



YORKSHIRE GARDENS TRUST NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 42

Spring 2018

Visit to Plumpton Rocks Saturday 24 June 2017

Picturesque, sublime – or just wild and raw, the whimsical result of some geological giant having gone veggie and chucked out all his prime cuts of dinosaur to fossilise as the aeons accumulated? But, as all the thirty-odd YGT members attested, Plumpton Rocks is – or should one say are? – impressive in the extreme, a Sino-scene reminiscent of the lake- and rock-scapes of southern China. Plumpton’s red rocks, though, are good solid English Millstone Grit, their deep hues derived from the peroxidised iron within. It never pretended to a garden of the herbaceous border variety, but rather a “landskip” in the eighteenth-century style: striving to be grand, it can today in all justice claim its rights to the Grade II* status on the Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest.



The dam (John Carr of York, 1755) with restored finials.

Image: Marcia Howard

We gathered on the blustery Saturday following Midsummer’s Day to be led round his pride and joy by Robert Hunter, himself a descendant of the medieval Plumpton (Plontone, Pluntone) family, the first owners and registered in the Domesday Book in 1089. Perhaps half the age of the average YGT member, Robert was more agile than some of us as, for our enlightenment, he elucidated his way through the thickly wooded surrounds of the recently restored centrepiece, the lake and dam. The Plumptons, Robert told us in his self-deprecating manner, were losers: Catholic recusants in the sixteenth century, Royalists in the Civil War, they always backed the wrong horse. And ended up, heirless and penniless, selling out in 1749 to Daniel Lascelles, the Northallerton MP and brother of the scion of that line who was busy (re-)building Harewood. Quick to jump on the bandwagon, Daniel borrowed his brother’s architect, John Carr of York, to design the dam (1755) and thereby create an eight-acre lake, formerly two medieval fishponds he joined together and extended; and then to build a notable house to match its setting, rivalling Harewood in its magnificence. But only a massive stable block, complete with impressive clock tower, ever rose from the ground.

The reason? Daniel Lascelles wasn’t happy. He had envisaged the dam with “free passage over it of about a foot of water. It would have had a

Inside This Issue

Gardens & Visits	Page
Barnville	29
Dalton Hall	27
Kirkleatham Estate	20
Plumpton Rocks	1
Sleightholmedale Lodge	23
Two Years On—a Garden	17
Whitley Beaumont	18
Groups’ News	
Conservation & Planning	11
Research & Recording	15
Schools’ News	26
Small Grants Scheme	9
Other items	
Chairman’s letter	3
Events 2018	32
Grantley Hall	30
Parks & Gardens UK	28
Refugee Visit	31
Repton 2018	24
Sugar beet plant plans	4
The Gardens Trust	5

good effect from the road.” However, that was never to be. So Daniel decided to buy the nearby Goldsborough estate rather than pursue his Plumpton plum. Over the next two centuries nature took over, smothering the initial careful planting of trees and flowering shrubs. When in 1950 Robert’s father (himself a founding trustee of YGT in 1996) purchased the by now diminished estate for £5,000, it was a sorry sight. The massive geology dominating Lascelles’ lake had all but disappeared behind holly, yew, oak and beech, now grown so tall and stately as to dwarf the weathered mega-rockery. Valiant trees sprouting, it seemed, from the rocks themselves, notably a pine at Lover’s Leap, had become bonsais, bigger than their Japanese namesakes, for sure, but similarly perfect in form. The stonework of Carr’s elegant dam had fallen into the swamp below it. Robert’s father, in those inimical days when grants were as common as hen’s teeth, was unable to do much beyond saving the whole estate from clear-felling for timber or, perhaps worse, becoming a caravan park.

But Robert Hunter bit the bullet. Securing (through considerable hard work and powers of persuasion) grants totalling a good half million from Natural England, Historic England, the Country Houses Foundation (and indeed, the support of YGT) he has rebuilt the dam, restoring the huge stone finials; dredged the lake of its centuries of silt (and discovered two islands); and felled enough timber to build a house or three. Most members agreed with Robert that yet more felling would improve the overall “look”, that look beloved of JMW Turner who painted Plumpton Rocks and Lake in the late eighteenth century, and returned for a retake in 1816. (They hang today at Harewood). Thomas Girtin, Turner’s rival, also made a view which is now in the Victoria and Albert Museum. Both artists’ work was invaluable in guiding Robert’s undertaking at Plumpton, which has been recognised by several awards, notably from the Georgian Group, for the restoration of Carr’s one and only dam with its Grade II rating. In March this year, Plumpton won the Hidden Gem Award at the Hudson Heritage Awards.

A curious footnote: by happy coincidence, YGT member Mike Heagney, who lives 40 miles away in Guisborough (and has a wonderful garden there which many members may have enjoyed visiting), mentioned to one of his volunteer gardeners that he would be going to visit Plumpton Rocks with YGT. The volunteer, Anne Carter née Bateson, was surprised and told him that her family had lived and worked at Plumpton for more than 600 years. She loaned him a folder of her family history which Mike brought along. It transpired that earlier Batesons had paid poll tax in 1378 and other family members were later listed as gardeners. One listing was for “Thomas Bateson, market gardener, who has charge of the neighbouring Plumpton Rocks and lake”.

The family history also contained many old original postcards of Plumpton, some of which even Robert had not seen before.

Mark Anderson

Yorkshire Gardens Trust

President
Vice Presidents
Chairman
Treasurer
Other Trustees

The Countess of Harewood
Caroline Legard, Peter Goodchild, Nick Lane Fox
Val Hepworth
Nigel Tooze
Malcolm Barnett, Ray Blyth, Tony Cleaver,
Penelope Dawson Brown, Fiona Barlow,
David Morgan, Vicky Price.

Sub Groups

Conservation
Small Grants
Education
Research and Recording
Membership/Events
Newsletter
YGT Nominated trustee to Wentworth Castle Trust

Vacant
Chris Mayes
Nicola Harrison
Louise Wickham
Louise Amende; Vicky Price, Madalyn Hughes and Events Team
Tony Cleaver
Jane Furse

Registered Company No 03256311

Charity No 1060697

www.yorkshiregardenstrust.org.uk

Chairman's Letter

Seeking Paradise

“What was Paradise? but a Garden, an Orchard of Trees and herbs, full of pleasure, and nothing there but delights... What can your eye desire to see, your ears to hear, your mouth to take, or your nose to smell, that is not to be had in an Orchard, with abundance of variety? What more delightful than an infinite variety of sweet smelling flowers, decking with sundry colours, the green mantle of the earth... colouring not only the earth, but decking the air, and sweetening every breath and spirit.”

So wrote William Lawson in his *A New Orchard and Garden*, published in 1618. William Lawson was the vicar of Ormsby in Yorkshire from 1583 until his death aged 81 in 1635. To his skills as a horticulturalist and writer we owe two very important early gardening books: *The Country Housewives Garden*, of 1617 (I think the first gardening book written specifically for women); and *A New Orchard and Garden*, published a year later, both distilling, in an easily readable fashion, his 48 years of practical gardening experience.

As many members will know it is William Lawson's little fruit tree in his *A New Orchard and Garden* that the Yorkshire Gardens Trust adopted as their logo. During early discussions in 1996 we felt that this woodcut with its Yorkshire provenance was a universal and historic emblem of our parks and gardens.

And just to give you a further flavour of his writing which is as apt today as it was four hundred years ago:

... of weeding he says, ‘I advise the Mistress either to be present herself or to teach her maids to know her herbs from weeds.

And we should all have plenty of time to sit in our gardens: he wrote that seats of penny-royal, daisies and violets are “seemly and comfortable”, “rosemary and sweet eglantine are seemly ornaments about a door or window”, and as for bees these are an essential part of the garden.

And what of ‘paradise’? In fact the ‘paradise garden’ provides a major element in gardening history. The word ‘paradise’ comes from the old Persian pairidaeza, meaning an enclosure, and was

applied to the enclosed hunting park of the Persian king. The word was taken into Old Testament Hebrew, as *pardes*, to mean simply a garden or park enclosure, and into Greek as *paradeisos*, where, meaning a kingly or sumptuous and extravagant park, it came to influence the later Hebrew sense, extended to cover both the original garden of Eden and the heavenly kingdom, the dwelling place of the saints, the ‘celestial paradise’.

Whether we are always aware of it or not, gardening is a way of engaging with the earth, pleasing our senses, creating patterns and order from nature, growing our food, displaying our interests and calming our minds. We would be much the poorer in mind and body without gardens... keep seeking paradise.

I hope that YGT in a very small way contributes to our ‘paradise’ and it is always a pleasure to welcome new members and especially when they volunteer to help with the running of the Trust. We have two new members of the Events Team. Pat Gore and Maddy Hughes have both fairly recently joined YGT. Pat is helping with finding venues and doing the necessary visits to meet the owners and work out the practicalities such as car parking, refreshments and loos. Maddy is taking over the Events Bookings from Louise Amende, starting with the new programme. Vicky, Fiona and I are delighted to have them with us. The trustees have not been letting the grass grow under their feet in other ways. Malcolm, Fiona, Nigel and I, ably led by David Morgan, have been working on the Trust's new Business Plan which we aim to present to you at the AGM. Similarly at the AGM we will be asking you all to ratify the updated Memorandum of Association. Our original Memorandum and Articles were written for us by Wrigleys in 1996 and had become rather out-of-date so the trustees ably led by Nigel, with some assistance from me, have agreed new documents which have been produced for us by Wrigleys. The Charity Commission have provided consent to the proposed amendments to the articles of association and we also have approved wording of associated documents such as the AGM Notice and

Companies House filing copy of the resolution. All this takes considerable time but it is important that the Trust knows what it is aiming to achieve and has a professional approach.

