Yorke's initials and the date 1746. The path, now close to the riverbank, led us towards the grotto, a tunnel-like structure through the rocks which a few brave souls investigated more closely. Copper was once mined at the other side of the river and it has been suggested that the grotto began as an attempt by the Yorkes to find similar veins on this land. As the attempt failed, the resulting series of caves was used as a landscape feature.

Happily, the rain had abated by the time we began the steep climb up through the terraces of Millbank. These terraces, on three levels bordered by low drystone walls, were shown on a 1749 sketch by Buck, along with yew trees which still survive. High up above the rocks of the grotto, we reached a mound which afforded a wonderful view along a stretch of the river. This mound is thought to be the site of a garden building, the Cedar House, which is marked on an 1824 plan. From there we soon arrived at a prominent, surviving feature on the hillside - the Culloden Tower. Now used by the Landmark Trust as a holiday home, it has splendid views towards the town with its imposing castle.

From there we arrived at the Green Walk which leads directly towards the 18th century menagerie. Usually these latter edifices were built to house exotic birds and curious creatures brought back from the Grand Tours of the Continent although we do not know exactly what was kept in this one. Over the years the Green Walk had deteriorated, self-seeded trees having encroached upon the grass-covered terrace and parts of the 400 metre-long retaining stone wall having collapsed. However, this significant feature has now been restored.

Continued on p.12, opposite.

Visit to Austwick Hall

23 February 2016

On a gloriously sunny early spring day, a group of members arrived at Austwick Hall. We drove up a steep drive to the front of a clearly old stone house, altered and extended over the years, with terraced formal gardens extending westwards, and with woodland further to the west and up the hill above the house and gardens. We were met by one of the owners, Michael Pearson. We were all interested to learn something of the history of the house, and Michael, our guide for the afternoon, duly obliged. Both Michael and the other owner James E Culley have researched the estate for several years, and their reports are available on the North Craven Heritage Trust website. Michael told us that the present hall dates from the late 16th century, though possibly there was an older house on the site. The estate was owned by the Yorke and Ingleby families during the 16th to 18th centuries, then passed through other hands to Richard Clapham of Feizor in 1846. His son Thomas Richard Clapham succeeded him some 10 years later. These two were responsible for the development of the gardens.

Michael then took us to the woodland area to see the snowdrops. The woodland was planted by Richard Clapham between 1847 and 1848, and he may have constructed paths and the viewing platform at the top of the hill. The following spring after their arrival, Michael was delighted to discover extensive drifts of snowdrops followed by wild daffodils and bluebells, and it is possible that these snowdrops derive from plantings by Richard Clapham. Michael decided to extend the snowdrops, and proceeded to plant another 2 – 300,000 more! He now has 50 varieties of snowdrop, most of them nivalis varieties, some more prolific than others. Most are naturalised under the trees, but there are a few clumps of named varieties grown separately, including “Brenda Troyle”, “S Arnott”, “Brin” an uncommon Scottish variety, and “Woronowii”. Michael also has a particular form which he treasures, *Galathus nivalis poculiformis*.

We wandered uphill, enjoying the snowdrops in the sunshine, the views over the Pennine countryside, and also the numerous sculptures placed among the trees. These are the works of mostly local sculptors, who Michael wishes to promote.

Further uphill, we found the remains of a stone

building, which had been a bath-house constructed by Thomas Richard Clapham. He meticulously kept diaries from 1854 to the end of his life, which detail all his garden developments (kitchen garden and orchard, vinery, conservatory, fernery, water reservoir, bath-house and an observatory), the planting of many more trees, the yields of his vegetables, lists of plants and trees, and weather records. He also gives an account of his journey to California in 1870 to gather seeds of giant sequoias at Yosemite, which he wished to include in his woodland. Fortunately the seeds germinated and flourished at Austwick, and four of these trees can still be seen today. Sadly none of Thomas Richard’s garden buildings now remain.

Michael and James provided us with a fine tea in the house, and our visit ended with a long discussion of the costs of heating and maintaining historic buildings.

Liz Barker.



Snowdrops and sculpture at Austwick Hall.

