



YORKSHIRE GARDENS TRUST

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 40

Spring 2017

National Award for Yorkshire Gardens Trust Volunteer



Karen Lynch (left) being presented with
The Gardens Trust, Gilly Drummond Volunteer of the Year Award.
Image: Ian Hepworth

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2016 was the culmination of more than two years of intense planning and research to celebrate the tercentenary of Lancelot 'Capability' Brown nationally and here in Yorkshire. This has been a very special year for YGT as the Trust has never attempted such a large undertaking and we're enormously indebted to Lady Legard and Karen Lynch for bringing the Yorkshire celebrations to fruition. The Trust was delighted to work with the team at the Mercer Gallery, Harrogate and to create a great partnership between a heritage charity and a local authority art gallery. The exhibition and the accompanying book have been very well received and we were hugely delighted that Karen was selected as the The Gardens Trust, Gilly Drummond Volunteer of the Year. She beat six other nominations from across the 37 Gardens Trusts. Jenifer White, the National Landscape Advisor for Historic England, who was the judge for the Award, said: 'The Yorkshire Gardens Trust's 2016 celebrations for the Capability Brown Tercentenary have reached way beyond Yorkshire. The award is not just for Karen's Capability Brown volunteering but also her long standing active support for the Yorkshire Gardens Trust since its inception in 1996. Karen's record is outstanding.'

The Award is a beautiful engraved glass obelisk which sits on an engraved glass plate which the recipient keeps. Karen will have the obelisk for a year and is only the third recipient. To achieve all this Karen embarked on an intensive eighteen month period of research in libraries and archives across Britain. Her aim was to discover which of the landscapes associated with Brown in the county could actually be firmly attributed to Brown (fourteen). The results of this research were first published in a comprehensive and fully annotated paper in the *New Arcadian Journal* in 2016 and then condensed into an approachable text for the exhibition book. The book's cover featuring the Nathaniel Dance portrait of Brown is particularly striking – such a gaze and twinkle, no wonder he achieved so much.

We sold several hundred copies of the book but still have copies available so if you haven't got your copy then please do buy – see the website for details of how to buy online or by sending a cheque.

Continued overleaf...

We are using the remaining books to further the exhibition's aims of raising awareness of Brown, Yorkshire Landscapes and YGT. Complimentary copies have been given to all our member schools, local authority planners and conservation officers, Yorkshire libraries, Yorkshire civic societies and members of the Leeds Philosophical and Literary Society. Ideas of any other useful contacts would be appreciated. Please contact Karen or me. The books will have a legacy of promoting the YGT and Yorkshire's historic parks and gardens long after the CB year.

Putting on a regional exhibition involves many aspects, including funding, research, curating, and of course promoting. Karen and Caroline spent two days with Welcome to Yorkshire at the Chelsea Flower Show and later, with the Mercer Gallery's Public Relations Officer, Karen managed to get good regional coverage in several papers and magazines including the Yorkshire Post and a feature on Look North. David Rhodes masterminded a rota of YGT volunteers for the YGT stand at the Harrogate Spring Flower show and again for the exhibition when 23 YGT volunteers were present in the gallery over 12 weekends and a bank holiday; a total of around 140 volunteer hours altogether. Visitors to the exhibition seemed to appreciate having YGT members present and feedback via the visitors' book and the YGT volunteer stewards was very positive and in general the only criticism of *Noble Prospects* was that it was too small!

The exhibition came in significantly under budget thanks to the superlative fundraising of Caroline aided by Karen, and Karen's efforts to reduce all costs wherever possible. This means there will be a surplus for YGT funds of a minimum of £5,000. A tremendous achievement. As an added legacy the film by Simon Warner, that we showed during the exhibition, is on his website.

Val Hepworth

**Notice of the
20th Annual General Meeting of
Yorkshire Gardens Trust
on Saturday 18 March 2017
at Masham Town Hall
Coffee from 9.45 am
AGM 10.00 am**

Please turn to the back page for further details of this and other events.

AGM Documents - A New System

As explained in more detail in the Chairman's Letter (opposite), AGM documents will be available to read **online** at www.yorkshiregardenstrust.org.uk from mid February. Those of you with email should please watch out for an advisory message from us at that time. Hard copies will be posted to members without email; a few spare hard copies will also be available at the AGM.

If you currently receive YGT items by post but have an email address please let us know by emailing us at secretary@yorkshiregardenstrust.org.uk

Correction

Issue 39, Autumn 2016

p.9. Image: JMW Turner painted this view in c. 1798.

YGT

Membership Cards

Please turn to pages 24 and 26 for details of new arrangements for YGT membership cards and a very special offer from Parcevall Hall Gardens.



Yorkshire Gardens Trust

President	The Countess of Harewood
Vice Presidents	Caroline Legard, Peter Goodchild, Nick Lane Fox
Chairman	Val Hepworth
Treasurer	Nigel Tooze
Other Trustees	Malcolm Barnett, Ray Blyth, Tony Cleaver, Penelope Dawson Brown, David Tiptaft, Nigel Tooze
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Conservation	Vacant
Small Grants	Ray Blyth
Education	Nicola Harrison
Research and Recording	Louise Wickham
Membership/Events	Louise Amende
	Vicky Price rep Events Team
Newsletter	Tony Cleaver
YGT Nominated trustee to Wentworth Castle Trust	Jane Furse

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Chairman's Letter

A Green Prescription

It's such a basic human need; being in the fresh air, working with nature and taking some exercise... in fact gardening covers all points; it provides nurture for the body and the soul. While we gardeners have recognised for a long time the physical and mental health benefits of being in a garden it is now being more universally promoted as a green prescription. I can remember years ago discussing the modern disconnect with nature as we travel in cars and sit looking at a screen – then a TV, now a smart phone, ipad or tablet - and not feeling the changing seasons, wind on our face, and the delight of watching a seed magically become beans for dinner or delphiniums to spire to the sky. Whenever I'm feeling low and stressed I only have to look at a garden, or better still get out there and pull up weeds or prune a bush and I immediately feel better. I can almost feel my blood pressure drop; quite wonderful. In a world which never stops, where we're never out of communication with each other, gardens are literally life-savers and mental-health restorers and everyone should have access to green space. I'm sure that there would be far less ill-health with a green prescription... and it would save huge amounts of money.

Gardening and gardens are much undervalued and mistreated by those who run this country. Public parks and gardens are once again suffering severe cuts. We see gardens and green space lost to construction and too many children never get the opportunity to put a seed in a pot of compost and get their hands covered in soil. Thankfully our little charity along with all the other County Gardens Trusts which make up The Gardens Trust, are doing their bit to remedy the situation but realistically it's a drop in the ocean.

I am writing elsewhere of the deep concerns now being felt about the effect of budget cuts on councils' capacity to maintain their public parks and which has at last been manifested in a House of Commons Select Committee inquiry this past Autumn. The Gardens Trust has written a short report, *Uncertain Prospects: public parks in the new age of austerity* surveying the situation, looking at the challenges and making recommendations; it is unbearable to think that the fantastic achievements of the past twenty years will be completely undone. Everyone will be the loser and especially those who live in urban areas. This time there will be no miraculous multi-million pound bailout by the Lottery and I fear our public parks will end up in a worse situation than in the 1980's.

However, on a brighter note Leeds City Council has commenced the development of a new horticultural nursery at Whinmoor Grange. At an estimated cost of £6m this nursery will continue to grow from seed approximately 3 million plants including bedding, edible etc without the use of peat and continue to support the city's many *In Bloom* groups; it will also form part of the development and education of young apprentices and the new arrangement with Askham Bryan College to provide land-based training for students from urban Leeds using new facilities at Temple Newsam. Horticultural students will be based in the walled garden at Temple Newsam with the use of the former slip grounds as their special area. One could argue that Temple Newsam, as a significant national historic site and where Brown worked from 1765, should not suffer further development and changes but maybe we can take the view that sites will evolve and developments have to be balanced with need, but made in as historically sensitive a way as possible; it's a continual argument.

In Yorkshire we are blessed with wonderful historic houses and designed landscapes built when labour was cheap, land plentiful, competition between landowners was frequent and money easily lavished. But how do you maintain privately owned sites in the twenty first century, two hundred and more years on since they were built or planted, and are crumbling? The argument about development and change is as difficult as that at Temple Newsam, owned by the people of Leeds via Leeds City Council. Using historic sites as film sets may not make enormous sums but no doubt can be lucrative and this year we've seen many of our splendid Yorkshire houses and landscapes on our screens. The series *Victoria* immediately springs to mind with riding and liaisons in Bramham Park, exquisite indoor scenes at Bramham and Harewood, and did you spot the iron gates and pair of stone gate piers surmounted by sphinxes by Lancelot Brown at Temple Newsam when Victoria and Albert were attacked in 'London'? A less well-known property, Thornton Watlass Hall, between Masham and Bedale was the main location for Wilkie Collins' *The Moonstone*, shown on BBC last Autumn.

In our last newsletter I called a spade a spade; our need for more trustees and active members. The response was not overwhelming, but I'm delighted to say that member David Morgan who is the General Manager, York Area Properties for the National Trust took the initiative, contacted me, has been to a Council meeting and is happy to stand for election at our AGM in March. Similarly Vicky Price who has been helping with events during the past eighteen months has not been put off! So Vicky is going to stand too. Thank you to them both. That doesn't of course mean that we wouldn't welcome more trustees. We still need help with conservation, research, publicity and some administration... and fresh ideas are welcome.

Whilst thinking about the running of the Trust I would like to thank all who work hard in its many facets; Vice-presidents, trustees, sub-committee chairmen and members and our part-time administrator, Louise. Our new treasurer, Nigel Tooze took over from David Tiptaft on 1 October 2016, and Nigel and myself are in discussion with YGT's solicitors, Wrigley's, about updating the Trust's Memorandum and Articles. We are going to use the modern plain English precedent *Articles of Association* to replace our existing *Memorandum and Articles of Association* which date from 1996. Once that work is complete we plan to review our trustee documents. David remains in charge of the Financial Statement for the Annual Report for the year ended on 30 September 2016 and he and I will be presenting the Annual Report to the Council of Management meeting in January 2017.

To cut costs, we will be adopting a different method this year in our communications with YGT members regarding the AGM. We will be putting the Annual Report, Minutes of the AGM 2016, the Notice, Agenda etc on the YGT website in the middle of February with an e-mail to all our members who use email. We will post printed copies to those not on e-mail and we will print some spare copies to be available at the AGM. This should reduce our costs and we hope that you find it a sensible way for the future. So please look out for the e-mail on about 17 February. We send our grateful thanks to David Tiptaft for his years of sterling work and good humour looking after YGT's finances; it's been a great pleasure working together, David... and thanks also to Jenny, his wife, for her support in the wings!

It's been a tremendous year. Twenty years after our incorporation but more significantly the year when Karen Lynch took the Trust to new heights with *Noble Prospects*, *Capability Brown and the Yorkshire Landscape*.

Val Hepworth

Welcome to new Treasurer, Nigel Tooze

I grew up in Richmond and after a gap of 26 years, spent mainly in London, I moved back with my partner two years ago. I had attended only one YGT event, at Aske Hall, when Val spotted someone who she thought might have some time on their hands and asked me to take over as Treasurer. My 26 year career with RBS did not deter her, especially when she found out that I am also Treasurer of the Chelsea Opera Group in London, and a Director and Honorary Treasurer of the Georgian Theatre Royal in Richmond. Built in 1788, it is the country's oldest theatre in its original form and is an absolute gem which I would encourage all of you to visit.

My various roles compliment my interests in design, heritage and the arts. We've spent the last couple of years restoring a Regency house in Richmond, which has scratched the interior design itch. I took a career break a few years ago and studied for an interior design qualification, following which I appeared in the first series of *The Great Interior Design Challenge* on BBC2. I've also just completed a garden design course at Harlow Carr, in anticipation of starting work on the walled garden behind our house, from which we have views of Culloden Tower.