You will read about our grant giving, both for schools and conservation, elsewhere, but trustees have agreed a one-off grant of £500 to Yorkshire Philosophical Society (YPS) with whom we have always had a happy relationship and some similar aims. In 2019 the YPS will be two hundred years old and as part of the celebrations they are publishing a book on the history of York Museum Gardens; our grant is a contribution towards the costs. This year is also our joint lecture year with YPS and will feature the new research on Humphry Repton in Yorkshire, so we are taking the opportunity to launch Dr Patrick Eyres' and Karen Lynch's *New Arcadian Journal* at this lecture which will be given by Patrick. YGT is giving £2,500 towards the cost of the book; some of the proceeds from our year celebrating Brown in 2016 which trustees think quite an appropriate way to celebrate Repton 200.

It is very pleasing to report that three of Yorkshire's parks and gardens have been winners in the White Rose Awards recently. Fountains Abbey and Studley Royal won the large attraction of the year; Ridding Park the large hotel of the year and Scampston Hall and Walled Garden the small attraction of the year. Many congratulations; very well done. Moving to West Yorkshire I was pleased to read that Claire Slattery at The Piece

Hall, Halifax jointly won the best rescue of an historic building and was the overall winner in the Historic England Angel Awards. As Lord Lloyd Webber, (who's Foundation supports the Angel Awards) said: "It is as if St Mark's Square in Venice has been deposited in Yorkshire and puts Halifax on a par with major cities in Europe. The only word I can use to describe it is inspirational."

But I want to finish with something else to think about which came to me from Lucy Porritt who works with YGT Schools. She says that she went to a very good National Gardens Scheme talk given by Matthew Pottage (head of RHS Wisley), John Grimshaw (Yorkshire Arboretum) and Martin Fish (Radio Journalist). One important point relevant to us was discussed at the end. There is huge concern across the industry as to the lack of young people getting involved in gardening. It is seen as a low paid, low skilled profession which only the least bright children are encouraged to follow. Matthew Pottage feels that it is essential to get children visiting gardens and to introduce them to plants such as cacti and carnivorous plants which really excite them. The monkey puzzle (dinosaur food) is what got him hooked as a small boy. John Grimshaw said some children that visit the arboretum have never left York before.

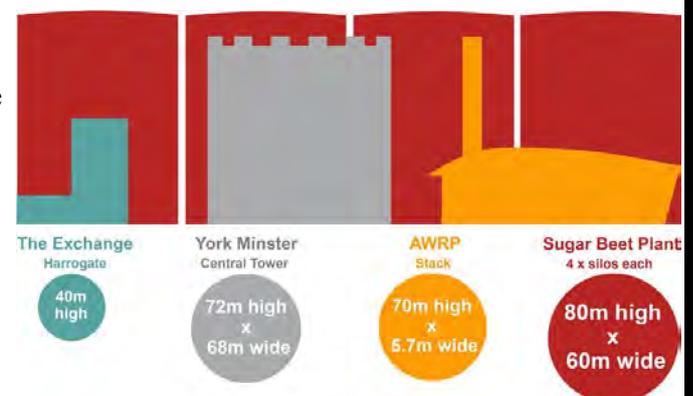
So... much to be done. My thanks to you the members, and to everyone who takes an active part in the running of the Yorkshire Gardens Trust.

Val Hepworth

Sugar Beet - Complex Concerns

YGT has been concerned to learn of plans for a huge sugar beet factory on the A168 close to the Registered Park and Garden and the Grade I listed Allerton Castle at Allerton, which also now has the indignity of the household waste incinerator plant nearby. The massive, unprecedented scale of the potential scheme can be seen from the diagram. YGT will be monitoring the situation and the planning. As proposed, the four silos and development would not only impact Allerton Park but would be seen for miles including from Ridding Park, and impact greatly on the Vale of York not only visually but also in terms of traffic and based on case history in terms of smell.

More information is available at www.marton-cum-grafton.org/sugar%20beet%20factory.htm



The Gardens Trust (TGT) successfully launched its new report *Vulnerability Brown: Capability Brown Landscapes at Risk* in November; the follow up to 2016's CB300 celebrations, of which we were a part. The report's message is that many Brown landscapes continue to be damaged by ill-informed change and lack of expert advice. The distinctive qualities of Brown's landscape parks are hard to protect; for example large lakes and long winding drives, views and setting which are essential to a park's quality. The report can be downloaded from the Gardens Trust website (www.gardenstrust.org) and the Landscape Institute website.

The Gardens Trust is active on a number of fronts including the Annual Conference, this year held in Plymouth; the Historic Landscapes Assembly attended on YGT's behalf by Win Derbyshire (report below); Members' Meet-Ups in different parts of the country, events for the Repton Festival, study tours and conferences as well as being active in planning matters.

The Gardens Trust: Annual Conference and AGM, Plymouth

The anonymous poet in the *London Magazine* in 1750, described the "blest Elysium" where "a thousand prospects open to the view". Early in the fashion for picturesque tourism, this quote wasn't for a prospect near the metropolis but one far away; the magnificent designed landscape of Mount Edgumbe; a landscape covering 205 hectares. Mount Edgumbe is bounded for much of its length by the River Tamar, its estuary and the English Channel and is one of only two Grade I historic landscapes in Cornwall... and we spent a wonderful day there as part of the Gardens Trust/Devon Gardens Trust Conference in Plymouth in early September. Mount Edgumbe is owned jointly by Cornwall County Council and Plymouth City Council. Such shared management can be difficult as can the current financial climate but the success of Mount Edgumbe today is due in considerable part to the practical and fund-raising work of the very devoted Friends group. It also suffered the ravages of defensive positions during both World War I and II and the house was hit by an incendiary bomb in 1941, being partly rebuilt 1958-64. The estate is stunning and there are more than fifty listed buildings and five Scheduled Ancient Monuments. It was a very busy but fulfilling long weekend of talks and visits, including a sunny boat trip around Plymouth Sound with an expert commentary, visits to Saltram, Devonport Park, The Hoe, Ford Park Cemetery (fittingly in the rain) and Endsleigh, also in the wet. We were not deterred from exploring the garden at Endsleigh begun in 1810, the inspiration of Georgiana, second wife of John, the sixth Duke of Bedford. Endsleigh is now a hotel but was built as a picturesque



CGT members walking along the terrace to Mount Edgumbe House

Summer holiday home and fishing lodge with its own garden for the Bedfords' many children.

The work at Endsleigh was one of the last projects on which Humphry Repton worked and he was determined to make the most of the picturesque site. Devon Gardens Trust produced a detailed booklet on all the visits and the wider historic designed landscapes of Devon; a treasure trove of information.

The AGM was uneventful but everyone was delighted that Charles Boot, complete with long stripy scarf, won the Gilly Drummond Volunteer of the Year Award 2017. Charles has been involved with the Gardens Trust/Garden History Society movement seemingly forever (!) and is currently The Garden Trust's honorary librarian, newsletter editor and was a founder member of Bucks GT.



View to the Terrace Garden and valley from the Children's Garden, Endsleigh

The other highlight of the weekend was the annual New Research Symposium with four papers being presented: *Military Officers and their Country Estates c. 1700-1750 – James Stanhope and William Cadogan*; *Blanche Henrey, 1906-1983, Botanical Bibliographer*; *From a Scottish Shore to an Italian Lakeside: the link between Galloway House, Wigtownshire, and Villa Taranto, Lake Maggiore, and Plantsman vs Placemaker: An Analysis of James (Jim) Russell and his work in Co. Donegal, Ireland from 1953 to 1985*. The latter paper by Elsie Roulston I found particularly interesting. Elsie has been studying at Sheffield University and is now in private practice but is interested in celebrating the work of Jim Russell. I also met Emma Hill, Head Gardener at Hare Hill (NT) near Macclesfield in Cheshire who has also been studying Jim's papers. YGT members may remember that in the late 1990s/early 2000s we had a big project to raise the funds to conserve Jim's papers and to pay for a trainee archivist to catalogue them at the Borthwick Institute, University of York. The catalogue is now available on-line and Chris Webb, Keeper of Archives has also mentioned the possibility of doing something to celebrate Jim's contribution as plantsman and designer. So if you are interested in this do let me know. For more about the Jim Russell archive visit <https://borthcat.york.ac.uk/index.php/records-of-james-russell>

The **Historic Landscape Project** is the Gardens Trust's capacity building project for the County Gardens Trusts with funding from Historic England. The second annual Assembly is reported by Win. I have then written a few lines about the CGT Meet-Up.

Win Derbyshire writes: This meeting was intended to be a discussion and networking day and it lived up to expectations with 87 people attending and talking non-stop when not listening to official speakers. It was a considerable increase on the inaugural meeting last year, and holding it in Birmingham was part of the policy of moving round the country. After the introductions by Tamsin McMillan and Linden Groves, there were comments on the need for the Historic Landscapes Projects team to have a strategic plan for development and joined up communications to share skills. Cash of course is a problem but it was felt that they should be proactive and worry about money later.

The first speaker was David Lambert, a public park consultant and trustee of the Gardens Trust and he introduced its report, *Vulnerability Brown, Capability Brown landscapes at Risk*. He pointed out that Brown landscapes should be given the same status as other works of art, and his clients were from the

king down, combining simplicity with a working landscape. 25% of his landscapes are not registered which makes them open to abuse. Heveningham was used as an example of how a Brown landscape could be recreated with specialist advice but elsewhere problems like safety of dams and silting up, and vistas outside registered sites all need skilful handling. Among with many other examples, Trentham showed how commercial development is sometimes necessary to fund work but some sites do not always handle things so well. Loss of local authority specialists causes problems, along with funding changes. CGTs can help but need to build up credibility with planners and Historic England. They can particularly help co-ordinate divided ownership sites. Getting sites registered is a priority.

Linden then gave a report on the *Celebrating Repton* project. The Brown work last year finally came together and worked, so Repton can hopefully follow; he was good at winning hearts and minds and so should the Garden Trusts! Historic England has given a £10,000 grant and resources are to be pooled to make the most of this sum; Kate Harwood is Coordinator and there are online discussion forums. The researchers will produce lists of publications, exhibitions, logos etc; publicity is important and the Welsh Gardens Trust was quoted: last year it put its Brown exhibition on a pub wall enroute to the toilets.