Image: AM Hintze

Visit to Scarborough 17 May 2016

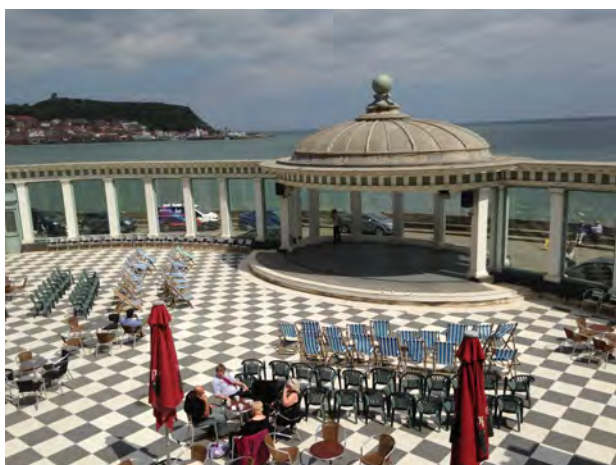
What would you do if you didn't like the sound of clocks in your house? Build a large clock tower outside it, dedicate it to the coronation of King George V in 1911 and gift it to the Borough of Scarborough. What would you do if the house next door was blocking your view of the coast? Buy it, demolish it and create a park in your own name. And so we started our day getting to know about Alfred Shuttleworth, who made his fortune in Lincoln selling steam driven farm equipment before he moved to an impressive house at the top of the south cliff in Scarborough. In glorious sunshine, 21 YGT members were greeted at the Holbeck Clock Tower and were addressed by Adrian Perry of the Scarborough Civic Society. The Civic Society in Scarborough was founded in 1964 and amongst its many achievements, it has started a campaign to save the 14 weather shelters in the South Cliff Gardens and has also set up a "Friends of South Cliff Gardens" group. For more information please visit

friendsofsouthcliffgardens.com.

Crossing the road, we entered the Shuttleworth Gardens, also given by Alfred to the town, and saw the original Shuttleworth weather shelter, recently restored thanks to a grant from YGT. There was also a charming miniature garden in the park, built by Scarborough Corporation in the winter of 1937 – 38.

As we ambled along the esplanade at the top of the cliffs, we learned that Scarborough and its Spa complex was the first real "tourism" town in the country with the first funicular, built in 1875, in the UK to run tourists up and down the cliffs.

Back in the day, tourists paid to enter the "pleasure gardens", very much with the notion of keeping the riff raff out! The Cliff Bridge company built a pedestrian toll bridge to give access to Scarborough's Spa complex and started laying out the north end of the Cliffside gardens in 1827. The next section of the gardens and woodland was laid out in 1883 by George, Lord Beeforth, who had made his fortune selling prints in the Doré Gallery in London. From his magnificent house, "Belvedere", he built a tunnel, which was



Scarborough Spa complex

illuminated from glass panes in the pavements above, to his cliff side garden. The most southerly end of these gardens was owned by the council and entrance was free, so was popular with the servants from the big houses. As we meandered down the cliffs we learned of a rose garden which is no longer on the original site. A recent £50k Heritage Lottery grant enabled all the soil in the rose garden to be replaced and the replanted roses came from R V Roger Ltd of Pickering.

In 1914, within the South Cliff gardens and woodlands, council engineers laid out The Italian Gardens but often had to run for shelter when Scarborough was under bombardment from the German Navy. Amongst the fascinating Mediterranean plants brought by the rich home owners from their properties in the south of France, we encountered a self-seeded sycamore. This engendered debate about the relationship between gardeners and trees versus non-gardeners and trees and



The Italian Gardens

how hard it would be to have the sycamore removed. Amongst the many rare and unusual plants, someone had regrettably introduced Japanese knotweed, which has infested large parts of the garden.

As we descended, it was almost surprising to start hearing the waves crashing on the shore and to hear the woodland birdsong interspersed with the cries of seagulls.

Another bid is being made to the Heritage Lottery Fund and this time the gardens are to be zoned so that at the south end there will be a wilderness and nature area, then areas of horticultural excellence around the Italian and the Rose gardens, then a zone for health and sport and finally another zone of horticultural excellence around the spa complex.

After a welcome coffee in the grade II listed Clock café we walked past some grade II listed beach chalets and a derelict "Sun Bathing" building which cannot be demolished because the toilet block is integral to the

structure of the building and the council simply cannot do without the said facilities! Here we saw the famous old funicular tram, originally hydraulically powered and changed to being electrically powered in the early 1900s. We walked along the top of the spa building, which was rebuilt in 1876 after a fire, by London architects Hunt and Verity: readers may know the Atkinson Grimshaw painting of this fire.

Magnificent steps with restored balustrades climb the hill above the spa complex, with another beautifully restored shelter attributed to Joseph Paxton. For around 50 years between 1960 and 2012 this Paxton shelter housed the sub-station providing electricity for the spa and when the sub-station was removed the shelter was in very poor condition. By one of those “happenstances” the Civic Society was able to restore it thanks to apprentices from Dale Electronics needing a worthwhile project to enable them to enter a national competition.

A £14 million cliff stabilisation programme is scheduled for the end of 2017, with drilled piles and special nails that are driven into soil being used on the steepest part of the cliff. The condition of the work is that this section of the garden will be put back in good order.

As we headed nearer the town centre, we learned that on the Civic Society’s long “to do” list is a plan to restore the flower beds which adorned the main approach from town to the spa. The next shelter we saw was designed by Frank Tugwell, the architect who designed Harrogate Theatre.

Moving onto the Valley Gardens Bridge we said farewell to our well informed guide who asked us to reconvene here after a break for lunch when one of his fellow guides would lead us on our afternoon tour. The afternoon tour will feature in the Spring 2017 Newsletter



Image: Paxton shelter at top of steps

Fiona Barlow

All images by the author

Historic Landscape Hub

The Historic Landscape Project is an initiative from The Gardens Trust, with funding from Historic England and extensive resource and support materials are available at the Historic Landscape Project Resource Hub via www.gardenstrusts.org.uk/hlp.html.