I spend a lot of time visiting gardens and historic houses and landscapes, in this country and further afield. In between times, you may also see me in the audience for Opera North or playing violin in the St Cecilia Orchestra in Ripon or the York Guildhall Orchestra. I'm also a bit of a foodie.

Nigel Tooze



Nigel visiting Millgate House Garden, Richmond.

Image: Christine Wheeler.

Experience of the Research and Recording Group

I responded to Louise Wickham's request for volunteers to help with recording the detail of historic landscapes in the Selby area; it has been, and continues to be, a fascinating experience.

A mixture of documentary research and site visits gives an extraordinary insight into local landscapes. For example, Womersley Park, in the southernmost part of Selby district, was first developed by its original owner, Tobias Harvey, in the early eighteenth century. I exclaimed out loud, as I read the inside cover of his 1705-1720 account book in the Borthwick archives - 8 December 1705 Tobias Harvey planted 12 peaches and nectarines 'south wall from the church to the orchard'; 1 pear and 5 apricots 'west wall from Hall Orchard to the house'; an apricot from Doncaster and a vine from Lord Donne's 'east wall next dayrys'. It gave an instant picture of Tobias Harvey's concern for gardening and landscaping on his newly acquired estate. Frustratingly, it is slightly more difficult to pin down exactly where his peach orchard was in the modern landscape. But the use of historic and modern maps enables the group to track changes and highlight important features of the designed landscape.

It is uplifting to see what has survived over the centuries – in Womersley Park's case the extensive walls of the walled garden and tree-lined shelter belt; what has been added – ha-ha, a Victorian landscaped parkland and ice-house; and rather depressing to see what has been lost – the remains of the productive walled garden now under a modern housing development. The historic detail puts walking the landscape into context – finding the remains of the fishpond in undergrowth in the wood; seeing why a copse, Lady Hawke Wood, was planted where it was.

The work can be time-consuming but absorbing. The process of researching is as valuable as the end product – reports for YGT; enhancement of the Parks & Gardens UK database and the county Historic Environment Record. Under Louise's guidance, the group is undertaking important work. It will take some time for all the efforts to come to fruition but you can start reading some of the outcomes on the YGT website*. If this has whetted your appetite to be involved do contact Louise – webmaster@yorkshiregardenstrust.org.uk

Mary Ratcliffe

*all for East Riding; Carlton Towers, Escrick, Healaugh Park and Manor, Moreby Hall, Womersley in Selby District; Aldwark Manor and Burn Hall in Hambleton District.

Parks & Gardens UK Database and Website

Parks & Gardens UK (P&GUK) with Hestercombe Gardens Trust have recently received £97,900 from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) to secure the future of the P&GUK database and website of historic designed landscapes. The project will facilitate the smooth transition of the website and database from P&GUK to Hestercombe Gardens Trust, which has its own archive and a permanent archivist.

The P&GUK archive includes documents relating to over 9,100 historic designed landscapes and over 2,400 associated people and organisations. The Hestercombe archive contains a significant collection of documents, photographs, plans and manuscripts relating not only to Hestercombe, with its 18th-century landscape garden and also its Jekyll/Lutyens gardens but to other parks, gardens and designed landscapes in the UK. Combining the two databases will offer economies of scale and ease of access between them, plus a powerful research resource unmatched elsewhere; it will also enable its expansion by maintaining and developing the existing close relationship between County Gardens Trusts (CGTs) and the newly formed The Gardens Trust, as well as the development of new relationships with like-minded organisations. Hestercombe House, Somerset, is readily accessible and has a range of conference rooms for seminars, Summer schools and workshops that will make the study of gardens and landscapes available to a wider public.

Commenting on the award, Gilly Drummond, patron of P&GUK said: "This is wonderful news! Accessible research data is essential for proving significance and thus is critical to conservation and the appropriate maintenance of our great heritage of parks and gardens. It is very exciting that P&GUK has at last such an appropriate new home for its huge collection of records; it will thrive in the company of the Hestercombe archive and both will have a great part to play in encouraging new research and researchers. The Capability Brown Festival, with so much new information emerging, shows just how much it is needed."

Philip White, Chief Executive of the Hestercombe Gardens Trust said: "I am delighted that Hestercombe will have the opportunity to develop and expand on the considerable work achieved by P&GUK over more than ten years and look forward to working with the CGTs and others in realising the database's considerable potential."

Explaining the importance of the HLF support, Stuart McLeod, head of the HLF in the South East, said: "Whether it's a tourist searching for a destination for their day out or a researcher discovering the history of a centuries-old garden, this database is an important resource for many thousands of people. Having supported the P&GUK database since its inception, we're pleased to offer this support as it transitions into a new chapter in its existence."

Conservation and Planning

Since Kath Gibson resigned as a YGT Trustee in the Spring there has been something of a hiatus in our conservation efforts and as yet we do not have a Conservation Chairman. However, I'm pleased to write that various active members have been giving their expertise when they can.

Kath wrote in the last newsletter of proposals, notably in the Leeds area, for several large scale developments which have the potential to impact on historic designed landscapes. These development pressures, particularly for housing and associated infrastructure, continue and I've heard from the Lancashire Gardens Trust that in the north west public parks are being offered for sale. In Liverpool, Walton Hall Park and Stanley Park are being offered to the two football clubs which are adjacent, and Alexandra Park in Oldham is selling a section.

Councillors under budget pressure can see the noughts stacking up when developers come calling. In October we heard from Ian Smith of Historic England that the Parlington Estate near Aberford is on the Leeds Site Allocation Plan for a proposed new settlement which would encompass the majority of the parkland associated with the former Parlington Hall (the seat of the Gascoynes before they moved to Lotherton Hall). Although Parlington Hall was demolished, there are, nonetheless, a number of heritage assets associated with the Estate that still remain including the Grade II* Triumphal Arch built to celebrate the American War of Independence. Susan Kellerman has spent several fascinating hours walking the landscape with an extremely knowledgeable local historian and has gathered together research on Parlington, initially to inform Ian Smith, Historic Environment Planning Adviser at Historic England. However we intend to put Parlington forward for the Register, then at least its importance should be considered during any planning process. Research is the key to comments that YGT make on planning matters; vital to understanding significance so that Local Authority planners can make well-informed decisions. And this is an important plank in the work that Louise Wickham, Yvonne Boutwood and the research group achieve.

YGT has submitted comments on several Leeds City Council planning applications over the years with varying success, so Susan took the initiative to meet with Phil Ward of Leeds Conservation Department and his colleague Matt Bentley, in November. It was a very interesting and encouraging meeting which we hope will be helpful for the future of that authority's historic parks and gardens.

Kath also wrote in the last newsletter about our concerns for Reginald Farrer's rock garden in Clapham. Historic England have done an analytic survey and assessment but unfortunately never consulted the YGT on the draft

and we note that there are some inaccuracies in the final version; it's a pity when Anne Tupholme and Kath have done so much work, that we were not asked to comment. The planning application for the rock garden has been approved, with the waterfall and outflow to be restored in concrete, contrary to our advice.

With help from Anne, the Trust has commented on planning applications for Bowling Park Lodge, Bradford and Loft House Lodge on the Harewood Estate; with her local knowledge and contacts Anne has also submitted information to Historic England to assist with their decision regarding putting the Ilkley Memorial Garden on the Register of Historic Parks and Gardens.

Peter Goodchild and I have spent considerable time visiting Temple Newsam, meeting Leeds CC officers and concluding our comments and advice on the proposal for three agricultural buildings, several smaller buildings and an access road alongside the Home Farm in the centre of the Estate. In the Autumn YGT was also contacted by concerned villagers from Snape, near Bedale, regarding the Parish Council proposal to fell some of the trees in the early Victorian Lime Avenue, which forms the entrance to the village and is on the southern boundary of Thorp Perrow Arboretum. At the request of the Hambleton DC Conservation Officer I had already inspected the trees in February, and thanks to the work of Natural England and Dr Margaret Nieke, I was able to refer to the recent work on the Lime Avenues at Castle Howard as a good example of minimal intervention and restoration. Unfortunately the planning committee rejected the advice from Hambleton DC officers and the North Yorkshire C Council Arboricultural Officer for minimal intervention and the felling is scheduled for January.

YGT along with other County Gardens Trusts is concerned for the future of the valuable parkland work achieved via Natural England's Environmental Stewardship. With Brexit, the government will now have to decide whether it wants to continue with a 'home-grown' version of Environmental Stewardship to replace the current scheme which is led by DEFRA but administered by Natural England. Inevitably, given the amount of EU funding supporting current schemes, budgets for a UK-only scheme are going to be very tight. YGT raised this at The Gardens Trust (TGT) AGM and their Conservation Committee will take forward our concerns nationally.

Historic England's Heritage at Risk Register was published in October with details on their website www.HistoricEngland.org.uk/risk In Yorkshire we have 640 heritage assets 'At Risk', (including 93 Grade I or II* Listed Buildings and 12 Registered Parks and Gardens), 64 fewer than in 2015. Of the successes, grant aid has helped the repair of the ornate wrought iron gates

from Oakes Park, near Norton, Sheffield and at High Melton Hall the late 18th century ice house has been repaired. Sheffield City Council has also secured a development grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund for Sheffield General Cemetery which may then lead to a restoration project. Unfortunately the growing long-term repair needs at Wentworth Woodhouse have prompted Historic England to put that property back on the 'At Risk' Register.

Looking at the key findings of Heritage Counts 2016 it is apparent that the future of England's heritage is very mixed. On the one hand applications for Listed Building Consent have increased again whilst the numbers of Local Authority historic environment staff continue to decline (by 35% since 2006), but on the other hand historic properties continue to attract large numbers of visitors and in 2015, there were 61.3million visits to historic properties, an increase of 39% since

1989. Equally, membership of heritage organisations is growing and heritage is becoming more inclusive with the gap between those in the most deprived areas and those in the least deprived areas decreasing dramatically; excellent news. This link will take you directly to the relevant part of the Heritage Counts website: <https://historicengland.org.uk/research/heritage-counts/indicator-data/>

One of the important objects for which YGT was established is to promote the protection, conservation and appropriate treatment of Yorkshire's historic parks and gardens, so if you are interested in helping with this or know someone who may be then please do let me know. We would be delighted to welcome you to our conservation group. Tel: 01748 822617 conservation@yorkshiregardenstrust.org.uk

Val Hepworth

James Hornby

Heslington Hall Horticulturalist

Members of Yorkshire Gardens Trust may be interested to note that a new source of insight into the history and development of the gardens at Heslington Hall, York, has recently been made available at the Borthwick Institute for Archives. The archive of James Hornby, head gardener to the Yarburgh family of Heslington Hall between 1870 and his death in 1902, was gifted to the Institute by descendants of James and Mary Hornby's niece. This small treasure trove of documents includes photographs and drawings of the gardens at Heslington Hall, as well as portraits of the Hornbys, family letters and, interestingly, James Hornby's own formula for skeletonising leaves - a popular hobby in the late 19th century.

Perhaps most interesting however is James Hornby's 'Diary of Operations', a slim volume documenting his 18 months as head gardener at Heslington. It showcases the beginning of the changes in the gardens at the Hall, starting with a note dated 18th August 1870 stating 'No peas, nor cucumbers, nor melons nor yet many vegetables of any kind'. Even over the span of time recorded in this journal, it is possible to see James Hornby, at the head of a team of gardeners, taking and shaping the gardens into both an ornamental space and a productive garden supplying Heslington Hall with fruit, vegetables and flowers. As a working document, the journal provides insight not only into the tasks required of this Victorian head gardener but also his methods of working. The planting entries in the journal are added and often subsequently annotated in a different ink to record the date of harvest, the success of the cultivar and notes on how to improve the yield in future planting. The journal also diligently records daily temperatures, weather and more practical tasks like whitewashing, cleaning the glasshouses and even



James Hornby in the grounds of Heslington Hall
(BIA/JHOR/4/2/2)

repairing a lawnmower.