Karen Fitzsimon spoke on the Garden Trust campaign *Compiling the Record of the Late Twentieth Century Landscapes*. Many of these have been overlooked but there are now 80 sites listed. Some disasters were illustrated: the Preben Jakobsen garden at Hounslow Civic Centre has now been sold for development; Hemel Hempstead water garden has had better fortunes, being restored in 2015 with help from the HLF. Ten typologies were identified – country parks, civic spaces, sports sites, commercial, infrastructure, housing, institutions, cemeteries, gardens and water gardens, with interesting examples of each (Eggborough power station and The University of York were local sites). Historic England now has a page of sites, and will prioritise the Gardens Trust short list for funding.

Jenifer White of Historic England followed with its three year corporate plan, now online. Six aims included championing the environment, including 100 Places campaign to engage people, using social media. Protection by listing is essential, 14 sites being added last year, 8 of them being twentieth century landscapes including Thomas Mawson war memorials; Parlington (YGT campaign) is now listed. Planning advice is available from landscape architects on the ground in the regions, with good practice advice notes, including re-use for farms and urban sprawl. Protection involves the Heritage at Risk list, with 96 parks and gardens including Panshanger and 13 Repton gardens. Grant aid can help secure sites and encourage other investors. Heritage Action Zones, sustainability, climate change, and the public parks crisis were all touched on. On a brighter note, the re-creation of the old garden at Marble Hill was illustrated.

Then it was the turn of Elaine Willett to explain the role of Natural England, a statutory advisor on the natural environment; its purpose is considering and enhancing the landscape, wildlife, ecology, walls, hedges and many other items. Changes to the stewardship schemes were explained, and local teams are focussing on priorities for parkland and agri-environments. Corporate strategy includes resilience and natural capital, while keeping people at the heart of it all.

After lunch we settled back to listen to Dominic Cole on the legacy of the Great Storm. He surprised us by not showing lots of fallen trees, but concentrated on the opportunities created. Chartwell showed how quickly trees could recover, and how it could be regarded as a wakeup call, removing many old trees so new ones could flourish, or old ones regenerated as happened to an old oak at Kew. Lots of examples were shown of new plans for sites where the old designs were adapted to keep the history of the place, but with a modern interpretation. At Dover Castle, trees had to be removed on an unstable slope but open views were created, not always popular with the general public! Elsewhere culverts were opened up, new gardens created, roads moved, play areas formed and car parks moved, not always historically accurate, but improving the environment.

Sally Miller of Hampshire Gardens Trust did a case study of Bramshill Park. A Jacobean mansion and park are on the brink of unsuitable redevelopment after many years of benign neglect by the Police Staff Office. They spread buildings all around the grounds but did some maintenance and did not destroy much, but they sold the site to a development company in 2014 and since then a series of planning

application for housing have been submitted. The CGT have opposed the worst elements and to date all have been refused; and they have submitted evidence to a public enquiry which is now underway.

East Midlands Garden Trust Research and Recording Project was explained by Chris Addison, linking Gardens Trusts with as few as 5 members with those with as many as 200 members, for their mutual benefit. Statements of Significance are needed to save unlisted sites, and they are trying to engage communities in the enjoyment of designed landscapes. It is hoped a small HLF grant will enable a pilot project with a part time administrator to be set up. A variety of local examples of suitable sites were shown.

In the evening, over a glass of wine Tamsin Treverton Jones talked about her book, *Wind Blown*, which had been selling well. Information on the occurrence and force of storms includes Kew Gardens. Her interest in Kew was awakened by finding a photo of a sculpture panel by a 16 year old, carved in various woods salvaged after the storm, then finding the design had been done by her father. It promised to be an interesting talk, but at this point I had to leave to catch a train.

Win Derbyshire

County Gardens Trust Meet-Up in Lancaster, Friday 1 December.

Win and I joined members of five other CGTs to share our experiences and in particular discuss research and recording, conservation, education and heard about the work of the Heritage Trust Network. Margie Hoffnung Conservation Officer of TGT chaired and sorted us all out with her usual jolly cajoling helped by Alison Allingham, Conservation Casework Manager and TGT trustee David Marsh. Meeting up with fellow CGT activists is so refreshing. It's good to hear of others successes and commiserate over difficulties. Win and I much enjoyed the research presentation on the Thomas Mawson (1861-1933) landscapes in and around Lancaster by Elaine Taylor of Lancashire GT. She noted that Mawson had three areas of expertise – gardens and parks, town planning and war memorials. As a visitor to Lytham St Anne's with my family I hadn't realised that near the Fairhaven Lake, opened in 1924 by Lord Derby, there is - or was - a Mawson Japanese rock and water garden. Elaine showed an aerial photograph and there are contemporary postcards. Apparently a child drowned and so all was filled in during the 1970's, but Mawson produced various plans for this park, typically artistic and ambitious, offering several options. Only half the scheme was implemented, and even then several very decorative features were rejected on cost. Elaine had found a letter written to the then mayor in 1926. In Lancaster, Mawson designed the Garden of Remembrance and also the Westfield War Memorial Village, a sheltered community for the returning wounded. Thomas Mawson was an important figure internationally – his Palace of Peace in The Hague was funded by Andrew Carnegie whom he had met in Scotland at Skibo Castle. We then heard from Chris Gallagher, Shropshire GT on dealing with planning appeals, who with other CGT members present with experience of such matters, emphasised that CGTs know much more about historic designed landscapes than consultants and so we shouldn't be deterred from writing or appearing at an appeal. Sue Lindley and Lucy Porritt updated me on YGT's work with schools so that I was able to speak on this aspect of education and the day finished with information about the newly formed Heritage Trust Network. Cost of membership of the Network is relatively modest and may be useful for any heritage group undertaking the repair/restoration of an historic building such as in a park.

Future Events: More information can be found on the Gardens Trust website including the series of London and Birmingham Winter Lectures, members Meet-Up in London on 22 March, and a visit to Rivington Terraced Gardens, near Bolton on 12th May. There are study tours to Denmark and Northern Ireland and Norfolk GT in association with TGT is offering a two-day conference featuring three Repton gardens in Norfolk on 1 and 2 June. The Garden Trust Annual Family Picnic will be at Wicksteed Park, Northamptonshire on Saturday 30 June. 1 and 2 September will be TGT AGM and New Research Symposium Weekend in Birmingham.

Val Hepworth

AGM images: Val Hepworth

YGT Small Grants Scheme 2018

We would like our grant scheme to be known more widely in Yorkshire than we feel it is, so we keep trying to spread the word and since the last Newsletter we have had some interesting applications. We now run the scheme as a rolling programme with a £2,000 annual budget for the next five years from Pippa Rakusen's legacy and we have decided to keep the requirement for 50% match funding from the applicant. However, depending on the application, YGT's Conservation Committee might consider a discretionary rate of a lower percentage of matched funding.

During the Summer we were contacted by Jane Blayney, Chairman of the Friends of Valley Gardens Harrogate asking if YGT could help them with a Small Grant for the restoration of the Green Park Entrance. Many of you will know the beautiful Grade II Registered seventeen acre Valley Gardens; a jewel and visited by 3m people in 2016; quite extraordinary. Also that year the Friends

of Valley Gardens won the Yorkshire in Bloom Platinum Award and the Harrogate in Bloom Shield in addition to already being recipients of the Duke of York Community Award. The restoration work would incorporate the King Edward VII Memorial Gate that had originally been sited at the entrance to the Rose Garden on Kings Road; (*see Image 1*) the original gates at the Green Park Entrance having been removed years ago. The King Edward VII Memorial Gate donated by local industrialist and philanthropist, William Baxter also had a sad recent history having been removed for the development of the Exhibition Centre in the early 1990's, sold to a scrap merchant and eventually found in a farmer's field near Pateley Bridge along with some of the iron railings. The restoration is a huge project and we take our hat off to the Friends who are raising the £60,000 plus to complete the work including replanting the adjacent rose beds with memorial roses. Our grant of £1,000 is only a fraction of what is needed but it will cover the cost of 16 cast iron rosettes to replace the cracked and broken originals on the gates. The rosettes are being made by quality foundry and the total restoration carried out by a well regarded local firm. It is hoped to celebrate Armistice Day, 11th November 2018 with the opening of the



Image 1: The King Edward VII Memorial Gates, posts and railings on Kings Road, Harrogate, at the entrance of the Rose Garden in 1911.

King Edward VII Memorial Gate (*see Image 2*).

Our support for Ripon Walled Garden continues; this time to help them with their proposed Weather Garden. We consider this to be a 'phase 2' grant at a locally important site with high community value used by people with learning difficulties. YGT trustees, Ray Blyth and Penelope Dawson Brown visited the garden to speak with the gardener and users and to see the proposed plan and area for the Weather Garden. The £1,000 grant pledged is for capital items such as



Image 2: Artist's impression of the proposed: King Edward VII Memorial Gate and Memorial Rose Beds at the present Green Park Entrance.

the cascading water feature and water pump and the cost of widening the paths.

Three further applications for our grant scheme will be discussed at the January meeting of the Conservation Sub-committee:

Wortley Hall Walled Garden, South Yorkshire where we had a lovely visit in September 2016, have applied for funding to help with the production of a revised history and guide to the Walled Garden. Since the production of the previous guide in 2009 a lot more information has come to light and the new guide would be an improved tool, not just to explain the history of this significant garden, but also for promoting community food growing projects. Since 2004 the old Kitchen Garden for Wortley Hall has been given a new lease of life by Heeley City Farm. The listed walls have been rebuilt, land brought back into cultivation and crops grown, fruit trees of old Yorkshire and Derbyshire varieties planted, polytunnels constructed and Soil Association Organic status achieved.