Lots of new and useful material has been added to the HLP Resource Hub over the dark winter months. Work is ongoing updating and revising many of the documents housed on the Hub to ensure all information is current and correct.

Here is a selection of some recent highlights and updates which all County Gardens Trust members are welcome to access on the Hub.

: Quarterly Highlights.

: A new Capability Brown section reflecting the HLP’s role in working with the Capability Brown Festival and CGTs to support and promote research into Brown landscapes and related events. Included are our regular HLP updates and a section on CGT publications on Brown. This section will continue to grow throughout the Festival year.

: The recently published government briefing paper on Neighbourhood Planning.

: Historic England guidance on Conservation and Management of War Memorial Landscapes.

: HLP guidance note on Historic Environment Records - what they include and what they’re used for.

: Monthly summaries of The Gardens Trust Conservation Casework Log recording all responses to planning applications given by CGTs and TGT.

Restructuring the Activities of The Gardens Trust

May 2016 Update

Subsequent to the July 2015 merger, each of the five committees of the Trust were (sic) asked to review their activities in light of the merger in order to combine the resources of the two predecessor organisations in an effective manner, potentially to deliver their activities more efficiently and potentially to decide that the new organisation should take new or different approaches to some of its activities. The review was also against the background of substantial losses having been incurred in recent years and with a view to seeking to achieve break-even financial results and long-term financial viability for the Trust, as mandated by the Trust's Business Plan. Two areas in particular have been restructured as a result of reviews: administration and conservation.

The Trust inherited two part-time administrators, Louise Cooper (Lou) from the GHS and Teresa Forey-Harrison from the AGT. They, together with the Honorary Treasurer and the Vice Chairman, worked out separate roles, with Lou assuming the title Administrator and being responsible for organising and co-ordinating the governance and administration of the Trust and Teresa assuming the title Finance Officer and CGT Co-ordinator and being responsible for organising and co-ordinating the financial arrangements of the Trust and for providing administrative support to CGT members. Additionally, the Trust inherited three desks on two different floors at its headquarters at Cowcross Street, and these have now been reduced to two, which are next to each other. The Honorary Treasurer, supported by the Finance Officer, has put in place new ways of keeping the accounts in-house on our own bookkeeping soft-ware, which has permitted dispensing with expensive out-sourcing of the day-to-day bookkeeping. New and more efficient arrangements were also put in place with regard to on-line banking, insurance and other matters.

A detailed conservation review has been conducted by the Chair, the Vice-Chair and a third member of the Conservation Committee, all of whom are directors, with conservation staff participation. The review highlighted that the delivery of planning responses, starting with the Working Together initiative and now subsequent to the merger, has come to depend in large part on the increasing involvement of the CGTs in the response process. This has been achieved through the creation of a weekly report of planning applications compiled by the Trust's Conservation Casework Manager, Alison Allighan, that is sent to all CGTs on a weekly basis and through the co-ordinating role of the Assistant Conservation Officer, Margie Hoffnung. Margie co-ordinates responses amongst the CGTs, the conservation staff and the Conservation Committee, as well as in certain cases responding to applications

herself on behalf of the Trust. The role of the Principal Conservation Officer and Policy Adviser (PCO) has been to undertake responses to planning applications that are especially significant or that require a senior level of expertise and to advise the Conservation Committee on Government policy and planning issues. The review also recognised that the Historic Landscape Project Officers, Linden Groves and Caroline Ikin, have been instrumental in building the capacity and confidence of CGTs to respond to planning applications and that their work has contributed to CGTs making more informed responses year on year. Finally, another development over the last few years, initially with the establishment of the Joint Conservation Committee, and post-merger the new Conservation Committee, is that the Conservation Committee is generally more proactive than in the past.

The conclusion of the review was that the roles of the Casework Manager and Assistant Conservation Officer were essential to the delivery of the Trust's statutory consultee remit, and the review proposed that the hours of those two officers be expanded. The review further proposed that the role of PCO could more efficiently be carried out by members of the Conservation Committee and by the establishment of a national Network of Experts. Members of the Conservation Committee and the Network of Experts would undertake responses to important planning applications and to policy consultations on either a volunteer basis, in the case of Committee members, or a volunteer or paid consultancy basis, in the case of the Network of Experts, to be decided on a case by case basis as requested from time to time by the Committee. Jonathan Lovie, the incumbent PCO, accepted this proposal, and accordingly, Jonathan left the employ of the Gardens Trust in mid-May. Jonathan had been with the Garden History Society and recently the Gardens Trust for over thirteen years, and the Trust is very grateful for the expertise and professionalism he has brought to that role over these many years.