Aside from his day-to-day work, Hornby's journal shows the relationship between his role and the rhythms of life at Heslington Hall; it marks events in the life of the Yarburgh family, including visits from 'company' for evening events, periods when the family are away from Heslington and also the birth of George Nicholas de Yarburgh-Bateson, noted as 'Master Nicholas', in November 1870. With characteristic brevity, it also records events in James Hornby's own life including frequent visits from his brother William and trips to country fairs, including one to his hometown of Gisburn.

The catalogue, listing each item in the James Hornby archive, is now available online through the Borthwick Institute online catalogue, Borthcat, and also includes a brief biography of James Hornby. The original material can be consulted in the Institute's searchrooms free of charge.

Lydia Dean, Project Archivist

A year after the merger of the Garden History Society and the Association of Gardens Trusts, it was clear at the AGM in September that all the hard work to form the new organisation is bearing fruit and the meeting and Conference organised by the Cambridgeshire Gardens Trust was a very positive and happy affair. The Gardens Trust (TGT) is the only national amenity society for historic designed landscapes & gardens. With 'research, conserve and campaign' as TGT's subtext, Yorkshire is an active member, along with the thirty six other Gardens Trusts. Do look at the new website: www.thegardenstrust.org.

The Historic Landscape Project led by Linden Groves and Tamsin MacMillan has been busy organising training and an exchange of ideas and experience for the Gardens Trusts, and has produced a new Planning Leaflet, *The Planning System in England and the Protection of Historic Parks and Gardens: Guidance for Local Planning Authorities* which has been well-received and sent to all Local Authorities. It is available via the

website as a pdf or a paper copy: e-mail: info@thegardenstrust.org

Due to concerns about the future of our public parks TGT has produced a report, *Uncertain Prospects: public parks in the new age of austerity*. This short report is available on the TGT website and looks at all aspects of the problems that public parks are facing. It lists a number of recommendations including making maintenance a statutory duty for local authorities, establishment of baseline funding, suggesting local taxation, and strengthening protection in the planning system – most public parks are not designated.

TGT has also been busy with the Capability Brown Festival which has been co-ordinated and promoted for us by Kate Harwood, Hertfordshire Gardens Trust. There are now 179 Brown sites on the Parks and Gardens UK database and 2 new Brown sites put on the Register (Stoke Place, Slough, Bucks; and Peper Harow Park, Godalming, Surrey); 7 other sites have been re-listed including his home, and in Yorkshire, Temple Newsam.

The Gardens Trust Conference and AGM in 2017 will be in Plymouth, 1-3 September hosted jointly by the Devon and Cornwall Gardens Trusts.

Peter Goodchild represented the YGT at a new TGT annual event in London, the **Historic Landscapes Assembly** in November; it was a very successful opportunity for all those with a stake in historic designed landscapes and their conservation to meet and discuss current issues. Speakers included representatives from the Gardens Trust, Historic England, Natural England, Parks and Gardens UK, and the Capability Brown Festival. This was followed in December with a **County Gardens Trust Meet-Up** in York covering conservation, education, research and recording. YGT members spoke of their experiences and Dr Margaret Nieke discussed Environmental Stewardship and historic parkland. Other workshops planned include *Knowledge is Power: using research to conserve historic parks and gardens*, 10.00 am-4.00 pm, 28 February 2017, at Hodsock Priory, Blyth, Worksop S81 0TY and **another Meet-Up** on 16 March 2017, at The Gallery, 70 Cowcross St, London EC1M 6EJ. These are free events, with a suggested donation of £5 towards lunchtime catering; e-mail: info@thegardenstrust.org for further details.

Val Hepworth



The Gardens Trust's September conference programme in Cambridge included optional visits to local sites with a Capability Brown connection, including the Church of St Peter and St Paul at Fenstanton where Brown was laid to rest in 1783. Fenstanton was the only place in which Brown owned any land and he became Lord of the Manor in 1767.

The image shows the Brown family memorial in Fenstanton Church (with 2 admiring delegates). The name of Lancelot Brown Esq extends across the top and underneath, in the centre panel, is the tender tribute to him composed by the Rev. William Mason at the request of Lance Brown (Brown's eldest son whose panel is to the left.)

Image: Val Hepworth

Schools' News

As part of the Trust's ongoing programme to support schools across Yorkshire in all things gardening, last year we were delighted to be able to make a £250 *YGT Schools Grounds Development award* to Oxspring Primary School in Sheffield. The award was made possible by the Pippa Rakusen bequest and will allow the children at Oxspring to see their plans for a sensory garden made real. The sensory garden, as well as having lots of different scented and tactile plants, will provide a quiet outdoor study area for the children and a sanctuary for wildlife with an emphasis on nectar-rich flowers to attract pollinating insects. The school also has plans for creating a fairie woodland walk through an existing copse – stimulating imaginations and artistic writing and drawing skills; alongside scientific studies of the wildlife habitats in the area. We look forward to hearing more as the project develops!

Last Summer also saw a continuation of the celebrations of the Capability Brown tercentenary. Old Town Primary School in Hebden Bridge took up the offer of a one-day workshop at Harrogate's Mercer Art Gallery.

The Mercer Art Gallery's Education Officer led the children through the



A Capability Brown inspired textile wall-hanging created by Class 4 of Old Town Primary School, Hebden Bridge, following on from their workshop at The Mercer Art Gallery during *Noble Prospects*.



Work done at The Mercer Art Gallery by a pupil from Old Town Primary School, Hebden Bridge during a visit to *Noble Prospects*.

Noble Prospects exhibition and associated artwork, followed by an afternoon in the nearby Valley Gardens, exploring its 'Brownian possibilities'. Both school and gallery were delighted with the day. The children produced some insightful drawings while they were there and, back in the classroom, continued to build on their learning, creating a textile piece reflecting the effect 'Mr Brown has had on our landscape'.

After the Summer break, each of our 42 member schools received a copy of Karen Lynch's beautifully produced book *Noble Prospects: Capability Brown and the Yorkshire Landscape*. We hope this will serve as a good teaching aid and a useful library resource for schools; supporting their use of *A Little Guide to Trees* gifted by the Trust earlier this year.

The year of Capability Brown celebrations came to a close by offering Field Maple saplings for schools to plant in their grounds. As well as being one of the species Brown included in his landscapes, this charming native is an ideal size for many school grounds and one the children can plant knowing that their tree could, in turn, live for another 300 years!

Nicola Harrison

Images: Louisa Clarkson, Old Town Primary School

Visit to Scarborough 17 May 2016—Part 2

Continued from Issue 39, Autumn 2016

After a break for lunch we were greeted by Christine Hepworth, another member of the Civic Society who led us on the continuation of the tour. Standing on the spa bridge, built as a toll bridge in 1827, we could see a large new lifeboat house being built and further out to sea, a Dutch rig which is improving the outlet pipe into the sea from the huge McCain's potato factory. Looking inland we could see a yet more beautiful park, once adorned with impressive gates, and a rotunda which Prince Charles re-opened as the William Smith Museum of Geology in 2008. Between these two vistas rises the Grand Hotel; built in a V shape with 4 turrets representing the four seasons, it has 12 floors for the twelve months of the year and originally had 365 bedrooms! The original builders bankrupted themselves with this project and it was sold in 1867 for £43k and completed by the same architect who designed Leeds Town Hall and Corn Exchange. In its day, it claimed to be the grandest, biggest and best hotel in Europe and is today Grade II listed.

Opposite a little sunken garden where local artists hold exhibitions is a blue plaque commemorating Thomas Hinderwell, who wrote one of the first histories of Scarborough and was also the first person to station a lifeboat in the town. Here, too, beside the Grand Hotel is another funicular tramway, built in 1881 and purchased in 1967 by a family from Rotherham who have carefully restored both the tram and the buildings. We stood outside the town hall which was designed in a Jacobean style by Henry Wyatt for the banker John Woodall, who was very interested in gardening. Still, today, can be seen many of the plants which family member Edward Henry Woodall brought back from their house on the French Riviera.

In front of the Town Hall is another open space with a statue of Queen Victoria which was unveiled by her daughter, Princess Beatrice a hundred years ago. The statue was designed by Charles Bell Birch and only seven copies were ever cast, one of which has ended up in Adelaide in Australia. The bronze is about to be cleaned with some new technology, costing £15k.

Making our way across another pedestrian footbridge, we began to approach the area known as "the Crescent". In 1832 this area was simply fields belonging to the shipbuilding family Tindall and their aim was to create a "Bath" or a "Cheltenham" in Scarborough. One crescent, Belvoir Terrace, was completed in 1850 and the other not until much later. It was fascinating to see how pock marked the end terrace was from the German Naval bombardments in 1914. Of the seven villas originally planned, only three were completed and the obelisk in the centre of the gardens simply never

happened. One of the villas, Warwick Villa, was owned by Lord Lonsborough, who invited the Prince of Wales to stay and laid a red carpet all the way from his house to the spa complex for the Prince to walk on. Not surprisingly, his money did not last... It subsequently became known as The Medical Baths, then the town's museum, then council offices and today this property is being rented and renovated by a community of Buddhists. Another of the three villas is called Broxhome, built in 1844-5 and since 1947 it has been Scarborough Art Gallery.

We terminated our tour at Woodend which was for a while the seaside home of the Sitwells of Renishaw in Derbyshire and when their money disappeared in a bank crash, they moved to Woodend permanently; it is the birth place of Edith Sitwell. We were welcomed by director Andrew Clay who outlined the function of Woodend as a Creative Industry Centre, renting out 52 offices to working artists, graphic designers and architects. Since 2008 the centre has undergone a £6 million restoration project and it is run as a "business in a cultural envelope". Sitting in the library built by Sir George Sitwell we learned of his keen interest in garden design and of his wife Lady Ivy whose gambling debts put her fairly and squarely in prison for a time.

The day finished with a fascinating slideshow and talk from Roger Burnett FCI Hort who has been with Scarborough Parks since 1974. His talk was entitled *Parks, Plants and People: The Story of Scarborough's Parks* and it was both a revelation and at the same time the glue which bound the earlier parts of the day together. He has begun to record and register the rare and unusual plants growing in Scarborough: *Syringa josikaea* (on the endangered species list in its native Hungary), *Davidii involucrate*, *Magnolia cucuminata*, *Eretia dicksoni*, *Olearia traversii* and *Ulmus minor 'Dicksonii'* to name but a few. How did so many unusual plants arrive and survive here? Could it be the climate? In 1883 Alfred Haviland published his tome *Scarborough as a Health Resort* and the South Cliff gardens were planted with pines for their health giving scent. George Lord Beeforth's hobby was forestry and unusually he planted all his conifers in Scarborough before turning to hardwoods.