The Friends of Malton Castle Garden have also made enquiries about possible funding to help produce a new management plan. They also need to look again at their mature trees – you will remember that we've helped them with these several years ago. There has been more storm and pest damage particularly with the horse chestnut trees.

Finally we were delighted to hear earlier in 2017 that Ripon Museums Trust has taken ownership of Ripon Workhouse and the trustees are keen to press on to develop the Master's Garden to be a striking feature, with its herbaceous borders contrasting with the lot of the inmates on either side. So we will be looking at this request for funding help too.

As Ray has moved house and is having a well-deserved sabbatical, we're delighted that Chris Mayes has agreed to lead on the Small Grants Scheme; his contact details will be going on the YGT website.

Giving grants is a very positive and encouraging way in which YGT can support Yorkshire's garden and park heritage. The form is available on our website and we are very keen to hear from community groups, charities and organisations that we might be able to help.

Ray Blyth, Heather Garnett, Val Hepworth, Chris Mayes

Images: Jayne Blayney, Friends of Valley Gardens Harrogate

YGT Small Grants Recipient Wins Top Architectural Award

Congratulations to Duncombe Park where the restoration of the Tuscan Temple, funded partly by a YGT Small Grant (see Issue 39, Autumn 2016), has contributed to its success in the Georgian Group's Architectural Awards 2017. Commended in the category *Restoration of a Georgian Landscape*, the architect was Peter Pace Architects; the overall winner in that category was Lowther Castle, Cumbria. (Other categories comprised: New Building in Classical Style, Restoration of a Country House, Restoration of a Georgian Interior, Restoration of a Georgian Town House.)

From *The Georgian* (magazine of the Georgian Group), Issue 2, 2017: "Since 2013 the Estate has been working to reinstate the c.18th landscapes on the eastern side of Duncombe Park including urgent repairs to the Ionic and Tuscan temples. Tree and hedge work to the East Terrace have regained views of the valley and of Helmsley Castle. The whole exercise has been both one of major building repairs and reinstatement of the landscape. The programme was finished in March this year with support from Historic England, Natural England, the North York Moors National Park, the Country Houses Foundation and Yorkshire Gardens Trust. Repairs to the temples have involved the replacement of all the columns, capitals and bases - a decision taken after much thought and research. The work has required skilled masons and carvers of the highest standard. Long searches were conducted for the right replacement stones of sufficient bed height to match original joints. The project also included the interior redecoration of the Tuscan Temple with new floor in polished limestone. The scheme is regarded as a significant landscape project, though the building repairs themselves merit individual attention."

Conservation and Planning

Probably what most springs to mind when we think of Yorkshire Gardens Trust is the wide and interesting selection of events in the year's programme which we might try and get to, and also the newsletters which I hope members also find interesting, stimulating and enjoyable. But dig a little deeper and there is a root-plate of arguably more serious activities: schools, grant-giving, research and recording and conservation and planning. These require more time, they may be slower to have an effect but they are essentially what we are about as an educational charity in its widest sense.

As we enter our twenty third year and an active member of the Gardens Trust movement, in an environment where local authorities have lost much expertise due to financial cuts, our role in conservation and planning - giving well researched, voluntary professional advice - has become more important than ever. Planning applications affecting Yorkshire's historic parks and gardens come to us most weeks via the Gardens Trust.

They vary immensely; from the siting of a shepherd's hut in an historic Dales garden, which is not Registered, but part of the setting of an ancient listed house to large scale proposals for housing or holiday accommodation which could cause significant harm. In addition we can be contacted for help by other organisations via our website.

Our advice and comments on all planning

applications are dependent on having the knowledge of the site in question as well as some understanding of the current planning system, but it's not a 'dark art'! Thanks to YGT's researchers we have built up quite a resource of historic information and we regularly consult with them and members with local knowledge and expertise. It's very much a team effort. We also work closely with the part-time conservation staff at the Gardens Trust. It can be frustrating and exhilarating; sometimes at the same time, but come what may, winning some and losing some, I really think that we do make a difference for the future of our wonderful parks, gardens and designed landscapes. As the YGT we have the largest geographical area of any County Gardens Trust (and maybe the most sheep!) so lots to cover which is why we are thinking of running some planning training in Yorkshire next year with our friends in the Gardens Trust. This sort of training would be helpful for looking at planning issues within your own community too. We do hope that some of you will come forward to learn more and help even if only on occasion – we understand that everyone is busy! Meanwhile what have we been doing recently? We have some good news on **South Cliff Gardens, Scarborough** where we were asked for advice earlier this year and felt a good deal of concern about what was proposed as did Scarborough Civic Society. Adrian Perry, Chairman of the Civic

Society has written to tell us: "Southern Green successfully tendered to be the consultants for Stage 2 of the HLF Parks for People bid. Southern Green will be involved in the development of the bid, and if the bid is successful at Stage 2, they will also oversee the implementation of the scheme. Simon Green has told us that the £4.99 million allocation to South Cliff Gardens is the largest HLF Parks for People award currently in England. Over the last 20 years Southern Green has delivered 30 HLF projects so we feel that we are in safe hands. Topographical surveying is taking place now, and an arborist is surveying the trees. HLF require a review of progress in April 2018 and the Stage 2 bid should be submitted in August 2018 for a decision in December 2018. Start on site September



South Cliff Gardens, Scarborough, March 2017
Image: Val Hepworth

2019 with completion December 2020 so a long journey ahead!" This is exciting news; Southern Green has much expertise in historic parks and gardens and many of you will know Fiona Green who until recently was Chairman of Northumbria Gardens Trust. [NB Southern Green is doing the Conservation Management Plan for Mulgrave Castle; our visit in May.]

Continuing with planning issues that I've written about before: thanks to Peter Goodchild and Anne Tupholme, we have written two further submissions to Leeds CC regarding the proposals for a 'Go-Ape' attraction at **Temple Newsam**. We remain concerned that Temple Newsam House is listed Grade I but the historic designed landscape, the setting for this wonderful house, continues to be eroded and without an up-to-date or adequate conservation management plan. Again with help, this time from David Rhodes, we sent another objection letter to Harrogate BC regarding the outline proposal for up to 390 dwellings on land south west of West Lane, Ripon which would affect the setting and views of the World Heritage Site, **Studley Royal and Fountains Abbey**. This has gone to appeal and we await the outcome. The World Heritage Site (WHS) was also the subject of two further albeit much smaller planning applications. One for listed building consent for the application of limewash to the 18th century stone statue of Hercules and Antaeus was thoroughly researched by the National Trust and we fully supported. [Moira Fulton also advised us that in the 18C statues were frequently lime-washed to give the appearance of marble, a practice that occurred at Studley Royal until the early 20C.] Comments on the other application - for the conversion of a barn to form a dwelling and installation of a package treatment plant at the Pheasantry - were submitted by the Gardens Trust with additional information from Susan Kellerman. This was an extremely poorly documented application and we registered our objection to the application as submitted.

Malsis Hall (Grade II) is an historically important house in Craven with much of its landscape garden surviving despite being used as a school from 1920 -2014. In July we received a planning application for the conversion of the Hall to a care facility and the erection of 69 new dwellings. Anne Tupholme looked into this application and we concluded that

although we would like to support proposals that would lead to the restoration of the historic buildings, the extent of the new development was totally unacceptable and contrary to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

Susan Kellerman, ably helped by husband Dick Knight, has continued to pursue the situation at **Parlington**, Aberford, former seat of the Gascoignes where a considerable area of the estate has been put forward for a new settlement in the Leeds Site Allocations Plan (SAP). At the third time of asking Susan, Dick and I were allowed on the estate, although mainly driven round by the agents. Having shared her extensive research with Historic England (HE) and been consulted on the draft Register entry Susan and the rest of us were delighted that Parlington was added to the Register of Parks and Gardens on 21st September 2017. The Register discussion and details we thought were excellent. In addition HE is assessing several built structures for listing: the Light Arch and Dark Arch on Parlington Lane, Stallion pens to the north-east of Home Farm, ice house in the Wilderness to the east of the former kitchen garden, Home Farm, including farmhouse and farm buildings, Wakefield Lodge, Aberford Road and Barwick Lodge, Cattle Lane. HE considers that the inclusion of Parlington in the SAP is unsound, and they suggested that Susan should apply to attend the Inspector's Examination alongside themselves. This was due for 25th October but has been postponed to March 2018. The inclusion of Parlington on the Register has also now been challenged by the owners of the land, M & G. So the plot thickens!

As I mentioned earlier YGT is also asked to help with planning issues which don't come to us via the Weekly List. You may have been as dismayed as I was to read about the tree felling in Sheffield; a city that prided itself on being so green as indeed it is or was. So when I was contacted by Jill Sinclair, Chairman of the Friends of the Botanical Gardens regarding the plan to fell six lime trees that form part of the setting for the Grade II Registered **Sheffield Botanical Gardens** at the southern entrance I was galvanised into writing to various councillors and officers of Sheffield City Council.

The avenue of Lime trees was planted in the early 20th Century specifically to mark the southern

approach to the Botanical Gardens giving an important designed reciprocal view and part of the construction carried out at that time forming the southern gateway and low boundary wall to the Botanical Gardens. They are an integral part of the setting. The trees are historically significant, part of the character of this part of Sheffield, provide an ecological habitat, cooling and cleansing the atmosphere and are in a healthy condition with a potential life-span of at least another hundred years. As I write at the end of November, the trees are still standing. There was just one day when the contractors, Amey attempted to fell them, but the presence of parked cars and protestors prevented it. However Jill reports that Sheffield City Council/ Amey may be stepping up plans – in other parts of Sheffield Amey have started turning up in the middle of the night to put up very large barriers, and now have security guards with them, who have been accused of man-handling and assaulting protestors.