We believe that all of these measures should create a lower cost base for the Trust as well as enabling an increased workload. Our lower cost base will be partly reflected in the 2016 results and fully reflected in the 2017 results and will help to ensure the Trust's long-term financial viability.

Dr James Bartos, Chairman

Inundation at Flower Show

It is well known that Yorkshire Garden Trust members will go through flood and mud to view landscapes but this is not expected in the floral marquee at the Harrogate Spring Flower Show!!

Peter Goodchild, YGT Vice President who was masterminding a Capability Brown pop up exhibition at the Spring Show suggested YGT might like to consider a stand to complement the exhibition. When the stand was offered free, 'Capability' Karen Lynch found herself landed with organising it (always ask a busy person...). The dimensions and actual position were not clear but nevertheless Karen swung into action using pull up posters for the forthcoming Noble Prospects and sourcing a larger than life size bust of Lancelot Brown. It weighed a ton and most appropriately had to be conveyed from the car park to the marquee in a wheelbarrow. YGT leaflets and literature were also on the stand ready to be handed out to visitors to the show. David Rhodes organised YGT volunteers for this important job and on Wednesday evening Karen left a pristine and attractive stand. On arriving the next morning a large sapling, some 12' high in a very large tub, had appeared next to the stand. This had been



watered copiously, the water flowing out of the bottom of the tub down a hitherto unnoticed slight slope straight under the table with all our literature etc on. Disaster. All our boxes of spare literature hidden under the table were sitting in a pool of water absolutely soaking wet and the cloth covering the table had also soaked up water (this was Karen's best white damask table cloth – a wedding present!!). Other nearby stall holders saw the calamity and rushed to help, mopping up water and mounting a rescue bid on our soggy leaflets. All were not ruined and being seasoned garden types normal business was soon resumed; the smiling faces of our volunteers as they handed out leaflets, and answered queries, showed nothing of the earlier panic.

This was a very useful publicity exercise bringing our organisation to the notice of the wider public. We were also visited from time to time by an actor dressed as Capability Brown; maybe next time we should all don period costume when promoting YGT. At least we always wear waterproof shoes as one never knows when a flash flood is on its way.

Tony Cleaver

Book Review

Noble Prospects: CAPABILITY BROWN and the Yorkshire Landscape

published by Harrogate Borough Council and the Yorkshire Gardens Trust 2016

ISBN: 978-898408-21-5

This excellent book by Karen Lynch of Yorkshire Gardens Trust complements the exhibition of the same name at The Mercer Art Gallery in Harrogate.

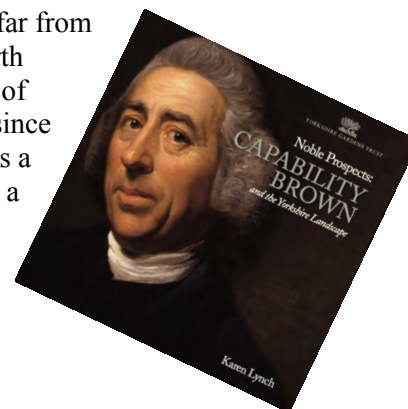


Every page has delightful images of the works of art in the exhibition and more. All are explained in the accompanying text; the book is a real gem whether to read in depth or dip into and one which is difficult to put down once opened.

Karen, who was born not far from Lancelot Brown's own birth place, has been a member of Yorkshire Gardens Trust since its founding in 1996; she is a writer and researcher with a particular interest in

eighteenth century landscapes and has worked at Harewood and also done research on landscapes at Plumpton Rocks and Bretton Hall.

The book is priced at £10 and is available from The Mercer Art Gallery or by post from YGT, 19 Eaton Road, Ilkley LS29 9PU £12 inc PP; cheques payable to Yorkshire Gardens Trust. .



Noble Prospects: **Capability Brown & the Yorkshire Landscape** Mercer Art Gallery, Harrogate 25 June - 11 September 2016



Please be sure to visit this joint venture between the Yorkshire Gardens Trust and The Mercer Art Gallery in Harrogate which has been curated by YGT member Karen Lynch.

This exhibition celebrates the tercentenary of the birth Lancelot ‘Capability’ Brown and also the 20th anniversary of the founding of the Yorkshire Gardens Trust. On show are some of Brown’s original designs and documents for his work in Yorkshire together with paintings of his sites. There is also a film exploring Brown’s Yorkshire landscapes as they are today and a dramatic contemporary installation in response to Brown’s landscapes by Kate Whiteford OBE. Free entry.

For anyone who wishes to join a free informal tour of the exhibition with Karen she is leading one at the gallery on Tuesday 9 August at 2pm, no booking just turn up. Further events are on the Mercer’s website.

For more information visit websites:

www.yorkshiregardenstrust.org.uk/capability_brown_2016
www.harrogate.gov.uk/mercerartgallery

Noble Prospects: Capability Brown & the Yorkshire Landscape could not have happened without the support of The Landscape Agency, Saffery Champness, Savills, Coutts, The Capability Brown Festival 2016, ArtFund (through a Jonathan Ruffer Curatorial Research Grant) and Natural England. The display of individual exhibits has been made possible by The Calmcott Trust, The Friends of the Mercer Art Gallery, Leeds Philosophical & Literary Society, Historic Houses Association Yorkshire Friends, Mr & Mrs J.Samuel and private donors.