Borough engineer Harry W Smith (1867 – 1944) was Park superintendent from 1897 – 1933 and is famed for saying "If you do nothing else, wherever you can, plant a tree." There are 44 champion trees in Scarborough on the tree register, including a *Laburnum alpinum*. There are also many rare trees and shrubs planted in Scarborough's cemeteries. Leonard Thomson (b 1834) was cemetery superintendent from 1865 – 1911 and his

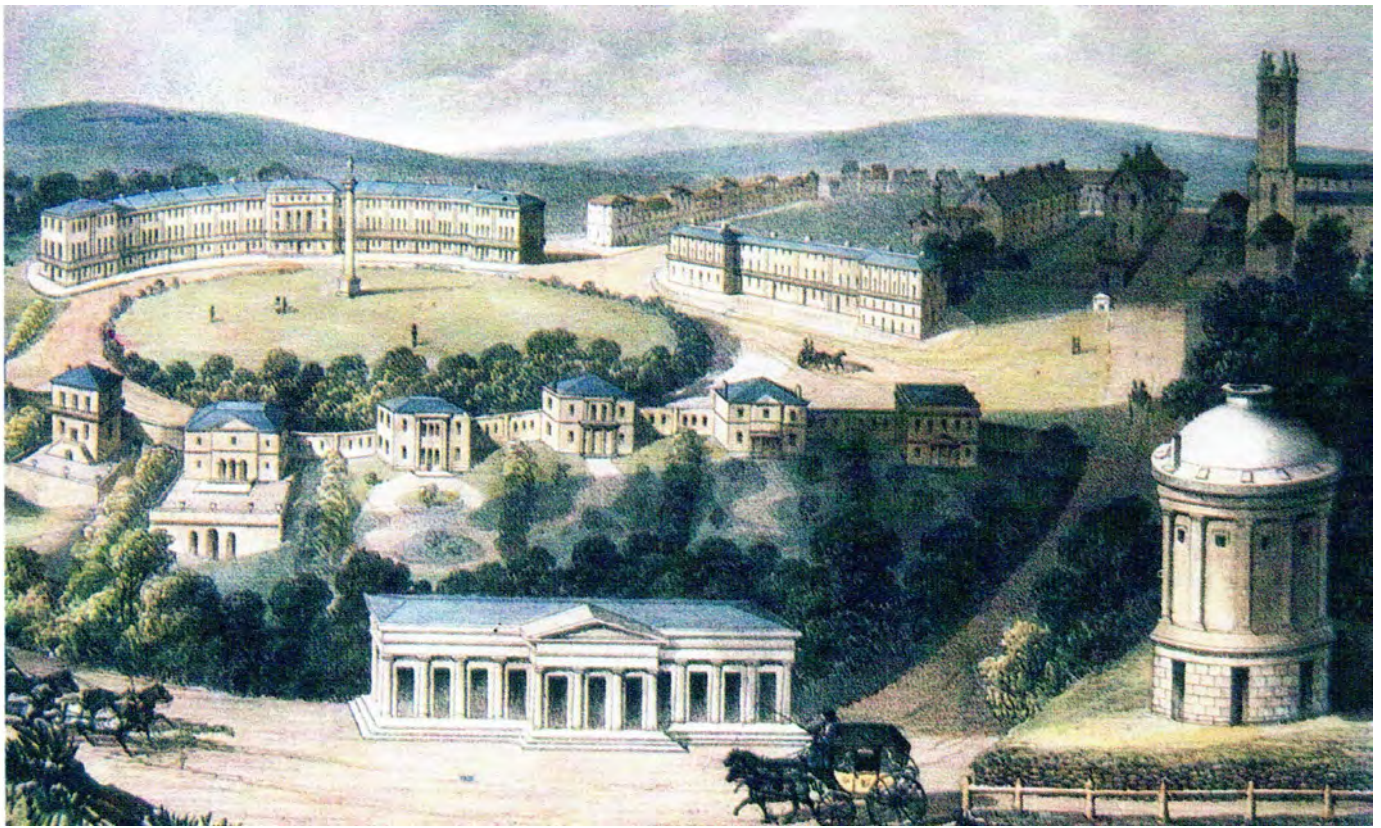


Image: View of The Crescent now Erecting at Scarborough Lithograph circa 1840 by W. Tindall

youngest daughter died in 1976, aged 94. The cemetery was called Thomson Park and Leonard's son took over in 1911, having worked for his father for the previous 24 years. A large collection of rare and unusual trees was planted between 1870 and 1911, records of their purchase being found in the council minutes.

By the 1880s, flower shows were very important in Scarborough's horticultural life and we know of many of the nurseries that supplied Scarborough: Slaters of Malton, Backhouse of York, Dicksons of Chester, Clibrans of Altrincham and Harkness of Bedale for roses. But there were also big nurseries in Scarborough and many famous botanists. Matthew Bartendale from Slaters of Malton was very friendly with the curator at Kew and he also supplied Leonard Thomson's cemetery. Did plants arriving at Kew find their way to Scarborough as well?

A succession of Scottish park keepers came to Scarborough – Thomas Rae (b 1855) was Park Keeper from 1890 – 1922 and after one year as Assistant Park Keeper, John Clark, also from Scotland, succeeded him. I take you back to the Town Hall to explain that John Clark was very friendly with Edward Henry Woodall and visited his home, La Seva, in Nice and brought back many Mediterranean plants. He also included amongst

his friends John Thomas Bennett-Poe and William Edward Gumbleton. In 1935 he was awarded the RHS Veitch medal for services to horticulture in Scarborough. The following Park Superintendent was also Scottish and also called John Clark, this time John Haldane Clark, and under his guardianship the trees and shrubs of Manor Road Cemetery were regarded as second only to Kew. Scarborough really was a hotbed of horticulturalists, botanists, plantsmen and park keepers.

And so the recording will continue, as will propagation of the rarest and most unusual plants using hydroponics to stimulate rapid root growth; as will replanting and the development of a Tree Warden scheme. We finished by looking at a very old picture of some Scarborough flower beds and Roger posed the question that with all the council cut-backs, is the way forward actually staring us in the face from the past? The beds were all planted with herbaceous perennials!

I had NO IDEA what Scarborough had to teach us and came home buzzing about the sheer quality of what we had seen and experienced. Only the Yorkshire Gardens Trust could have organised such a GRAND DAY OUT.

Fiona Barlow

Visit to Calm Cottage, York

30 June 2016

How wonderful it is to be surprised – delighted – by a property one must have driven within a few hundred metres of on countless occasions, without even being aware of its existence. Indeed, ‘calm’ is an appropriate name for this secret place so close to busy highways and the encroaching retail parks of York. That said, the 1854 OS 6” map shows Calm Cottage somewhat sandwiched between the Yorkshire and North Midland Railway (York and Market Weighton Branch) and the York and Scarborough Trust turnpike, so its name may at that time have been less appropriate than when it was built around 1820. The railway is of course long gone; the former main road is today the broad lane running past the front of the cottage grounds.

Grade II listed, this rather grand cottage (‘a brick built villa’ as the YGT programme described it) is approached by a straight drive across a paddock, just as it was the best part of 200 years ago; and is revealed after one has entered the garden proper, hidden as it is behind trees and shrubs.

Our hosts, Jane and Philip Ingham, have overseen the recreation of the garden since 1971, and the loving renovation of the house, in the capable hands of the celebrated Bridlington-based architect Francis Johnson. Leaving aside the pool and tennis court area (even though this has, interestingly, a young medlar among

other planting), the present grounds may broadly speaking be divided into four parts: the area to the south and east of the house, with lawns, flower borders, some set against old brick walls, trees and shrubs; the vegetable and fruit garden (including sweet peas); the surrounding park (or paddock or meadow) areas, where old walnuts can still be seen and a pond has emerged; and – around the charming adjacent mews cottage – a garden within a garden, as it were, created over the past 17 years.

It would be nice to report a balmy evening of sunshine, but early Summer was not short of threatening weather. So, threaten it did, and umbrellas may have been momentarily unfurled, but we were not really rained on. True, the very generous supply of nibbles and wine was whisked indoors from the terrace at one point just in case a shower dampened the pastry, but by and large we wandered glass in hand, enjoyed, admired, chatted and consumed. Our thanks for a most enjoyable evening go to Jane and Philip both for their warm hospitality and for letting us see the tremendous result of their efforts over the past forty-odd years; and we should also mention Sheena, housekeeper-gardener, who played a fine supporting role in the success of this event.

Dick Knight



Thanks to Jane: Val's presentation of a *sambucus nigra* 'Black Lace' as our contribution to the garden.

Image: Dick Knight

Visit to Yorke House, Dacre Banks

14 July 2016

We arrived at the garden on a glorious Summer's day to be greeted by Tony and Pat Hutchinson. They had moved here in 1976 when they had taken on the herculean task of restoring the house and garden in the centre of four acres; it had previously been a market garden with produce going to Harrogate by rail.

The site was considerably overgrown and had to be gradually cleared and the soil, being heavy clay, had to be improved before planting could begin. Sadly the original extensive conservatories had to be destroyed but the Victorian greenhouse has been restored to provide a facility for growing vegetables and for propagating plants. A belt of trees and hedges was planted for protection before 2 acres of ornamental planting on the south side of the garden and 2 acres of nature reserve to the north could begin.

The planting is designed informally to link the house to the garden and the garden to the beautiful Nidderdale landscape beyond. The garden is divided into a series of interconnecting areas with the emphasis on a variety of light and shaded areas.

The lower lawn was developed first as was the cutting border to serve Pat's requirements for her flower arranging activities, mainly perennials which provide continuation of colour and form throughout the Summer. All the borders are colour themed with a strong presence of foliage plants. There is a large collection of hostas which are remarkably free from slug damage; Pat puts this down to three resident hedgehogs and for the emphasis that is put on encouraging wildlife such as moorhens, thrushes and frogs into the garden .

The existence of adjacent springs which were cleverly diverted into the garden enabled the stream to be built, feeding into the ponds, again with the emphasis on wildlife and a natural look. The colourful planting of candelabra primula and iris are a delight and the pond is spanned by an attractive wooden bridge covered in clematis and wisteria. More formal is the rose walk and the rose covered gazebo but these still lead the eye into the wider landscape and maintain the natural flow of the garden towards the orchard.

The sheltered patio features a large collection of hostas and acers in pots and the planting of green, cream and white plants cleverly draws one's gaze into the distant landscape. Stone steps head from here, under a Himalayan musk rose, to the Millennium Garden.

The Millennium Garden with its soothing white and purple planting of many fragrant species is an enchanting area enclosed by Rambling Rector roses and abundant clematis; it resembles a charming cottage garden by using the brick from the old stables.

After a wonderful wander through the garden, with so much to see and so much to take in, we repaired to the pony lawn which was set out with tables very prettily dressed in pink and were treated to delicious cake that Pat had made herself and to a very refreshing cup of tea. Overheard during the tea was the remark that "this was a real garden, yes and a real gardeners' garden" which summed up all our thoughts of the garden.

A huge thank you was given to Pat and Tony for allowing us to visit this truly amazing garden.

Wendy Watson



YGT members enjoyed tea on the Pony Lawn at Yorke House. *Image: Ray Blyth*

YGT Tour of Northumbria



1.



2.



7.

On a balmy evening YGT's visit to Northumbria was a success. The following morning we were welcomed to St Wilfrid's Church for baptism in 1716 and the relevant entry in the Parish records. We were able to circumnavigate the lake before the picnic at Cambo, whilst the more artistic members listened to the music. I enjoyed the stroll, including extensive views of the landscape from the ford over the Vicarage Burn, next to the River Wansbeck. We saw an exhibition of archive material, including five Cambo Estate maps, showing several stages of its development. A short drive, past the sham fortification, Thomas Brown's part of Brown's pleasure ground but now owned by the National Trust, led to a gentle slope to where Northumbria GT had thought it would be best to both remove and replanted trees to restore Brown's garden. We enjoyed packed lunches provided by the Cambo picnic. Our next stop was Herterton House Gardens, the site of its beginnings as a farm yard to its current splendour. The garden is open but in September and October only the left-overs are available. This is a garden for plantsmen and on request from the National Trust view over the Garden to the House and the walls of the garden. The following day we reassembled at Park Farm where the archivists, who showed us a fascinating display of...

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6.



5.