Turning to West Yorkshire we were contacted by the Chairman of Huddersfield Civic Society, Chris Marsden, via the YGT website, regarding the erection of five dwellings in the garden of **Springfield, Huddersfield**. Springfield, an Italianate house of c.1863, listed Grade II is in the Edgerton Conservation Area and has had a succession of wealthy industrialist owners. The c.2 acres of garden included a beautiful rustic

summerhouse, lodge and gardener's bungalow; the whole forming part of this distinctive historic area of Huddersfield. The distinctive character of the Edgerton Conservation Area is “predominantly that of a leafy Victorian residential area with large, architecturally interesting detached buildings set in generous grounds..... creating a sense of open space.” This sense of open space with mature trees is a significant feature and gardens are not “brownfield” sites. We objected to this application concurring completely with the comments of Kirklees Council Conservation Officer that it would adversely affect the character of the Conservation Area, the setting of a listed building and would be contrary to both the local plan and the NPPF. Following exchange of e-mails with Chris I learned that the rustic summerhouse may have been built by the local company, Inman. Henry Inman was a Huddersfield man who developed from 1857 his father's failing business as a garden house builder, styling himself ‘rustic architect’. Business boomed; he opened works in Birkenhead and later at Stretford, Manchester. In 1854 Inman received an order from the management committee of a new Huddersfield cemetery for three rustic chairs at 12/- each. Such rustic features would have been the height of fashion and I am reminded of *Rustic Adornments for Homes of Taste*, by Shirley Hibberd first published in 1856. At the very end of the book Hibberd writes of garden embellishments.



Springfield, Huddersfield, Rustic Summerhouse
Historic photo courtesy of the Brown Family c, 1920's

For something of a change, and a type of planning application that we'd not had for a number of years, one came in for **Carlton Towers** near Goole for change of land use from landscaped grounds to 4 x 4 track and associated facilities. The historic designed landscape and park at Carlton Towers is not included on Historic England's Register of Parks and Gardens and does not seem to have been fully researched until recently when Louise Wickham and Mary Ratcliffe of the YGT Research and Recording Group began a project to research parks and



OS Map Yorkshire CCXXXVI.SE, Revised: 1905, Published: 1908, showing Carlton Towers.
 Reproduced by permission of the National Library of Scotland.

gardens in the Selby District Council area supported by Selby District Council and North Yorkshire County Council. The park and the woodland, the subject of this application, of course form the setting of the grade I listed Carlton Towers. Due to our research we were able to point the planners to the detailed research available via the YGT website and give a summary of the historic significance of the designed landscape including the work of Thomas White c.1773 and the changes wrought by Lord Beaumont. He not only had the house encased in Gothic Revival style by Edward Welby Pugin in 1873-5 but also embarked upon extensive irregular and picturesque tree planting in the park including irregular clumps of varying sizes, half clumps erupting from the boundaries and from the banks of the fish pond. Woodland to be used for the proposed 4x4; Butt Hole Plantation, Ell Pond Plantation and Middle Baffin Hill are all shown in this manner. The park was redesigned to a plan from Charles Craigie-Halkett-Inglis of Crammond House near Edinburgh; a landowner who also designed a few other gardens in Scotland. Carlton Towers is the only one currently known in England. Although the proposal will follow

existing access tracks we wrote of our concern that there will be some physical damage to the parkland, and vehicular movements with the associated noise and emissions would spoil the setting of the house and the views. We asked that any consent granted should also ensure that any damage is ameliorated and the site is restored once the development has been removed. Some planning applications we feel require a 'No comment' and this was the case with the shepherds hut at the **Old Hall, Grassington** and for the erection of a temporary film set for 2 months at Stub House Farm on the **Harewood Estate**. Completely unexpectedly too, we have been contacted by the Building Conservation Officer and Senior Archaeologist of the North York Moors National Park Authority to give advice on **Grinkle Park, Loftus**; an estate of which we knew nothing. Neither did Louise and YGT's R & R group but Louise set to work at her computer with her usual verve and expertise and soon came up with some history, a picture of the earlier house and a range of OS maps. Malcolm Barnett and I then made a short site visit with the owner and Dr Shannon Fraser, Senior Archaeologist.

Continued on p. 16

Research and Recording Group

Researching and recording an historic designed landscape should be an easy task; it is just a question of finding out who did what when. All this information though is rarely available as records get lost over time. So as researchers we are left with fragments or pieces of a jigsaw that we have to put together to understand how the landscape evolved. Sometimes there are large gaps in our knowledge, which is frustrating when looking at important sites. Three such sites are Stapleton Park and Byram Park, both in the Selby district of North Yorkshire and Kirkby Fleetham Hall in the Hambleton District.

Lancelot ‘Capability’ Brown prepared improvement plans for Byram and Stapleton in 1782, just before he died. Last year, Karen Lynch presented her findings on Brown’s work in her article *Capability Brown in Yorkshire* in the *New Arcadian Journal* 75/76, pp37-107. In the case of Stapleton and Byram, the plans by Brown are lost and estate archives very thin, so to piece together their history was challenging.

Stapleton, near Darrington, is also intriguing as there are references in letters from and to the owner at the time, Edward Lascelles, of Richard Woods working there 20 years before Brown. There are payments to another designer, Thomas White in 1783 and 1784. As the first surviving estate map is from 1813 and the estate accounts are lost, what part each of three had in shaping the layout will never be known for certain.

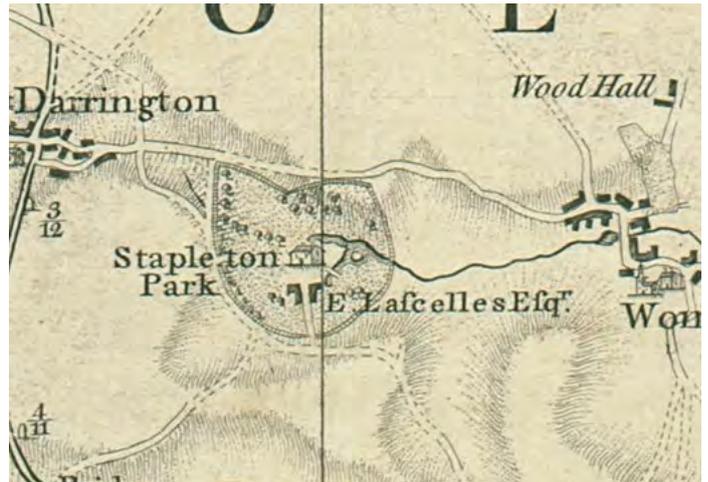


Image 1 – Stapleton Park from Jeffrey’s map of Yorkshire, Plate 13, c. 1771.

Source: North Yorkshire County Record Office.

A map by John Jeffreys c. 1771 (*Image 1*) gives a hint that some parkland and a lake had been laid out. Fiona Cowell, who has written a book on Woods, thought that he had done little more than lay out some carriageways at Stapleton, as the owner, Lascelles, had his own ideas on

landscaping! However, the walled kitchen garden has distinctive rounded corners similar to those known to be by Woods, for example at Carlton Towers. On the site visit, I noticed four small buildings behind the northern wall. These were boiler houses for the hot wall, another feature that Woods incorporated into his design at Carlton. Again we cannot say for certain but perhaps Woods’ involvement was greater than we originally thought. It seems that designers often used similar ideas and where no other evidence is available, looking for such similarities can be useful.



Image 2: Byram Park from Warburton’s map of Yorkshire c. 1720

The research on Byram is also hampered by the lack of surviving documents. Before Brown was called in, there was already a park dating from the late 17th or early 18th century (*Image 2*) and ‘curious gardens’ (a note by Ralph Thoresby in his diary in 1712). Post Brown there was a new lake and by 1817, some more parkland stretching to new lodges just off the Great North Road in Brotherton. Evidently later generations did not like the ‘natural landscape’ that had been created. Sir John Frecheville Ramsden recalled in a letter to Dorothy Stroud, Brown’s biographer, in 1943 that ‘there are however at Byram signs of the nefarious ideas of Capability Brown and his like’ and that his father set about rectifying these.

Kirkby Fleetham's place in landscape history is due to the fact that it was owned by William Aislable, later of Studley Royal and Hackfall. The latter two are listed Grade I on Historic England's Register of Historic Parks and Gardens, due in part to their survival on the ground and the archive material detailing their creation. William Aislable was given Kirkby Fleetham by his father, John, probably after his marriage in 1724. A painting by Nebot in the 1750s (*Image 3*) gives us a tantalising glimpse of

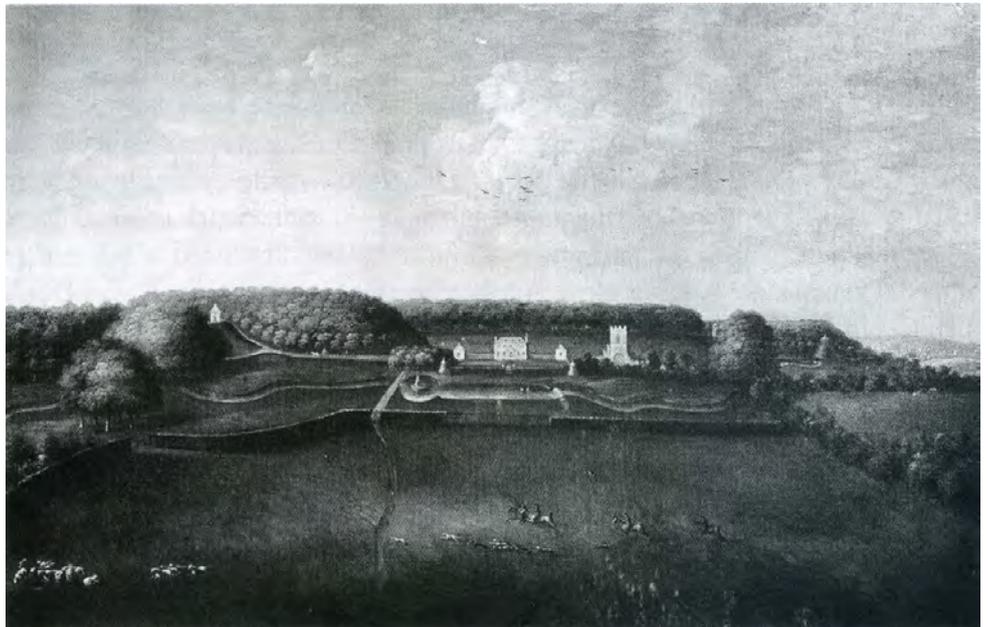


Image 3: Kirkby Fleetham Hall and gardens, photo of painting by Nebot c. 1750. Original is in a private collection.

the landscape he designed there. Along the edge of a ridge rising from the River Swale floodplain, he created a wooded terrace behind the Hall and put up to five garden buildings (temples?) along it. In front of the Hall, he made a canal from the stream that were crossed by at least two bridges. Sadly the buildings are long gone and the canal was remodelled in the late 19th century, although the wooded terrace remains. So too it appears that most of the archive has been lost, so new YGT member Gail Falkingham will have to piece it together from the evidence that remains.