Noble Prospects: Capability Brown and the Yorkshire Landscape at

The Mercer Art Gallery,
Swan Road, Harrogate HG1 2SA

The exhibition runs from 25 June to 11 September 2016

Open Tuesday – Saturday 10.00 am to 5.00 pm, Sunday 2.00 pm to 5.00 pm

Closed Mondays except Bank Holidays

Admission FREE



Saffery Champness
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS



Capability Brown Tour of Northumberland A very successful tour of Capability Brown places of interest in Northumberland took place over the weekend of Friday 3 June to Sunday 5 June, ably led by YGT members Caroline Legard and Penelope Dawson-Brown. A full report of this will be in the next Newsletter.

Yorkshire Philosophical Society and Yorkshire Gardens Trust
Biennial Joint Lecture
Gardens in History: a Political Perspective
Tuesday 3 May 2016

Louise Wickham, our chairman of Research and Recording and Webmaster followed up her successful book, *Gardens in History: a Political Perspective* with an excellent presentation on this wide-ranging topic for our joint lecture with the Yorkshire Philosophical Society.

Louise has a life-long interest in politics and started her academic career with a BA in Politics and Economics a good many years ago. More recently she achieved an MA in Garden History, so her book and lecture topic nicely combined the two and she led her audience on a huge time- journey looking at the way politics has influenced the creation and use of gardens. Her one disclaimer in this long journey she explained was that she wasn't going to discuss eighteenth century gardens as 2016 being the year of Lancelot 'Capability' Brown's Tercentenary much is being written and discussed on this period in garden history.

Louise's lecture covered four key themes: Demonstrating political power; reinforcing state policy; creating political legitimacy; promoting political ideas.

I was particularly interested to see the beautifully coloured image of Babur, the first Moghul Emperor of India supervising the layout of the Garden of Fidelity. The quotation that "The world is a garden for the state to master", from Nasayih-ilskander ('The Counsels of Alexander', 1425), an essay giving the principals of statecraft for Islam rulers, really set the scene for much of the lecture. (see image).

As we all know, land ownership combined with voting power has long been associated with political power and, before the twentieth century, gardens of some extent were largely reserved for those with wealth and land; lesser mortals were much too preoccupied with 'existing' and feeding themselves and their families. Gardens showed wealth and with an ability to control nature (water and plants), became part of competitive one-upmanship and status.

Looking back to the Roman politicisation of gardens the first public park was created by Pompey in 55BC. Louise showed images of Hadrian's Villa and the remains of his extensive gardens. Leaders vied with one another to create lavish gardens and these were often used for political purposes. Pompey bought off voters in his garden, Julius Caesar held feasts for the people to remind the populace that he had given them 'corn dole' (an early form of welfare) and Mark Antony promised *horti* to supporters after

Caesar's death. Echoes of what those in power in England were to do centuries later.

The idea of creating 'paradise' has long been associated with garden and park planning. The word 'paradise' comes from the old Persian *pairidaeza*, meaning an enclosure, and was applied to the enclosed hunting park of the Persian king. The word was taken into Old Testament Hebrew, as *pardes*, to mean simply a garden or park enclosure, and into Greek as *paradeisos*, meaning a kingly or sumptuous and extravagant park. In Mesopotamia this was inevitably linked with the supply of water and the development of irrigation systems, and mounts were planted to be nearer to the gods. Trees had a semi-divine status in the Ancient World; vital for shade and food, cutting down trees could be seen as a symbolic political act.

Later, in Renaissance Italy, gardens became bound up with humanist Renaissance thinking and intimated subtle messages about their owner. Both the powerful secular princes such as those from the Medici and Este families, and church leaders – the Cardinals – built