Images:

1. Dinner at The Linden Hall Hotel
2. Some of the group visited Brizlee Tower
3. Herterton House Garden front view: the Formal Topiary Garden
4. Chris Hunwick explains a few of the many fascinating documents in the Alnwick archive.
- 5 Picnic lunch at Rothley Lakes featured Northumbria GT's delightful bell tent.
6. The Fancy Garden at Herterton House Gardens
7. St Wilfrid's Church, Kirkharle

Images: 1,2,3,4,6,7: Philip Ingham; 5: Penelope Dawson-Brown.

erland 3 – 5 June 2016



3.

land opened with a reception and dinner for some of our visits' hosts and our friends in the

Wilfred's Church, Kirkharle, where estate owners John and Kitty Anderson showed us the place of Lancelot Brown's parish Register. The Andersons have sensitively created a new lake and restored the landscape in a Brownian manner; we party divided. Those of a more energetic disposition set off, led by Nick Owen, to retrace Brown's daily walk to school joined to Tim Scott Bolton launch *Brush With Brown*, a book of his pictures of Brown landscapes. The walkers much the Northumberland landscape which must have so influenced the young Lancelot. Crossing the picturesque bridge and Wansbeck, we arrived at Wallington which is in the care of the National Trust. We were treated to a preview of their capability Brown drawings of a pleasure ground designed by him for Sir Walter Blackett in 1769 and a fascinating series development.

as Wright's c.1770 Codger Fort, brought us to Rothley Lakes, formerly part of the Wallington Estate and designed as by our generous host, Simon Bainbridge and his family. Having parked on the old railway line we walked down the lightfully erected a splendid bell tent in exactly the spot that Brown's drawing shows a building. The Bainbridges have own's design and the result is beautifully effective. We all sat on the grass to admire the prospect of Codger Fort and WI.

product of 40 years' work by Frank & Marjorie Lawley. Frank took us through the development of the garden from our tour. He described visiting it as 'enjoying a banquet': in May, June, July & August one can experience the full glory, as are on the table although some of them are still very good.

Frank will dig up plants from the garden and sell them to visitors there and then. From the gazebo one gets a wonderful view as are lined with Marjorie's beautifully illustrated planting plans.

in the Hulne Park where we met Bill Hugonin, the 10th Duke's retired Agent, and Claire Baxter and Chris Hunwick, who lay of the maps, documents and pictures relating to the development of the landscape at Alnwick.



4.

Continued overleaf

Continued from p. 15.

Bill took us on into the Park to visit Brizlee Tower, a gothic folly built by Robert Adam for the 1st Duke of Northumberland between 1777 and 1781 to commemorate his wife, Lady Elizabeth Seymour. The heartier among us climbed the 6 floors and 85’ to the viewing platform at the top which gave a commanding view of Brown’s work in the Hulne Park and the ruins of Hulne Priory. Above the balcony, under the Duke's crest, an inscription notes:

*Circumspice! Ego omnia ista sum dimensus;
Mei sunt ordines, Mea descriptio Multae Etiam
istarum arborum Mea manu sunt satae*

which translates as

*Look around! I have measured out all this;
these are my orders, it is my plan;
many of these trees have been planted by my hand.*

Whilst we caught our breath, Bill showed us the new Percy family burial ground further up the hill: a tranquil resting place enclosed by a perfect local dry stone wall and wrought iron gate. Finally, after a carriage-ride through the Park, by mini-bus, we arrived at the partially ruined Hulne Priory (still used by the Percy family for their lunches on shooting days and part lived-in by a gamekeeper). Whilst gratefully enjoying our picnics, we explored the curtilage of the Priory and its buildings, so artfully used by Brown as both an incident in his landscape and a viewing point, complete with a standard sycamore to split the view.

After lunch we drove the 8 miles to Howick Hall Arboretum where Lord Howick welcomed us and gave us an introduction. Lying on the coast, it benefits from an unusually mild climate and he or his head gardener have collected virtually all of the seed in the wild, from which the 11,000 trees in the arboretum have grown. He was asked which specimen he was proudest of and after some consideration he told us it was a wingnut from Sichuan, *Pterocarya Paliurus*, which of course, we immediately all traipsed off to see. Curiosity satisfied, the Earl Grey Tea Room provided the necessary refreshment of tea and delicious cakes to see us safely back to Yorkshire.

Enormous thanks must go to Caroline Legard and Penelope Dawson-Brown, who organised this excellent trip; it has spawned many happy memories of a halcyon, Brown-themed, Northumberland weekend.

Nick Lane Fox

1.



2.



3.

Images:

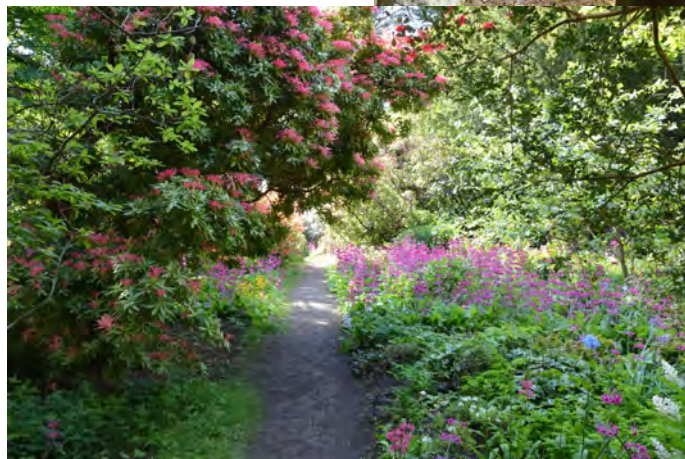
- 1. Brizlee Tower
- 2. The view to Hulne Priory from the top of Brizlee Tower
- 3. Hulne Priory: 18th century monk sculpture .
- 4. Howick Hall Arboretum.

Images:

- 1,3,4: Philip Ingham
- 2: Penelope Dawson-Brown



4.



York Civic Trust Plaque in Memory of James Backhouse of York

Working with York Civic Trust towards the installation of one of their plaques to commemorate York's most famous botanist and nurseryman James Backhouse (1794-1868) has been a great pleasure. James (I) as he is known, because both his son and grandson were also named James, came from a well respected Quaker family based in Darlington whose business was in banking. In 1815 he and his brother Thomas (1792 -1845) bought the long-established Telford's nursery at Friars Green, just east of Micklegate Bar which they developed until 1830 when George Hudson bought the site for York's first Railway Station. The business then moved to Fishergate on grounds they acquired from a nurseryman named Mr Rigg. His family had recently suffered a terrible tragedy having lost 6 of their children in a boating accident on the River Ouse where their pleasure boat was hit by a keel. The magnificent and moving Rigg Monument was built soon after in the graveyard of St Lawrence's Church, York to commemorate the children with the cost totally raised by public subscription. Over the years the monument has suffered substantial damage and erosion which prompted York Civic Trust to start an appeal for its restoration. As Dr. David Fraser, Director of York Civic Trust pointed out to me, it is amazing that a connection has been made between the Backhouse and Rigg families through two of their ongoing projects.

James (I) was also a Quaker Missionary who introduced Quakerism to Australia. During the years of his travels (1831-1840) which extended to Mauritius and South Africa, he collected many new species of plants and ferns, sending them back to the York Nursery and to Kew. The business flourished with the changing fashion in horticulture. Orchids, ferns and alpines were the rage and by 1859 when the Nursery moved to West Bank in Holgate the range of plants for sale was arguably the most diverse in the country. James (II) took on the running of the Nursery and was responsible for building the famous rock garden likened to Switzerland in miniature. This was a time when the art of rock gardening was at its zenith and there is no doubt that it was greatly influenced by father and son who had spent many years botanizing in mountainous regions, especially in Upper Teesdale which was their particular botanical haven.

The plaque is to be installed on the house in Micklegate where James (I) and his brother Thomas lived for some considerable years. After much research we know that their house number was 71 but at some point it changed to 92. We were delighted to discover that the house had been beautifully restored by York Conservation Trust. This will be the second York Civic Plaque commissioned by Yorkshire Gardens Trust in recognition of York's horticultural heritage, the first being that for The Ancient Society of York Florists (founded 1768) which is sited in Colliergate. The plaque will include a motif of the Spring gentian, *Gentiana verna* which, apart from the Burren in western Ireland, grows only in Upper Teesdale in Britain, a reminder of the many happy hours James (I) spent in that part of the world botanizing with his son with whom he shared his great love of alpine plants.

Daphne Hamilton will be unveiling the plaque at 11.30 am on Tuesday 28 February so do come along to Micklegate, York to support the occasion. Daphne is the granddaughter of Sir William Hamilton who bought the Backhouse Nursery from James (III) in 1920. Her father went on to run the Nursery and thus she retains detailed memories of its design and beauty. Eventually it was sold to York Corporation and part of it became West Bank Park. Sadly the famous rock garden was demolished.

I am extremely grateful to Yorkshire Gardens Trust for covering the cost of the plaque with money from Pippa Rakusen's legacy and of course to York Civic Trust for recognizing the importance of James Backhouse and his great contribution to horticulture in York and on a wider scale, his Quaker ideals and philanthropic principles. Finally I would like to thank Peter Goodchild and Caroline Kernan for their help and interest in this project.

Penelope Dawson-Brown



*James Backhouse (I)
Photo by H. Adlard, frontispiece from
Memoir of James Backhouse (1870)*

Visit to Greencroft, Littlethorpe, near Ripon

19 July 2016

As I passed through Boroughbridge, paying homage to the Devil's Arrows and the Roman town, I was looking forward to visiting Littlethorpe. First, at the road junction, was St. Michael's petite church with its eye-catching brickwork, then came a meandering lane of dispersed houses, until the pottery was reached, where the owners had kindly allowed us to park. The YGT sign beckoned into Greencroft's garden, the devoted work of Sally and David Walden and carried out piecemeal over 43 years within a five acre site.

From the terrace to the rear of the house – where tea and scrumptious cakes were served – the first 'room' within the garden drew my steps along a narrow diagonal path bordered by well-grown, brightly coloured annuals and bedding plants. The flowers presented red, purple and yellow delights to the attendant hoverflies – and indeed looked livelier than the visitors on this hot day. A water feature, incorporating a stone ornament from Sally's previous home in Pateley Bridge, offset the glow and added to the sound quality: there was no competing traffic or livestock noise in the still air.

I was drawn off the path to an old pump and separate trough, both disconnected, and forming a low-key feature in the brick ambulatory along the long side, with a hexagonal and a pedimented Summer house respectively on each shorter side. It is a good garden for sitting, chatting and resting, though its creators can have done little of the latter! Sally says she is a dab hand (my pun) at mixing mortar and David's professional construction skills and resources are apparent in the multifarious built features. I wondered how he'd found time to go out to work!

Through another arch I reached my personal favourite area. A long pergola with a simple, consistent covering of small white-flowered roses over cobbled pillars above patterned paving led to a ferny water wall, again providing sound. Seats were integrated into the walling, and a log cabin (reminiscent of Laura Ingalls Wilder) sat quietly beyond the lake and single mature willow tree. Here the lawn gives easy walking; the water and moored dinghy, dragonflies and water boatmen, and borrowed green landscape beyond the nettle ditch all contribute to this area of tranquillity.

But now I looked back through the windows in the wall – a porthole and a triple mullion – and realised that I must retrace my steps to investigate two further areas of colourful herbaceous perennials and shrubs, where earnest gardeners were in serious discussion over a bug in the hemerocallis and other hot topics. As usual, some of us were keen to obtain names for plants we fancied growing back home, but Sally modestly disclaimed such technical knowledge. The expert to whom I was directed formerly ran a nursery in the village, and had brought a selection of plants, especially succulents, for sale.



Image: John Barker

After a valedictory cuppa, I returned to the Littlethorpe Pottery and was welcomed in to look at the nineteenth-century workshop and machinery and samples of truly traditional substantial – and frost-resistant – garden pots. This is an important site,

listed in Peter Brears' *English Country Pottery*, where some of the 'big throwers' still worked in the middle of the last century.