As the Research and Recording team continues to document Yorkshire's important historic landscapes, the plan for 2018 is to start looking at new areas and the Leeds district of West Yorkshire

Louise Wickham

Continued from p. 14

Although there was an earlier house and some designed landscape probably from the late eighteenth century, we have found that essentially Grinkle Park is a complete designed landscape from c.1880, having been purchased from the Myddleton family by Charles Mark Palmer in 1865. Palmer had mining, iron manufacturing and shipbuilding businesses at Jarrow and was MP for North Durham. In 1881 he engaged Alfred Waterhouse to build a new house. By 1893, he had significantly expanded the parkland, developed the pleasure grounds to the south of house with a pond and summerhouse and built an ice house to the north of the new stable block. Sir Charles Palmer created unusually extensive parkland for its time – c.380 acres and a description in the Jarrow Express, 26 August 1904 gives a fine picture:

“A brief visit to the conservatory...and then on to the lawn in front of the house, where a splendid view greeted the eye. On the east was the sea, to the south stretching for miles, was the Yorkshire Moors, to the west, woods and fields as far as the eye could reach...the party were taken through the grounds by Sir Charles. The stables, coach house, garden, hothouses, orchid house and vinery, all being visited in turn. This latter is Sir Charles' speciality, and does honour to its owners.”

We have assessed the Grinkle Park landscape as certainly of regional significance and possibly of national significance but that would require further historic and archive work.

Finally after several years of research by Anne Tupholme and concern about the future of Titus Salt Jr estate, Milner Field near Saltaire, we are supporting Anne in sending information to HE to enquire whether it is suitable for Registration.

Val Hepworth

Two Years On

A garden: work in progress

Having lived in the same house for thirty five years and developing the perfect cutting garden for my hobby of flower arranging, I then moved to a house with a mini field for a back garden (none at the front). Not actually a field but an area of rough grass, clover and buttercups; 15 by 18 metres with a metre wide border at the bottom whose sole inhabitants were four newish golden conifers, an Aucuba japonica and a Prunus laurocerasus.

I was determined that being of three score years and ten I would develop a perfect garden for retirement with a meandering path, gently curving borders and a nod to Gertrude Jekyll and Piet Oudolf, incorporating herbaceous perennials and with seats placed to follow the sun. First I needed a shed for all my tools and lawnmower so a concrete base was duly laid and a shed erected (not by me) and off I went to B&Q to buy paving slabs for that curving path. They were on special offer so I ordered 60, not really having any idea how many I actually needed, and they were delivered on Monday. I had already laid hosepipes and ropes in a sensuous curve for the outline of the path, which, when completed, would reveal hidden corners to anyone strolling along it. Then on Tuesday at 4am I had a heart attack and was in hospital for the next few weeks awaiting an emergency quadruple bypass with the paving slabs put on hold.

Change of plan!! I was told not to lift anything heavy (apparently ironing comes into this category) and that it could take twelve months to fully recover. Twelve months!! A garden rethink was necessary; a large proportion of that rough grass had to go. There was already a patio area housing a water feature (an inherited hot tub, which went), so this would be enlarged with a gravelled area separated from the patio by raised herb beds. I had to get someone to do this and on the day they arrived it had rained non-stop all weekend and the bottom half of the garden was flooded; I was informed that drains were necessary. The garden then took on the appearance of a film set for *The Somme*. My lovely curving path was abandoned with two straight ones to follow the lines of the main drainage channels but the gravel was laid, straight borders dug to echo the straight paths and the men left leaving me to plant up. Those ideas also went over the next few months; I bought plants that caught my eye in garden centres or the Harrogate Spring Show never mind the colour or size, and planted them indiscriminately with no thought of Gertrude or Piet.

That was in Summer 2015. I continued planting haphazardly although roses became a feature; given a variety called *For your eyes only*, it flourished and is a delight. Roses which failed miserably in my last garden suddenly took on a new lease of life. A garden magazine I take weekly gives free packets of seeds, so gone were my ideas of having only perennials; many were annuals so needed a space to grow.

Two years and the garden of 2015 is now hard to visualise; we even opened on two occasions this year for organisations to which we belong; we were so delighted with our unplanned garden and wanted to share our pleasure. What's the point of having anything lovely if there is only yourself to enjoy it?



Plans take shape: October 2015



Two years on: August 2017

Words and images: Tony Cleaver

Visit to Whitley Beaumont

Thursday 7 September 2017

Having lived near Huddersfield for over thirty years the name of Whitley Beaumont was familiar to me but I had never visited the site of this once significant mansion which was demolished in 1954. It was on reading Karen Lynch's book *Noble Prospects: Capability Brown and the Yorkshire Landscape* and her article in the *New Arcadian Journal* that I realised that the later 18th century landscape could definitely be attributed to Capability Brown and the proposed YGT visit seemed the perfect opportunity to explore. The grand baroque mansion that appears in several illustrations of Whitley Beaumont was re-fronted in this style in 1704. The Beaumont family's connection with the site dates back to 1192, but there was little investment in the parkland until Richard Beaumont (1719-1764) took over the estate in 1743. His sister was married to James Paine, the prominent architect, and some of the interiors were remodelled by Paine in the rococo style around 1752-54. During this time work also got underway to remodel the gardens to include serpentine walks and a beautiful terrace walk to the (now sadly ruinous) Temple which is attributed to James Paine. However, it was his successor, another Richard Henry Beaumont (1748-1810) who had a greater impact on the wider estate.

Richard Henry Beaumont invited Capability Brown to Whitley Beaumont and in 1779 he wrote to his friend Walter Spencer-Stanhope to tell him about Brown's visit. Karen Lynch told us that the designer had been critical of Beaumont's stables, built as they were on a hill, but crucially Brown had not yet "*given me his Opinion of the Capabilities of this Place*". Brown's account book recorded his visit to Whitley Beaumont but he gave the month incorrectly as September. The accounts also record that a plan, which no longer exists, was sent in May 1780 for Brown's standard fee of £52.10s 0d (fifty guineas).

Beaumont commissioned the surveyor William Crossley from nearby Brighouse to measure land on his estate in the Summer of 1779, probably in preparation for Brown's visit, and once Brown had given his first thoughts there was significant activity in the park. By 1784 new plantations had been filled with trees from Telford's nursery in York, the park had been extended to the south and a new drive ran through the park from Lepton, with new gate lodges. As at Temple Newsam, Brown's plan left the existing formal avenue but added extra planting behind it so that it became part of a huge belt of planting that encircled the entire estate.

The surviving estate accounts make no mention of Brown but Beaumont's correspondence with his friend Christopher Sykes of Sledmere, who designed the new gate lodges, reveals what was happening at Whitley Beaumont. In February 1783 Beaumont was preparing the ground for planting and Crossley "*ye land Surveyor*" was "*marking out Mr Brown's Plan*". The work was interrupted by the wintry weather and in March the snow and frost were still so bad that Beaumont could only "*level hills & dig up old Roads*". The same month he was moving large beech trees to "*compleat (sic) a part of Mr Brown's ornamental designs*" and planting a "*slip of land added by Brown's plan to ye plantation at ye upper part of ye Park*". Beaumont took a break from planting to take the waters in Hartlepool that Summer but intended to "*fall to Planting*" on his return and hoped to "*see the whole Circuit finished next Spring*".

At our visit we were given a copy of the 1822 estate map which clearly shows the form of the Brownian landscape and how it had matured over the intervening forty years. Sadly things did not go well for Whitley Beaumont as the nineteenth century progressed. The hall and gardens ceased to be maintained and in 1935 the mansion, gardens, park, woods, kennels and farmland were sold to a consortium. In 1947 the estate was requisitioned by the Ministry of Fuel for open cast mining. However, the newly-formed Ministry of Town and Country Planning demanded that the clumps of trees within the parkland should not be destroyed. The Ministry of Fuel also agreed not to use the main drive and to restore the 30 acres that was open cast mined when the work was finished.

Once the coal was worked out the mansion and estate were sold and then put up for auction in lots. The house was bought by a demolition company and the estate dispersed. The Kennels, farm buildings, park and woodland were purchased by the current owners, B Elliot Farming Ltd. in 1981 and it is thanks to

Elizabeth Elliot and her family that YGT were able to arrange access for our members. We had originally planned to visit in June but as the beginning of that month saw tremendous gales sweep across West Yorkshire the decision was taken to postpone our visit until September. Between showers on a clear but cool day we were welcomed by Elizabeth, who orientated us by pointing out Deer Hill clump, one of the three clumps retained as part of the open cast agreement. Brown's surrounding belts of trees were clearly identifiable, now regenerating beech and oak woodland, and after taking in the stunning extensive views we set off walking through the parkland towards the Wakefield Road entrance.



View showing Brown's surrounding belt of trees



Historic photograph of the monument, now sadly in ruins.