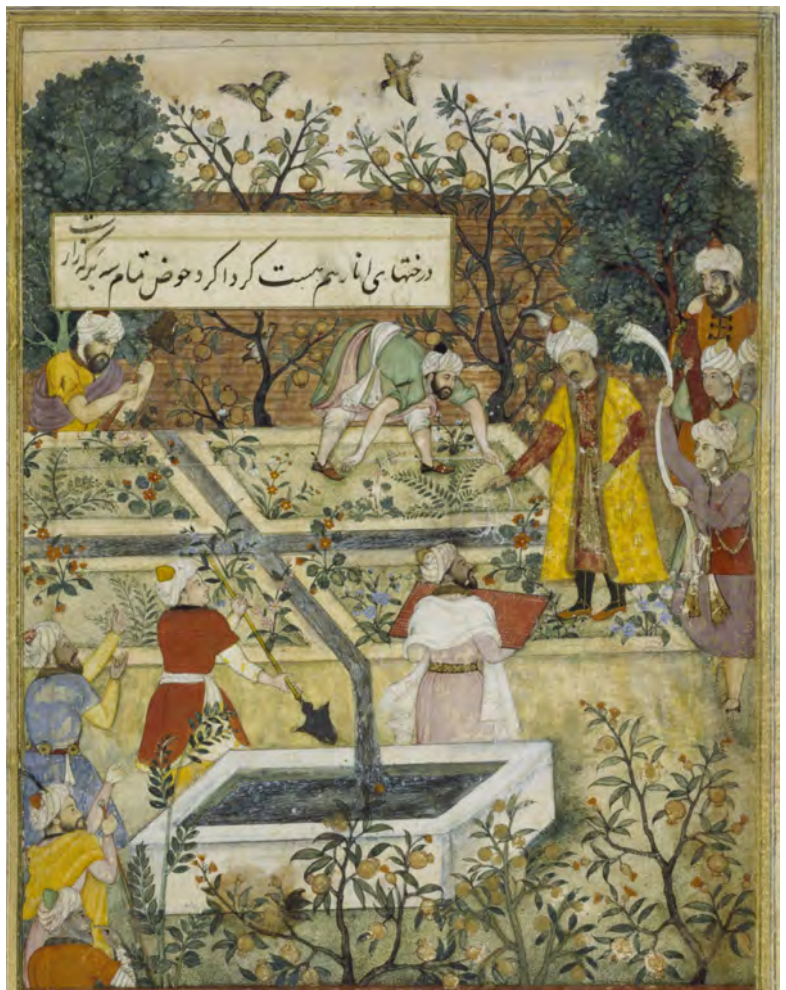


Image: Babur laying out the garden



Image: The fête at Versailles, 1668

large villas and gardens for display and state events which combined with public works demonstrated their beneficence to the local population. Louise showed the lovely lunette of Pratolino by Utens made in c. 1599 illustrating the expansive formal gardens that had recently been made. In France, Louis IV's absolute monarchy was reflected in the garden at Versailles and he used the garden for tours, as theatre and spectacle and showing his military engineering and exotic plant collections. The 'garden' was c. 230 acres and the backdrop for magnificent fête celebrating both mistresses and military victories; one example shown by Louise was the illuminated fête in 1668 for the victory against Spain.

Looking at the use of gardens to re-inforce state policy and give control, Louise gave the examples of the public park and botanical gardens. The House of Commons Select Committee Report, 1833 gives a very clear indication of the thinking behind the development of the public park: *The advantages which the Public Walks (properly regulated and open to the middle and humbler classes) give to the improvement in the cleanliness, neatness and personal appearance of those who frequent them. A man walking out with his family among his neighbours of different ranks, will naturally be desirous to be properly clothed...but this desire duly directed and controlled, is found by experience to be of the most powerful effect in promoting Civilization, and exciting Industry*'. The Report noted that the provision of green space was critical in expanding urban areas. Such principles taken forward by J C Loudon and Robert Slaney MP led to the development of the nineteenth century public park that we still enjoy today. Colonial botanical gardens in the nineteenth century played a vital role in the outposts of the Empire, through finding crops that would make them self-supporting.

The Islamic and Roman empires used gardens to

consolidate their conquests and create political legitimacy and in Japan, the garden style reflected and cemented the shifting power base and religion. Louise went on to discuss Islamic gardens and the Chahar bagh ('four square' plan of a Persian paradise garden) that was replicated across the Muslim world. The most famous example is the Taj Mahal, at Agra, built 1632-1648 that brought together two traditions; the riverfront garden and dynastic tomb complex. The Viceroy, Lord Curzon, perhaps understanding the political legitimacy this type of Islamic garden could bring, instead created an 'English park' in front in c. 1900.

Finally discussing the garden as means to promote political ideas, Louise asked, 'was democracy born in the garden?' Certainly the Greek agora was a place for political debate and philosophers used their gardens for teaching. Nearer to home, in the eighteenth century, designed landscapes and gardens became a 'battleground' for political allegiances by the Whigs and the Tories and the Picturesque debate of the late eighteenth century was linked to radical political ideas and the French Revolution. Later the Garden City movement was a major influence on radical Liberal government of the early 1900's. More recently still was the development of Garden Festivals, to act as a catalyst for the regeneration of rundown urban areas. This initiative was a direct result of the urban riots in the 1980s.

Louise's far-reaching lecture looking at a political perspective certainly gave a different view on garden creation. In 'what comes 'round goes 'round', a reason for garden styles to be repeated throughout history can be laid at the door of politics although I'm not sure that our current politicians, despite what many of them publicly espouse, have the understanding and foresight to see the importance and need for green space as much as their nineteenth century forebears seemed to have.

Val Hepworth

Visit to Hornby Castle, Saturday 16 April 2016

By kind permission of Mr and Mrs Roger Clutterbuck.

It was on a nasty cold morning, with flurries of wind-whipped rain and hail, that a stalwart group of members met outside what remains of Hornby Castle.