So, altogether, this was another YGT visit which embraced more than a stroll in a beautiful garden. How should I describe it, if you were not fortunate enough to be present? I think I would say the style is both eclectic and personal. Dominance of structures of dissimilar periods and a feel of architectural objets trouvés is accompanied by vivid flowers, well-mown lawn and an astonishing shortage of weeds. The labour and choices of the owners are apparent throughout. But is it complete? I peeped through the gap in the hedge to the next field, where the hay crop had been taken. Perhaps a future visit will show yet more garden diversity.

Helen Caffrey

Beningbrough Hall Gallery and Garden

A place of changing fortunes and reinvention

Beningbrough Hall, just north of York is a grand country house that has constantly reinvented itself. Successive families have made fresh starts here; in 1716 the ambitious John Bouchier reinvented not only himself but also his Elizabethan manor house with a superb Baroque mansion. It is a house of changing fortunes, losing its collection not once but twice in the 20th century. It was reinvented during World War II when requisitioned by the RAF, and finally by National Trust ownership, followed by the partnership with the National Portrait Gallery in the 1970s. Bold pragmatic decisions have ensured its survival.

This philosophy continues into the 21st century: a baroque mansion delighted and surprised visitors in 1716 and we understand the need to do so 300 years later. Mindful of this we have appointed Andy Sturgeon to look at the gardens surrounding the hall and create a vision for us to deliver over the next decade. Andy is one of the UK's leading designers with over 30 years' experience and many awards including six RHS Gold medals at the Chelsea Flower Show and Best in Show. *The Sunday Times*, and *House and Garden Magazine* placed Andy in the Top Ten list of designers in Britain. Although the National Trust has continually improved the gardens since the 1970's they have lacked a cohesive, site-wide plan. Little physical or documentary evidence exists of the former gardens and although beautiful and atmospheric they have evolved over the centuries and have lost their way. This has presented a unique opportunity to develop and enhance the character of the many different gardens around the house. Andy has addressed this with a holistic approach that will significantly reinvent and reinterpret some areas of the gardens whilst others will be gently improved with historic views being maintained and enhanced and new planting schemes developed. Unlike many National Trust gardens, we are not tied to a certain era or design because we have so little knowledge of how the gardens looked historically. This

gives us a certain amount of freedom to make the most of what we already have and develop areas of the garden that few visitors explore.

In some cases the designs are a light touch focussing on restoration but in others we plan to overlay entirely new iconic designs which will help to enforce the special identity of Beningbrough. These bold, sculptural and contemporary interventions will respond to the sense of place and history of the site and will in all cases be sensitive to the surroundings and the regular visitors who know and love this place. The signature projects include revitalising the Old Kitchen Courtyard, creating dramatic hedged rooms within the 0.6 hectare (1.5 acre) Walled Garden and planting an extensive Mediterranean garden in homage to the original owner and the garden he created after his Grand Tour.

The first work has already been completed with the planting of 300,000 bulbs along the ha ha walk to celebrate the tercentenary of the building of Beningbrough. Other projects to be rolled out over the next ten years include the extension and replanting of the American Garden that will become a botanical paradise of North and South American trees and shrubs. The perennial borders will be revitalized and the various formal gardens and courtyards linking all these gardens together will be improved and replanted, making Beningbrough a year round destination.

Spring 2017 will be the first opportunity to see the ha ha walk in all its flowering glory, and we look forward to welcoming members of the Yorkshire Gardens Trust on 27 February 2017, to be among the first visitors to see it. The next design to be installed in the garden will be The Pergola, due for completion by Summer 2018. The remaining changes will be phased over the next decade.

David Morgan

General Manager, National Trust York Area Properties

Visit: www.nationaltrust.org.uk/beningbrough

Like: www.facebook.com/NTBeningbrough



The Pergola at Beningbrough, due for completion by Summer 2018.

Artist's impression: Andy Sturgeon landscape and garden design.

YGT Small Grants Scheme 2015, 2016 and 2017

Sometimes seemingly straightforward grant allocations can take longer to progress than any of us anticipate. The grant to Ripon Walled Garden falls into this category. In 2015 an application for a grant was received from Ripon Walled Garden for a new sign on the roadside. We encouraged the management to think about interpretive signage within the garden as well and asked them to undertake some research into the history of the garden to inform the signs.



The Plant Stall with fruit trees behind at Ripon Walled Garden.
Image Heather Garnett

This largely intact Victorian walled garden and orchard, provides a place for people with learning difficulties and other disabilities to learn about horticulture and to work and is an invaluable asset to the community. Children from a nearby residential special school located in the former Bishop of Ripon's Palace also use the garden. This points to the garden's origins; it started life in 1838 as the Palace kitchen garden and orchard. Both, since 2016, have been run by the charity, Cambian.

The garden is recognised as a unique and treasured site of great historic and ecclesiastic importance to the City of Ripon which was, perhaps, not at first fully appreciated by the owners. I think it is fair to say that our intervention spring boarded the management into thinking about how they might make the most of their asset. In times when public funds are in short supply, they need to raise as much money as possible in order to be financially viable and able to fulfil their primary purpose. They need to attract as much support and as many visitors as possible to the garden to purchase their goods and services. For instance they grow plants for sale and have a cafe and shop.

In light of this, under its new management, an overarching plan for the garden has been developed, to be implemented in stages. Different areas of the garden will have a different focus aimed at enhancing learner and visitor experiences and telling the story of the garden from its early Victorian beginnings to the

present day. These include the old orchard, a sensory garden and a weather garden.

Whilst it is still planned to have a new sign on the roadside, the temporary one is satisfactory in the short term and so, with the agreement of the Conservation Committee, the award from YGT, Phase 1, will be for the internal signage and half of the award will be granted. A Phase 2 application is anticipated for a contribution to the weather garden costs; it is expected to go to the Committee in January.

Broadly, the aims of this learning project are to explore how the weather affects horticulture and how it can be most utilised to improve quality of life. The project will include interactive, multi-sensory displays and activities including how weather was understood and monitored for horticulture in Victorian England, how this is done now and consideration will be given to the challenges and opportunities of the future. It will be located in a picturesque area of the garden bisected by fine original paths, just needing a clean-up, providing excellent access to the various elements of the scheme.

The story of Ripon Walled Garden continues to be told and made through its continued development and use. The new signage will highlight historic features of the garden such as the orchard with its few surviving old apple trees, old buildings like the potting shed, apple store (with original shelving) and the wall's surviving fireplaces. The signs will highlight important events in its history such as its purchase by Dr Barnardo's in 1940 and its association with Lewis Carroll. The story will also be on the Ripon Walled Garden website.

Whilst the Ripon Walled Garden project has taken a long time to come to fruition and indeed is still ongoing, it ably illustrates how the Conservation Committee often works and that worthwhile outcomes sometimes take a while. I believe working with garden owners or managers in this way to be a very valuable role for the Yorkshire Gardens Trust.

In 2016 we have supported the repair/restoration of the Tuscan Temple at Duncombe Park and this is virtually complete. Tree work has been carried out on the terraces as agreed with Natural England, the greatest improvement being seen from the Ionic Temple and from Old Father Time together with the establishment of a 'keyhole' view en route to the Tuscan Temple. Some improvement has been made to the view from the Tuscan Temple up the river. However, while an improvement, Jake Duncombe writes that he is not sure whether all those trees still obstructing the view were 'intended', although the red roofs of Helmsley and the A170 are nicely screened.

As might be expected with such a project involving a historic building, various additional issues were uncovered as work progressed. Peter Pace, the architect responsible for the work, writes in his recent report that when repointing the upper drum above the arcade of columns it was found all the joints were in need of repointing, so they have all been done. When reviewing the stone work to the main lower drum, a few sections of window architrave were considered to be in worse condition than previously thought, and these have now been renewed.

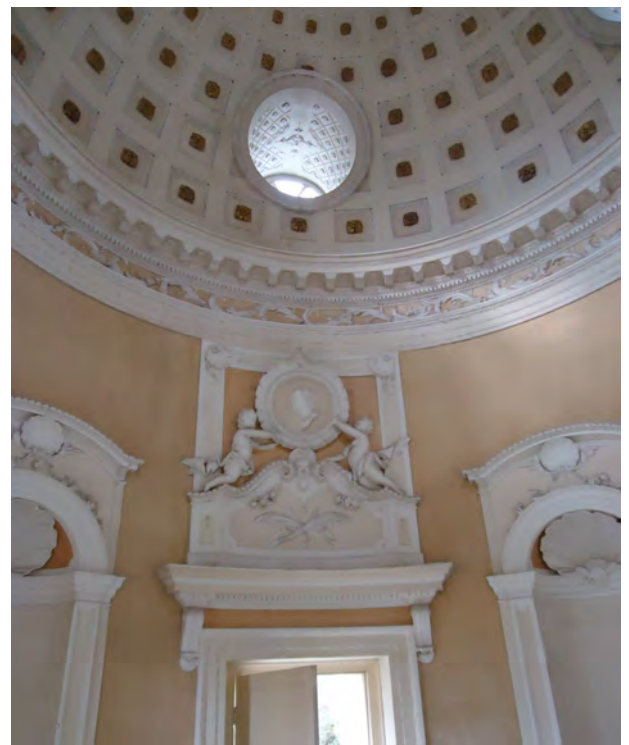


The Adamson family of stone masons – Gary, Craig and Andrew – at the Tuscan Temple, Duncombe Park .
Image Peter Pace.

Peter writes that the colour of the new stone, Blaxter from Dunhouse in Co Durham, has proved to be an excellent match and already is blending in well with the original; better than any of the previous repairs made over the last few decades. A few open joints have been left and some small openings made, giving sheltered roosting places for bats and to further encourage colonisation, in addition to the bat boxes placed in the surrounding trees.

Generally the lead dome was found to be in good condition. The report also discusses the interior of the Temple, with its very ornate plasterwork, which is thankfully in reasonable condition though it requires some improvements to bring out its full glory. This mainly concerns the lower wall plasterwork which was repaired in the 1970s using an inappropriate plaster, which is suffering from rising damp.

The removal of the emulsion paint which is inhibiting its ability to breathe and replacement of the more badly affected areas of plaster in a lime plaster will greatly improve the interior. Some additional ventilation is also needed, achieved by simply having the top sash to at least two of the windows (adjacent to each other for cross draught) secured in the slightly open position, and insect gauze fitted in the gaps. The modern rush matting was trapping moisture and has been removed. Those of us with old buildings will echo the importance of being aware of these things. It is hoped to have a celebratory ‘topping out’ event in the Spring.