Along our way we came across the ruins of the Monument, possibly created from stonework from one of the earlier halls which was removed when the re-fronting work took place.

We walked along the tree line, noting stonework from the ha-ha and, further on, passed the remains of one of the kitchen garden walls. There were still a number of previously espaliered and fan trained pear trees growing against it, and several of us sampled some of the fruit. We walked parallel to the avenue to the former site of Sykes' North Lodges then walked up the slope to Paine's temple.

Here at the Temple there was much debate over the interior of this structure, its floor levels, possible methods of heating, and use. We then dropped down the slope past pink and purple Victorian rhododendron planting, leaving the drive to venture into the woodland to look at a small bridge, the reason for which is now unclear. We then completed our circuit by climbing back up the hillside to our cars. Our thanks go to Elizabeth and Karen for the opportunity to read at first hand this fascinating landscape and for giving us as memorable and thought provoking afternoon.



YGT visitors at the Temple

Words and present day images: Kathryn Gibson

Visit to Kirkleatham Estate

Wednesday 20 September 2017

Kirkleatham proved a popular destination for about 30 members from both Yorkshire Gardens Trust and Northumberland Gardens Trust. For some it was an opportunity to see the changes since their last visit. For others it was a new experience. The day started with three talks all from people with good local knowledge. The first from Malcolm Armstrong, Cultural Services Manager of the museum gave a general background to Kirkleatham. The second from Ian Stewart, Special Projects Manager for Redcar and Cleveland provided details of the ambitious plans now in place for the Walled Garden. Finally Phil Philo, now Senior Curator at The Dorman Museum, provided more detail on the development of Kirkleatham over the centuries with many interesting insights. In addition, Val provided useful maps to put the whole estate in perspective. The maps were particularly helpful as it is a complex estate which has evolved over time without an underlying design. It is further complicated as not all elements have survived.



Kirkleatham Estate OS Map 1928

We heard that Kirkleatham is one of a chain of villages, such as Ormesby and Wilton, sited near the edge of the River Tees floodplain. There is evidence of settlement since at least Saxon times with 3 Saxon loom weights being unearthed recently. The estate and gardens around the site of the Hall are level, then the ground rises to the detached deer park to the south clearly shown on the Knyff and Kip engraving of c.1700. The engraving also shows the village of Kirkleatham which was then at the centre of the estate but was removed by 1774 and the workers re-housed at some distance.

In 1623 the land was acquired by John Turner after moving to the area to manage the Alum Works and marrying the daughter of a wealthy local Merchant Taylor. The family fortunes changed over time but generally the Turners came out of successive political upheaval on the winning side. There were many successes through legal work, as Merchant Taylors and becoming Lord Mayor of London. Ironstone was found locally at Eston Nab which provided further finance. In addition to developing the Hall a number of fine buildings were built for charitable purposes.

Parts of the estate, including 74 hectares and 24 listed structures, came into the ownership of Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council and over time after a number of false starts much effort is now being put into making the whole enterprise self-supporting. Recently visitor numbers have increased from 40,000 to 140,000 in 5 years.

ID Partnership's updated Stage 3 design:



this is Redcar & Cleveland

The Walled Garden project which is about to start on the ground has attracted significant funding with a budget of £4.8m and with partners involved will open in 2018 providing catering and horticulture academies, apprenticeships and much for the visitor to enjoy. The project continues the long tradition of providing charitable endowments within the estate. This is part of an overall project of £12m for the estate. Clearly a further return visit will be needed.

After an excellent lunch at the lively Sophellie's Café we were ready to meet our guide for the afternoon, Stewart Ramsdale.

The Walled Garden Project

We started our tour in front of the school which is now the Museum; it was built in 1709 as a free school by Cholmley Turner. Probably designed by Robert Hooke, it is of sandstone ashlar and brick with a Welsh slate roof; it is H shaped in plan with the central school flanked by wings to accommodate the Head Master and the Usher. In its short life to 1738 as a school, many boys went on to Cambridge. From here we crossed to the hospital or almshouses, originally housing 10 women, 10 men, 10 girls and 10 boys. Females were in the left wing, men in the right with a chapel connecting the two with separate pews, the children being accommodated in balconies. It is a fine range of buildings around a central court. Although built in 1674 it was largely rebuilt between 1720 and 1750 including a chapel by James Gibbs. The almshouses are in brick with sandstone dressings under Lakeland slate roofs with the ashlar chapel under lead roofs.



Kirkleatham Free School of 1709

The almshouses are approached across a ha-ha and through elaborate gates in an entrance screen with loggias set between flanking forts possibly by John Carr. The chapel interior has rich decorations including stucco, woodwork and ironwork although there is only limited access and it was not open when we visited.



The Almshouses

We headed east to the Walled Garden which is adjacent to the almshouses although currently just the walls of the garden are standing. Given its considerable size there were questions as to how many mouths there were to feed. It really is a case of 'watch this space' as the Walled Garden will look very different in a year's time.

Continuing eastwards, passing a ha-ha on our left we could glimpse the site of Kirkleatham Hall, now with an additional screen of trees. The Hall with its surrounding gardens and exotic trees formed the focal point of the estate and all have now been lost. From here the view from the Hall to the south would have included the Pigeon Cote of 1770 (both ornamental and productive) as an eye catcher, a line of fish ponds and the enclosed deer park with pleasure grounds on the hill beyond. The Hall, which had been remodelled a number of times as fashions changed, was demolished in 1950.

Then on again to see the fish ponds, mentioned above, which are now much silted up. The water was

managed with small dams, seen on the 1st edition OS of 1856, slowing the runoff from the hill beyond. This was particularly needed when trees higher up were felled. From here we viewed the hill with the detached pleasure grounds and heard of the grotto, cascades, Neptune's pool, other ponds and features that have been partially revealed only to disappear again before being fully recorded and understood.

Turning about so as to face north, we followed the line of the drive northwards. This was the road from Guisborough to Marske until the 1830s when the New Road diverted traffic further to the east allowing the creation of additional parkland shielded from passers-by by a belt of trees. Immediately on the left is the site of an octagonal temple (James Gibbs, 1740) which itself is opposite the one time King's Inn, a ready source of refreshments for entertainments at the temple.

Continuing along the drive, to the left we could see the Stables. Horses had been important with many winning race horses bred here, hence the extent of the stabling. This brought us to the Toasting Gate which was an entrance to the estate before the road was diverted. Here the drive turned right to follow a tree-lined route rejoining the diverted road to Marske at the site of the East Lodge. Toasts to King William starting in 1688 continuing to 1783 were a major annual event upheld by the Turners. The gate is c.1780, possibly by John Carr. It is of dressed sandstone in the Gothick style comprising two octagonal two-storey towers linked by a bridge. Beyond here is one of the two bastions which terminate a further ha - ha which protected views north from the Hall. They are early/mid C18, built as garden ornaments but also for defence against threat of invasion by French privateers.



The Toasting Gate

We retraced our steps and crossed what would have been the north and main entrance front of the Hall. Opposite the Hall service wing is the main front of the Stables of early/mid C18. We were fortunate that as an event was being set up we were able to gain access to the yard and into the east range with the original boxes for the prize horses. The best horses clearly lived well. The Stables are brick with sandstones dressings and slate roofs. There are some well laid herringbone-pattern cobbled floors.

Passing between a pair of impressive gate piers topped by improbable lions we followed the short drive to the west to the Church with Mausoleum. The Mausoleum was built 1739/40 designed by James Gibbs. It was commissioned by Cholmley Turner for a son who died whilst on the Grand Tour; it has the inscription *THIS MAUSOLEUM WAS ERECTED 1740 TO THE MEMORY OF MARWOOD WILLIAM TURNER ESQUIRE THE BEST OF SONS*. Other Turners have been exhumed for final rest in the Mausoleum. The Mausoleum was added to the then Saxon church. Shortly afterwards in 1763 it was replaced by the current Palladian chapel.



St Cuthbert's Church and the Turner Mausoleum

Our visit ended by walking past railway cottages (although there had never been a railway here) to return to the School, our starting point. With many thanks to our hosts and YGT organisers this completed a most interesting tour of the Kirkleatham estate. It had been enhanced for us as we had been so well prepared by the morning talks and with maps provided from various dates. Then we were so well led on the afternoon tour. Additionally, as with all good visits, we were left wanting to return to see the re-invented Walled Garden, the inside of the Almshouses' chapel and the detached Deer Park.

Words and images: Michael Horsley

Visit to Sleightholmedale Lodge

Thursday 27 July 2017

Sleightholmedale Lodge is not somewhere you would come across by chance, nestled as it is in a secluded, green valley 6 miles North East of Helmsley on the edge of the North Yorkshire Moors.

The garden, around this 1885 former hunting lodge, was originally laid out by Brigadier General Everard Baring in the 1900s, on his return from India, where he was military secretary to the



Viceroy, Lord Curzon. The influence of the Moghul gardens of India can be seen particularly in the one acre south facing walled garden, which is subdivided into four main areas with geometric beds, by corridors of flagstone pathways and rustic terraces.

Today, Patrick James, great-grandson of the Brigadier, and his wife Natasha, are the fourth generation of the family to garden here. We were guided around by the gardener, Bertie Bainbridge, looking if not sounding like a young Sir Roy Strong, together with the adorable Willie, his dachshund!

The walled garden was originally a formal rose garden and “American Pillar” and “Minnehaha” are still much in evidence. However, today the planting is much looser and more relaxed. Along the top of the garden the Hollyhock Walk was particularly striking, and it was clear that considerable efforts had been made to deter rust. From there the garden tumbles down the hill in a riot of colour; long borders of repetitious *Kniphofia*, *Eryngium*, *Crococoma* and *Agapanthus* all looked particularly stunning.