The group gathers at Hornby Castle. *Image: V Price*

A few miles north of Bedale, set on a slight hill overlooking the Vale of York and the distant North York Moors, the castle looks out over a rolling landscape of parkland and farmland. Our guides for the day were Erik Matthews, the Field Officer of the Architectural and Archaeological Society of Durham and Northumberland who has worked at Hornby since 2006; and Karen Lynch, a longtime Yorkshire Gardens Trust member, curator of the *Noble Prospects* exhibition and an expert on Capability Brown's involvement in Yorkshire.

Looking around from our vantage point, Erik told us rare fragments of German pottery from 1000 AD had been found in Springs Wood to the west of the castle and suggested that its siting was used to demonstrate the power, wealth, taste and influence of its owners; that what we were seeing was an 'elite' designed landscape, land which has been manipulated since medieval times. The Manor of Hornby originally belonged to the St Quintin family, passing to the Conyers and then to the Darcy family through marriage. In the C14th it was an active estate, used for hunting, falconry and farming. What remained of the castle we could see was probably built in the early C16th.

It was Robert Darcy, 4th Earl of Holderness, who created the present, much more passive landscape in the C18th, for the enjoyment of eating, reading and simply taking in the views. As well as being a politician, prominent member of the Society of Dilettanti, patron and friend of William Mason and a keen agricultural improver, he had employed John Carr, the architect, to remodel the south and east ranges of the castle and also probably to build the model farms, Arbor Hill, Street Farm

and Home Farm to act as eye-catchers from the castle. On his death Hornby was inherited by his daughter Amelia Conyers Darcy, married to Francis Godolphin-Osborne, 5th Duke of Leeds. We walked through the remaining archway into an open courtyard, created by the demolition of part of the castle in 1930 when the 11th Duke of Leeds was forced to sell off Hornby to clear gambling debts of his father, leaving only the south east tower and the south front. On our way to explore the landscape Erik pointed out an icehouse, one of three needed by the 4th Earl's domestic staff to service the Earl's love of entertainment on a grand scale. This

was unusual for being an elongated barrel shape and not the usual igloo shape with a pointed base. Val Hepworth pointed out that the area around was thickly planted with mature yews, probably to create shade for the icehouse. From here we took a narrow, grassy path downhill, separated from the parkland in front of the castle by a C19th iron railing, and woodland to our west, Springs Wood. Erik stopped to show us where in the nearby parkland a tunnel had suddenly appeared at the end of 2014; when excavated, this was found to run uphill 35m to the kitchen area of the medieval castle and would have been built as a drain to remove foul water.

At the bottom of the slope, the path continued between the parkland and what appeared to be a small river crossed in the distance by a rustic five-arched bridge. Karen suggested that the 4th Earl of Holderness had commissioned Capability Brown to introduce the element of water into his landscape, and, we were told, the Earl had had the stream running down the hill dammed to create a series of ponds, which seen from the castle above would appear to as a serpentine river. However, although there were sums of money paid to Brown recorded in the Earl's accounts, no surviving plan for works at Hornby by Brown exists,



The five arched bridge at Hornby Castle. *Image: V Price*

and Brown was employed by the Earl on other sites. The bridge, made of tufa, is called Bowling Green Bridge and hides a dam across Bowling Green Pond and the next pond, Long Pond, created to make the necessary level change. Behind us as we looked across the bridge a ha-ha curved up hill, across the parkland in front of the castle.

We walked across the bridge – sadly, the wooden balustrade a tourist had described seeing in 1779 was long gone - and into the slightly overgrown woodland, where the 1857 OS map showed a clearing on our right, the Bowling Green.

Whether this was a real bowling green, or whether it was a ‘boulingrin’, a fine lawn, is not recorded. Suddenly we were confronted by the walls of what looked like a ruined, ‘gothic’ building, hiding among the trees. Karen told us that this, once impressive, building was a summerhouse, known as Bowling Green House, designed by William Mason for the 4th Earl, with Horace Walpole and Richard Bentley adding the Strawberry Hill Gothic details. In the two-storey crenellated summer house, built with the raised ground floor being heated, Guisepppe Cortese installed a stucco ceiling and Peckitt of York supplied stained glass for the windows, including the family crest ‘Un Dieu, Un Roi’.

Walking north through the woodland beyond the summerhouse, which a month before would have been carpeted with snowdrops, Eric led us towards four trenches, covered with tarpaulins. In his role as field officer, it is here that he and his team are uncovering what was a substantial stone-built building surrounded by a moat, possibly from in the time of the Dukes of Brittany in the C12th. When the site was first visited, they were able to pick up handfuls of medieval pottery. Excavating the trenches, among the finds were 70 wine jug handles, evidence of a medieval under-floor, a water pipe network, charred bones, a blown-glass linen smoother, ovens and arrow heads including one stuck in a bread oven, all suggesting a substantial house



The summerhouse ruins. *Image: J Barker.*

with a hall, service rooms, bake house and laundry, and elite chambers, and the suggestion that it had come to a sudden demise. The moat would separate the building from the wild landscape, indicating that it was not a hunting lodge. Erik also told us that archeological remains of an early C17th formal garden had been identified, overlying the moated site but itself overlaid by later landscaping.