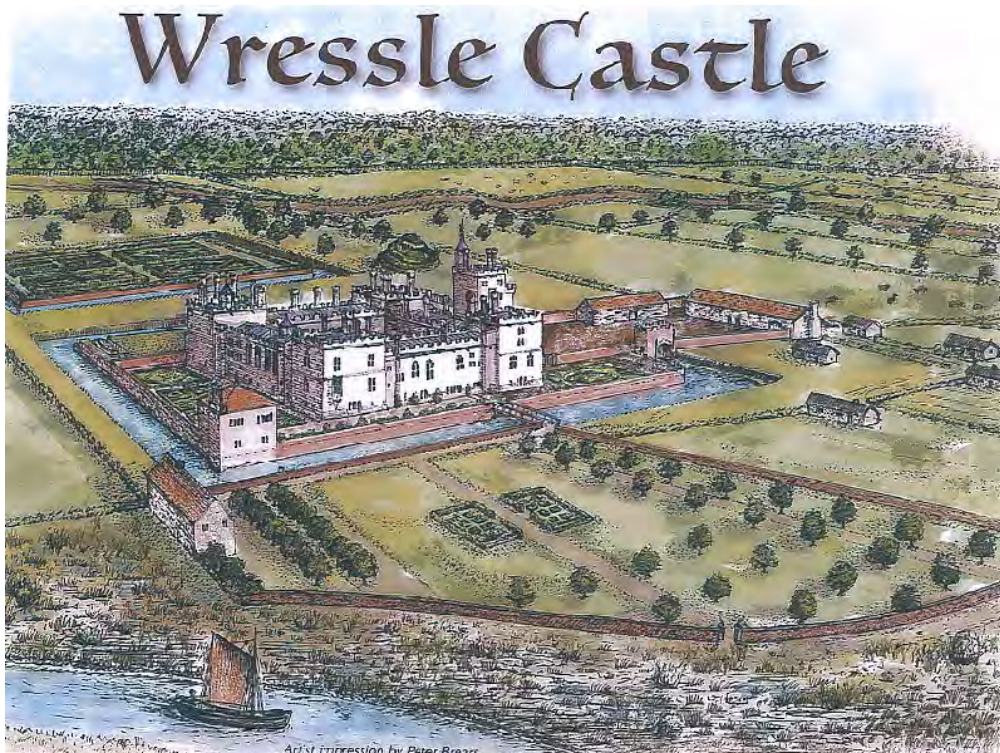
The interior of the Tuscan Temple. *Image: Peter Pace*

Unfortunately we’ve not had any applications for the current scheme, 2017. We had it on the website as usual but without anyone to promote it. However, Ray Blyth has taken it under his wing and plans to take a more proactive approach aiming to attract more applications and maybe to increase YGT membership, by engaging with 'Friends' organisations and helping them to develop schemes. He is especially interested in community-based projects, a number of which we’ve helped in the past and of course we want to help groups from all corners of Yorkshire. We are making some changes following helpful suggestions from Maddy Jago and will run the scheme as a rolling programme with a £2,000 annual budget for the next five years from Pippa Rakusen’s legacy. After discussion it was decided to keep the requirement for 50% match funding from the applicant. However, depending on the application, YGT might consider a discretionary rate of a lower percentage of matched funding. We would also like to have more publicity, and following Ann Petherick’s suggestion of editorial reviews in Yorkshire publications, would like to go down this route. We have twelve years’ worth of helping with grants so plenty of copy to promote ourselves and the schemes that we’ve helped. So if you know of a project that would benefit from our help then do get in touch with Ray. The application window starts now! Ray’s contacts: Tel: 01765 689289, e-mail: rayblyth689@btinternet.co.uk Finally you will read elsewhere in this Newsletter of the success of one of our grants for **2011-12**; the Gisborough Priory Garden Project, where we gave money for the grafting of some old apple trees and the planting of new fruit trees; it is very rewarding and encouraging to hear of such success (see p. 26).

Ray Blyth, Heather Garnett, Val Hepworth

Visit to Wressle Castle, East Riding of Yorkshire

5 October 2016



Artist impression by Peter Brears.

Artist's impression by Peter Brears

Wressle lies on the east bank of the River Derwent, three miles northwest of Howden. The village is cut by the Selby to Hull railway line, where commuters can catch glimpses of the lofty ruins of Wressle Castle across the flat landscape. We however, were going to be privy to a much closer look at this moated, high status, late 14th century residence and site of elaborate medieval gardens. We were treading in the footsteps of Henry VIII and Queen Katherine Howard no less, who visited in September 1541.

We gathered in the newly refurbished village hall where the scene was set through an illustrated talk by Ed Dennison who was our expert guide for the afternoon. The castle ruins, a Grade I Listed building, formerly on Historic England's *Heritage at Risk Register*, have had a programme of restoration which Margaret Nieke was to enlighten us on later in the tour. The surrounding garden earthworks, overlying parts of the former medieval village, are scheduled monuments and were surveyed by Ed in 2014, funded by the Castle Studies Trust.

Extensive documentary evidence provides details of the history of the castle, built in the 1390s by Sir Thomas Percy, later Earl of Worcester. In the late 15th/early 16th century extensive refurbishments of the castle by Henry Percy, 5th Earl of Northumberland, were probably accompanied by a remodelling of the gardens. Detailed household accounts have also enabled Peter Brears to reconstruct the fixtures and fittings of 71 rooms and the internal organisation of this large and opulent household, which in 1512 had 240 permanent staff.

Prior to the laying out of gardens, the settlement of Wressle, or Wressell, had a complex history. The building of the castle and development of its gardens impacted on its layout, resulting in an even greater challenge for surveying and unravelling the garden earthworks from elements of the former village. The building of a farm in 1810 and construction of a new road now divide the castle and former gardens from the present village of Wressle.

An early part of the designed landscape was Great Park lying to the north of the castle; it was documented in 1485, with its associated deer park recorded two years later, and was a resource not only for deer but also timber, grazing horses and crops. Deer were sometimes driven into a smaller park that lay closer to the castle, Little Park, for sport and killing. By the late 15th century there were two gardens south of the castle, Moat Garden and beyond, Old Garden, the latter enclosed by a brick wall. In 1472 a gardener, John Smeaton, earned a yearly wage of £3 8d for keeping both gardens in good order. School House lay within Old Garden, although its position is uncertain. Records made between 1516-23 show it had verses painted inside it. A banqueting house and/or bathing house, noted in 1537, stood adjacent to the southwest corner of the moat. A third garden, New Garden, was laid out in the 16th century, north of the castle; its square moat is clearly seen on aerial photographs taken in 1984 and a geophysical survey has supplemented the earthwork survey. A 1624 map suggests it was laid out with



Moated New Garden, north of castle

Aerial photo by Graham Lee 1-Aug-1984, ANY192/35

Image ©North Yorkshire County Council

paths and four quadrants with a quarter circle in each. A keeper of the New Garden was paid 26s 8d per year and employed between 1517-23.

Various contemporary accounts record well-kept gardens with arbours, alleys for bowling and walking, herbs and knots and 31 peacocks. Gardeners were employed to attend to the herb gardens, clipping knots and sweeping the paths clean. John Leland's itinerary for 1535-43 describes orchards with 'mountes opere topiario' like 'turninges of cokilshilles'. The physical evidence for any sculptured earthwork mounds has been elusive and it has been suggested the description may refer to shaped topiary spirals. The various garden buildings offered places where *the lord lieth and have meat and drink, also read his books*. Ed even suggested a new Thesaurus Term for Historic England – 'Canoodling Lodge'! A reconstruction by Peter Brears of how the gardens might have looked brings it all to life.

The demise of the castle and gardens has a complex history. By 1577 garden buildings were in decay and by 1613 most of the gardens were abandoned. The castle outlasted other Percy properties, such as Leconfield, but when used as a garrison for Parliament during the Civil War it sustained considerable damage. Lord Percy was ordered to demolish the castle but the south range had a reprieve; it reverted to a manor house administering the local Percy estates before being used as a farmhouse until it became derelict following a fire in 1796.

Clutching our generous handouts, reproducing material from Natural England display boards that have been erected on the site, and maps and plans from Ed's report, we set off for the tour. Heads down, picking our way across the pasture with clumps of tufty grass, the magnificent south façade of the stone castle came into view. Ed stopped to give us some pointers on the lie of the land and features. So much for my landscape interpretation skills: we had actually walked over some of the former medieval village and garden earthworks.

As we moved a little closer and stood on the raised platform of the castle moat, looking south across the 'subtle' earthworks of former gardens and fishponds beyond, the scale of the once walled one acre Old Garden could be appreciated, as Ed pointed out lone trees and hedge lines as markers. All the structures and buildings associated with these gardens (enclosing garden wall, laundry and banqueting house/bathing house) are demolished. So again it was left to our imagination about the two-storey banqueting/bathing house at the corner of the moat. Did bathing take place within the privacy of the building, or in the moat itself? At least it seems the moat was kept clean, as in 1579 a boat was built and 12 days a year spent on the task.

Contemporary views to the southwest are less easy to visualise, as the river flood bank, built in the 1970s, is a prominent feature of the landscape today, obscuring views to the river itself. The low lying marshy area bordering the river, liable to flooding, may at times have formed a mere, an important part of the setting at other medieval castles with landscaped gardens. The Percys already had a high status castle with gardens at Leconfield, only 20 miles away, so why build a castle here? Ownership and control of a river location would have been important for a landing place and navigation of the River Derwent; it was a halfway point between Leconfield and York.

As we moved to the east side of the remaining south wing, the scale of building was apparent. An adjoining brick wall, with ashlar lower courses, was part of the 15' high enclosing wall of the base court that was added to the east side of the castle and shown on the c.1600 plan. The dry moat ditch turns a corner here and a brick structure straddles the moat. It has an 'arch', which is not a fireplace, as recorded in the Listed Building description! It had a 21' high spiral staircase, which gives more of a clue to its probable function as a viewing tower over the gardens on the south side and into the base court to the north.



Brick structure across moat - possible viewing tower

Image: Louise Wickham

On the west side, Ed pointed out the rectangular area cut into the moat platform, forming an inlet or dock for mooring boats. From the north side the scale of the demolition of the castle is more apparent. The three ranges and two northern corner towers have gone, also the gatehouse that lay on the east side, opening into the base court. Part of the bake house that lay at the inner northwest corner survives and gives an idea of the size of the quadrangular plan. It seems that the castle was not built in the centre of the moat platform, evidence perhaps that the moat had earlier origins, constructed for the medieval manor house.



South façade, Wressle Castle
Image: Louise Wickham

Margaret explained that trees and shrubs were cleared as part of a four-year restoration project funded by Natural England and Historic England with contributions from the Country Houses Foundation and the Falkingham family. The fabric of the remaining south wing with its two towers was cleared of vegetation and the stonework consolidated. Even so, a licence to progress the work was required following the discovery of four species of bats in the building, including a maternity roost. Natural England is working together with the Falkingham family, who have owned the farm since the 1930s.

Environmental Stewardship schemes have delivered huge benefits for historic parks and gardens (see YGT Newsletter Issue 37, page 16). Here at Wressle, arable farming is good for nature conservation and there are protected wildlife sites, wet grassland and hay meadows in the valley that have brought back the corncrakes.

As we viewed the interior of the roofless south range, the quality of the stonework and fine windows and fireplaces was evident. Ed explained a little more about the relationship of views from the building and

windows to the gardens, which was part of his study. Surprisingly, the height of some of the windowsills in relation to their seats impeded views to the gardens and some male areas possibly had better views than female quarters. Wall and roof walks also gave views to the gardens. The west tower was the Lord's Tower and the east, the Chapel Tower, above which was the lord's study called Paradise; it gave restricted access to the lady's room on the floor above. The strange stone screen across the interior of the south range is a relic from when the building was used as the village church.

We retreated back to the village hall for tea and cakes and more conversations about this remarkable site. Thanks to Ed and Margaret for a superb tour. Thanks also to all the helpers for baking cakes, serving tea, moving furniture and making the afternoon run so smoothly. We are grateful to Robert Falkingham for allowing us to visit (and for moving the cows!) and admire and appreciate the family's dedication as custodians of the site.

Yvonne Boutwood

New System for YGT Membership Cards

The new YGT card for members paying annually is shown below; the eagle eyed among you might notice that, for the first time, it makes no mention of a specific year of validity. Instead, to cut costs and reduce waste, this new design will be valid throughout your membership or until such time as we need to overhaul the contact information shown on the reverse. Therefore, please keep your cards next Spring. More immediately, do remember to take them with you when you explore Parcevall Hall Gardens (see p. 26).

New cards for members paying annually by standing order have been attached to the front of this newsletter; those for members paying by cheque will be forwarded once payment has been received. Cheques should be made payable to 'Yorkshire Gardens Trust (in full please) and sent, with a SAE, to 14 Huntington Road, York YO31 8RB (single membership £20, double £25).

If you have queries regarding the whereabouts of your card, or your membership or payment status, please email membership@yorkshiregardenstrust.org.uk or ring 01904 347056. Thank you.



Grants for Professional Gardeners

Of the many threats facing the nation's heritage of magnificent gardens and landscapes, concerns about the future of the

horticultural profession are one of the greatest. There has been a significant drop in the number of career gardeners entering the profession early in their working lives. The emergence of contract gardening and outsourcing has led to a decline in traditional work-based training, particularly apprenticeships, previously such a strong attraction to young people. With an ageing workforce and a shortage of young entrants to the profession the transfer of knowledge and skills to the next generation is being lost which, in turn, threatens the future of our prized public gardens and plant collections.

The challenge of confronting this threat led to the formation of the Professional Gardeners' Trust in 2004. It is the charity that provides professional gardeners in the UK and Ireland with funding for essential horticultural training.

One particular benefactor has given to the Trust a significant sum of money which is to be reserved exclusively to funding the training of professional gardeners in the north of England. The Trust's objectives are career enhancement benefitting both the individual by adding relevant qualifications and experience to a CV, and the horticultural profession as a whole by raising standards across the board.

The officers of the PGT and the majority of its trustees are professional gardeners themselves. In the twelve years since it was established, the Trust has been able to assist over 300 applicants throughout the UK amounting to a total sum over £120,000. From modest beginnings with very limited resources it has become one of the largest providers of funds for training of its type. Thanks to a number of generous benefactors, the Trust's current annual budget is £30,000 helping 75 or more applicants of all ages and at all levels every year. We hope that will continue and we would like it to be more. Inevitably though, word of mouth breeds ever greater demand but we have every confidence that the work of the Trust will continue to grow.

Applicants usually work in private gardens or gardens open to the public, but many are self-employed. Employers tend to be very supportive by either making a contribution or by giving time away from work. Applicants must demonstrate that they derive the majority of their income from gardening. The application process is quite simple and is accessed through the Trust's website info@pgtrust.org

The scope of the Trust's activities is wide. Many of its

awards provide training which is on the practical side of gardening leading, for example, to certification in the use of pesticides and chainsaws. These are all important qualifications for applying for jobs. With the disappearance of apprentice schemes, the Royal Horticultural Society's diplomas are particularly valuable. Many of them are part-time courses enabling full-time gardeners to study through distance learning programmes. Other more specialist projects have included plant identification, tree survey training, social and therapeutic courses, wild flower meadow management and tractor driving with all the Health and Safety requirements which that entails.

An important part of the Trust's work made possible by one generous donation is to fund short term placements. This enables gardeners to experience working in different gardening environments from their own. These provide experience and inspiration to gardeners who will go on to make a real mark on their chosen profession.

How can members of the Yorkshire Gardens Trust help to spread the word about the PG Trust locally? There are two ways. First, with the knowledge that there is a fund specifically for the benefit of those working in Northern England, to encourage professional gardeners to visit the website info@pgtrust.org and see how the Trust can help progress their careers. Secondly, members may like to consider supporting the Trust financially in a way that might bring benefits to Yorkshire gardens and gardeners.

Jeremy Garnett

Chairman, PG Trust. Jeremygarnett100@hotmail.com



Matthew Kershaw, a horticulturalist from Sheffield, who completed further training at Askham Bryan College with financial assistance from the Professional Gardeners' Trust.

Image: The Professional Gardeners' Trust

Gisborough Priory Project Apple Trees

Some of the fruit trees that we grew from grafted cuttings taken from old fruit trees in our neighbour's garden in 2011 have produced fruit this year so we have taken the opportunity to get them identified.

Thanks go to the Northern Fruit Group members who identified the apples and were not fazed when unexpectedly faced with a large selection of apples at the end of their long and tiring weekend's work at Harlow Carr Gardens.

The apples identified so far are: Allington Pippin, King of the Pippins, Lane's Prince Albert, Laxton Superb, Monarch, Newton Wonder and also (tentatively) Lady Sudeley and Lord Derby. Apparently this is a fairly typical apple selection for a late 19th/early 20th century estate garden.

Some of the trees that we have propagated have not yet fruited so we are looking forward to further fruits in years to come. We also hope to welcome members of the Northern Fruit Group for a visit to the gardens in the Autumn of 2017



Examples of apples from grafted trees.

Image: Gisborough Priory Project

so that they can see what we have been doing and, perhaps, identify more varieties.

As planned, two young trees from each successful graft were planted in Gisborough Priory woodland garden and most are doing well. A few of the spare trees from successes were passed on to some of our members and volunteers and about twelve or thirteen trees were taken by students from Askham Bryan College and planted in Stewart Park in Middlesbrough as part of a community orchard.

A few of the donor trees have died since we took the scions in 2011 so we may have been just in time!

All work has been organised by the board and volunteer supervisors of Gisborough Priory Project and carried out by Gisborough Priory Project volunteers. The original grafting in 2012 was only possible with training and assistance from Helen Herring and her volunteers from the Wildflower Ark in Middlesbrough. We would like to thank Helen very much for all the time and effort she put into helping us as it made all the difference having someone guiding us along. In addition we would like to thank our neighbour, Eddie Rowe, for allowing us to take cuttings from the fruit trees on his area of the land, also part of the historic Gisborough Priory Gardens. Also thanks go to Yorkshire Gardens Trust for the small grant which covered half the costs of grafting the trees.

Gisborough Priory Project

www.gisboroughprioryproject.co.uk

Parcevall Hall Gardens – Offer for YGT Members



Parcevall Hall Gardens near Appletreewick in Wharfedale, at the heart of the Yorkshire Dales National Park, is kindly offering YGT members two for one entry throughout the 2017 season; YGT members visiting alone will receive half price entry (£3.50 or £3.00 rather than £7.00 or £6.00) and children under 12 admitted free.

The open season runs from 1 April until 31 October; 10.00 am – 6.00 pm daily (last entry 5.00 pm).

Apart from the interesting and delightful gardens there is a tea room and plant sales area. Dogs are welcome on a short lead. Please be aware that part of Parcevall Hall Gardens' beauty comes from the steep hillside setting and topography; therefore stout footwear is recommended.

Further information is available at www.parcevallhallgardens.co.uk/about or by ringing 01756 720311.

Parcevall Hall Gardens, Skyreholme, Nr Appletreewick, North Yorkshire, BD23 6DE.

Please remember to take your YGT membership card in order to benefit from this generous offer.

Visit to Wortley Hall Gardens

Thursday 15 September 2016

Wortley Hall is situated in South Yorkshire between Sheffield and Barnsley in the centre of the South Yorkshire coalfields. We visited on a very misty morning but thankfully the sun burst out by lunchtime.

The origins for the manor itself go back to medieval times and the appearance of the Wortley name and subsequent hall buildings and developments. There was a deer park surrounding the main grounds. The present hall is Palladian in style, the main work on this being carried out in the 18th century. During the Second World War it was used as a base for the American Air Force. Then in 1950 the Hall and Park was sold to a consortium of Labour Movement activists including the Co-operative Movement; it was used as a holiday home and conference centre, and nowadays weddings are frequently held there.

We met and had coffee in the Hall, where they were very busy preparing for one of the many weddings they organise. There we also met John Howard who had been the Head Gardener at Wortley from 1980 to 2003. John took us round the grounds indicating the historical developments that he had encountered. He was the only gardener when he first began the task of managing the whole of the grounds. The farther edges had been neglected and there was much tree felling needed.

We walked along holly-hedged paths to the Fish Pond which had a feeder drain to the nearby historic Ice House; it was completely underground and reached by a surface trap door. This was a very atmospheric section of the grounds with the possibility of sinister happenings taking place around the ice house – a Conan-Doyle or Wilkie Collins plot perhaps! At one edge of the pond was a very, very old and impressive oak tree; it was estimated to be between 350-500 years old, so one of the original trees of the estate. Still going strong, it produces plenty of acorns despite having had the central part of the trunk burnt out in the 1920s.

We then walked along the boundary edges which in part included a ha-ha edging. We found old gates which may have indicated that there had been an alternative entrance to the grounds. We were shown the sites within the trees of an old rockery and a ferny grotto. There we also found another ancient tree, a chestnut with a remarkable trunk. We returned via the lawns nearer to the house which had been laid out formally in the 19th century; included in this area was the possible site of a glass conservatory.

John talked about the free hand he was given, when he was first appointed, in maintaining and investigating the layers of the formal ‘picturesque’ garden that had gone before. From various sources in the 19th century we know that a gardener called Joseph Harrison was Head Gardener during the mid century. He co-wrote with Paxton *The Horticultural Register* which produced some descriptions of the then current 19th Century gardens. As well as this he was responsible for starting several other well respected gardening periodicals. Harrison’s time at Wortley probably marked the high point of the gardens, John Simpson continuing the work later in the century.

After lunch we visited the old stable block which was very interesting because of the style of the building and its elaborate canopies over the internal yard. There were also small cottages built into the block for the garden staff.



Outside the walled garden examining the brickwork. Image: Ian Hepworth

The final stage began at the entrance to the walled garden via the Peace Walk. This long path had originally been the walk up to the village church but was renamed the Peace Walk in 1986 during the International Year of Peace. John had laid it out with herbaceous perennial borders, many of which could still be identified.

We moved on to the amazing five acre site of the original walled garden; this was constructed in the late 18th century. There was an order placed in 1797 for 500,000 bricks to be made, for use in
Continued overleaf...

forming the walled produce garden; much of this impressive wall still exists. There we saw the remains of the original boiler system with a very tall chimney stack still standing; the flue system was very elaborate and in its heyday enabled many exotic fruits to be grown for the Wortley dining table. In 1938 the Earl of Wharnclyffe set up a market produce scheme to sell the excess produce. The walled garden is now under the management of the Heeley City Farm; the straight lines of flourishing vegetables looked very beautiful and the produce they were currently harvesting was for sale.

The apple orchard was once again a place of great beauty. Most of the many apples were ripe and ready for picking. There were numerous varieties, some of them of older types of trees. This was the ideal place to leave Wortley in late afternoon sunlight, armed with our little packages of beans, apples and tomatoes.

It would be good to think that the gardens would be restored to their former state; meanwhile we can take comfort from the fact that it is still thriving in many areas and who knows what future developments might arise.

Rosalind Earl



Rows of vegetables in the walled garden at Wortley Hall.

Image: Tony Cleaver

Future Events

Monday 27 February, 10.00 am Beningbrough Hall - Snowdrop visit

Saturday 18 March—AGM at Masham

9.45 am coffee 10.00 am AGM plus a talk, lunch and visit.

Friday 28 April, 1.30 pm Taylors Clematis - Nursery visit

Saturday 20 May, 1.00 pm Auckland Castle - Joint visit with NGT

Thursday 8 June, 1.30 pm Whitley Beaumont - Landscape visit

Saturday 24 June, 10.30 am Plumpton Rocks - Landscape visit

Tuesday 4 July, 12 noon picnic / 1.30 pm visit South Dalton Hall - Garden and landscape visit

Thursday 27 July, 6 – 9.00 pm Sleightholmedale Lodge - Evening event

Wednesday 6 September, 2.00 pm Barnville - Garden visit

Wednesday 20 September Day visit to Kirkleatham estate near Redcar—still in Yorkshire!

To book: YGT members should post payment and the YGT Events Booking Form (enclosed with this newsletter or sent by email) to the Events Secretary or request a form by emailing secretary@yorkshiregardenstrust.co.uk

Not a member? Find out more at www.yorkshiregardenstrust.org.uk/join_us

Newsletter Autumn 2017

Deadline for next edition: Tuesday 6 June 2017

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