We walked back to the Long Pond, dammed at the south west end to create another drop in level to the Stone Pond, which itself led to The Decoy and further on to the New Decoy, creating a string of ponds. In the 1770s gravel paths had been created along the banks to allow walking in wet weather. Karen told us that a ‘boat house had been built and a thatched fishing pavilion with silk cushions as a comfortable place to sit and wait for a catch’. The view up and across the parkland to the castle had been ‘improved’ by the removal of mountains of earth to smooth out the hillsides. From the now muddy path, we noticed where water overflowed down what had become an overgrown cascade and more old yews growing in the woodland beside Long Pond. Had these been planted to create a dark backdrop to the new sparkling water of the ponds in the C18th? Sadly, the 4th Earl was never able to enjoy and drive his guests around his new landscape as he unfortunately died in 1778. It was time to repair to the Greyhound Inn in nearby Hackforth

for a well-earned lunch and to thank Karen for guiding us through Hornby’s C18th landscape. Afterwards Erik took a smaller group on a visit to the Church of St Mary the Virgin. The church, parts dating from 1080, was probably built on the site of a Saxon church, and we were shown ‘Saxon’ building work at the bottom of the belfry tower. Inside on the north of the main aisle were three round Norman arches, decorated with zigzags and chevrons. The church is full of fine monuments to the Conyers and Darcy families, and set in the floor of the south chapel we discovered two satchel-sized brasses depicting in one, the eight sons of Sir Thomas Mountford, and in the other his seven daughters, one carrying a bag of money. Our backs were to the screen which separated us from the main church, and turning as directed, we found ourselves face to face with five medieval painted wooden panels of stylized flowers and leaves and birds, attached to the base of the screen. A church full of hidden treasures.

Before we called it a day, Erik wanted to show us a couple of last things.

Continued overleaf

Yorkshire Gardens Trust Refugee Day

Saturday 14 May 2016

Three Yorkshire Gardens Trust members and two spouses hosted a very successful garden visit for refugees and volunteers at Beningbrough Hall on Saturday 14 May. Though cool, the weather was bright and sunny, and stayed pleasant all day. We met the refugee group as they alighted from the coach at 10.30 am and, after a few introductions, headed straight for coffee, tea, soft drinks and tray bakes at the café while it was still quiet.

The refugees came from a variety of countries - Tunisia, Bangladesh, Turkey and Sierra Leone - and consisted of six adults (all female) and seven children. Two volunteers from Refugee Action York came on the coach with the group and helped with the children, some of whom were quite lively. We strolled around the beautiful grounds of Beningbrough, pointing out the ha-ha along the way. The children thought this was wonderful, especially as they could see cows on the other side of the ditch, and the adults found the explanation of the 'ha-ha' feature amusing. We took photos of people peering through the picture frame on the lawn and the older children played



Image: Ray Blyth

football nearby before making their way to the well-equipped children's play area. The youngsters had fun on the slide and the wooden boat and it was also a good opportunity for the adults to relax and chat.

We shared a very tasty and plentiful picnic lunch on one of the lawns, sheltered by cherry trees in blossom. Our YGT banner attracted some interest, including one lady who asked if we were selling lunches. We could have made some money!

Our final visit was to the top floor of the main house. By now we were running short of time but wanted the children to have the opportunity of trying on the Georgian style costumes and have their photos taken. The coach driver kindly offered to wait another half an hour so that we could make the most of our time in the house.

By three o'clock a few of the younger children were nodding off in their pushchairs and everyone was ready to return to York. We waved them off just before half past three, having enjoyed a great day out at a very English country estate.

Four of us returned to the café for a well-earned cup of tea before we made our way home. We were very grateful to the National Trust staff at Beningbrough Hall for making us all so welcome and for ensuring that the day went as smoothly as possible. People could not have been kinder or more helpful.

Lin Blyth

(Continued from p.23)

These were the site in a field on the west edge of the village where medieval houses once clustered round a village green; and how, when approaching the castle from the west, the church tower would have appeared on the skyline with the castle towers visually adding to the size of the castle and impressing any visitors.

It had been an information-packed day at Hornby, challenging and rewarding. We had been ably guided through the landscape to pick out the different layers, the C18th the 'Brownian' creation of what was to all appearances a flowing river, the Bowling Green House and the five-arched bridge, the building of the 'eye-catcher' farms to visually extend the castle's grounds beyond the park, the earlier C17th formal garden and the archeological finds and the significance of the moated building in Spring Wood. As we walked back to our cars, we passed the huge walled kitchen garden on the other side of the road. Our visit to Hornby had only skimmed the surface of the historical landscape, so hopefully there will be more to discover on another day.

Vicky Price

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