Below the walled garden and across the front of the house a series of terraces runs down to the valley floor; these incorporate a rock garden and lily pools, created in the 1950s where the *Primula florindae* were in their prime. To the west is an orchard with meadow planting and paths cut through to draw your eye out to the countryside beyond.

The conditions in the field for parking, where I managed to come to a halt after sliding down the hill, demonstrated how much heavy rain there had been recently. However, the garden did not appear to have suffered. The weather also stayed dry for the evening, allowing members to enjoy a glass of wine whilst taking in the bucolic atmosphere, enhanced by the cattle grazing in the meadow below the house.

Nigel Tooze



Images: David Morgan

Celebrating Humphry Repton 2018

1752-1818



A LIFE IN LANDSCAPES

from

PAGE TO GARDEN

The 300th birthday festival in 2016, commemorating Lancelot ‘Capability’ Brown, successfully brought to public attention the achievements of the innovative Georgian landscape gardener. Capitalising on this success, 2018 will be marked by celebrations of the work of his self-proclaimed successor, Humphry Repton. After the success of their bust of ‘Capability’, Haddonstone have already commissioned the first-ever bust of Repton.

The Gardens Trust website has a section devoted to *Celebrating Humphry Repton 2018* which will be updated as the national spread of events becomes firmed up. The Gardens Trust has also applied for funding towards a Repton-themed audience development project with the intention of bringing his achievements to as broad a public as possible.

There will be a Humphry Repton exhibition at the newly-enlarged and re-opened Garden Museum beside the Thames next door to Lambeth Palace in London; it will be curated by the Repton expert, Stephen Daniels, and will run from Autumn 2018 to Spring 2019 with a national conference on 5 November 2018 (see also p. 26).

Yorkshire was well represented in the 2016 ‘Capability’ Brown festival. YGT made vital contributions via the exhibition *Noble Prospects* at the Mercer Gallery in Harrogate, the splendid accompanying book by Karen Lynch, and the display at the Harrogate Flower Show. I suspect that the national reach of *Celebrating Humphry Repton 2018* will depend on the enthusiasm of each county gardens trust. Of course, YGT’s enthusiasm is boundless and we are set to learn a lot more about Repton during 2018.

Like the 2016 AGM at the ‘Capability’ landscape of Scampston Hall, the 2018 AGM will take place in the Repton environment, albeit vestigial, of Rudding Park, Harrogate. The date, Saturday 24 March has been chosen empathetically to mark precisely the bicentenary of Repton’s death. Rudding is now a hotel and golf course, as are the Repton landscapes at Oulton Hall outside Leeds and Owston Hall near Doncaster, while Gott’s Park in Leeds is also a golf course. The AGM will be the first of three events visiting places for which Repton created designs. However, their visibility now varies considerably – from the single view at Rudding to the lakeside walk at Langold, South Yorkshire (Wednesday 10 October) and the splendour of the romantic dells and coastal vistas at Mulgrave Castle near Sandsend, North Yorkshire (Wednesday 23 May). In addition, one of YGT’s Vice-Presidents, Peter Goodchild (in his capacity as *GARLAND), will be mounting a Repton display at Harrogate Autumn Flower Show.

The AGM talk will be given by Stephen Daniels, who will discuss ways of commemorating Repton in 2018 with reference to some Yorkshire sites. In November 2017 Karen Lynch and Patrick Eyres attended his lecture in Lincoln following the AGM of the Lincolnshire Gardens Trust, and we’re confident that members will find his talk for the YGT most enjoyable. Stephen Daniels is the author of *Humphry Repton: Landscape Gardening and Geography in Georgian England* (New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 2000), which is an illuminating read and, with 317 pages and 248 illustrations, it is a sumptuous publication.

A generous grant from YGT has made possible the book by Patrick Eyres and Karen Lynch that's choc-a-bloc with the latest research into Repton's commissions in our county: *On The Spot: The Yorkshire Red Books of Humphry Repton, landscape gardener* (Leeds: New Arcadian Press, 2018). The book will be launched in York on Tuesday 8 May, with drinks kindly provided by Savills, before the biennial talk to the York Philosophical Society and Yorkshire Gardens Trust. On this occasion Patrick Eyres, with help from Karen Lynch, will speak about *Humphry Repton, landscape gardener, and his Yorkshire Commissions*.

'On the Spot' is the phrase frequently used in Red Books to precede the date of Repton's visit. Humphry Repton is renowned for creating the Red Book, which was his innovatory and unique mode of presenting design proposals in the form of an exquisite, one-off artwork exclusively for his patron. They are well known for the hinged overlays. These enable the watercolours to display the rather dull 'before' landscape, and then, when the overlay is peeled back, to theatrically reveal the fashionable and enchanting Reptonian 'after' vista. Of the nine Yorkshire commissions, six Red Books survive and, with the kind permission of the owners, these will be reproduced in the book.

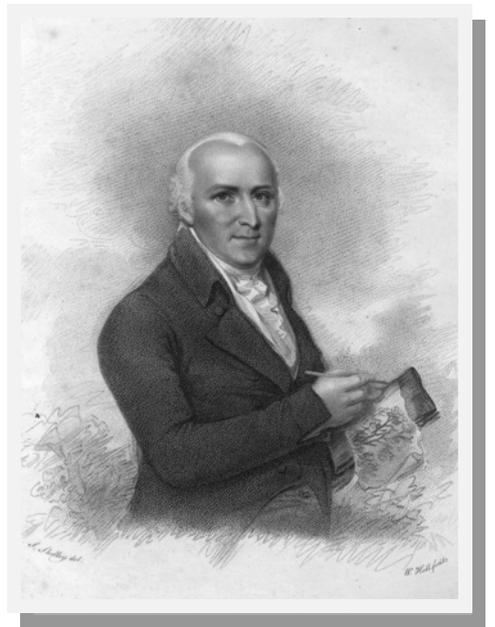
Patrick Eyres provides the contextual overview of Repton's Yorkshire patrons and their Red Books, and concludes by acknowledging the influence of the Red Books on the poet-gardener, Ian Hamilton Finlay (1925-2006). Karen Lynch provides an essay on each of the nine sites. These are followed by reproduction of the transcribed text and watercolours of the Red Book, where available. Her tenth essay is about Repton's Yorkshire illustrations for the popular almanac-cum-diary, *Peacock's Polite Repository*, such as Welton near Hull (J. Williamson), c.1805, and Esholt Hall, Leeds (Joshua Compton), c.1811. All the Yorkshire illustrations for *Peacock's* will be published by courtesy of The Gardens Trust. Karen's essays follow the chronology of Repton's Yorkshire commissions.

Repton's initial consultations were for members of the Portland Whig circle: Earl Fitzwilliam at Wentworth Woodhouse, Rotherham, 1790 (Red Book, 1791-94), Lord Loughborough at Ridding Hall, Harrogate, c.1790 (Red Book, c.January 1791, lost), Bryan Cooke at Owston, 1792 (Red Book, February 1793) and Bryan Darwin Cooke at Bessacre Manor (Red Book, c.1792, lost), both outside Doncaster, as well as for the Pittite Tory, Baron Mulgrave at Mulgrave Castle, Sandstead, 1792 (Red Book, August 1793). After this flurry, Repton's next consultations took place on behalf of the newly elevated peer, Baron Harewood, at Harewood House, Leeds (1800), who, as a Tory grandee, was Fitzwilliam's principal political rival in the county, and for the gentry estate of the barrister, Henry Gally Knight, at Langold, Rotherham (Red Book, January 1806, lost). The size of the Red Books for Wentworth, Owston and Mulgrave was the standard quarto in landscape format as, presumably, were the lost Ridding, Bessacre and Langold.

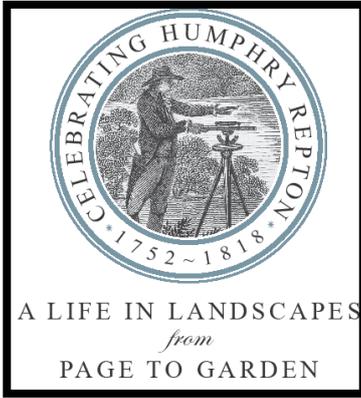
The Harewood volume is the largest and most unusual of these Red Books because it comprises a collection of architectural proposals that were originally bound, and a draft manuscript of proposed landscaping. It was in 1809 that he visited Leeds for consultations with the merchant banker, John Blayds II (Oulton Hall Red Book, 1810), and the textile manufacturer, Benjamin Gott (Armley House Red Book, 1810). From 1801 Repton had produced the bigger, folio size Red Books for his most prestigious commissions. Consequently those prepared for his mercantile clients at Armley and Oulton were given an equal significance to those produced for royal, aristocratic, gentry and institutional clients.

Patrick Eyres

* GARLAND: The Garden and Landscape Heritage Trust



Humphry Repton by Henry Bryan Hall, 1839.
National Portrait Gallery, London.



Humphry Repton –Forthcoming Events in 2018

Conference: *Repton and Horticulture* Thursday 20 September at Sheffield Botanical Gardens.

Co - hosted by the Friends of the Botanical Gardens, Sheffield and the Landscape Department of the University of Sheffield, topics will include Repton’s flower gardens, his use of colour and the role of planting in his pleasure grounds. Followed on Friday 21 September by a tour of Wentworth Woodhouse led by Patrick Eyres and Karen Lynch.

Exhibition October 2018 - February 2019 at the Garden Museum, London (next to Lambeth Bridge and close to Waterloo Station).

This exhibition will explore the full span of Repton’s career in landscape design. Repton came to landscape design late in life after many failed careers and business ventures, including one as an artist, and he used his artistic and design skills to create his famous Red Books. This exhibition will bring together up to 20 Red Books, more than ever assembled before. Visitors will be invited to experience the unique method with which Repton presented his designs to clients.

You might like to plan a holiday around Repton sites; the full list of extant sites is available here (but do check before visiting as not all are generally accessible):

thegardenstrust.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/Repton-Sites-Extant-October-2017-v1.pdf

Other activities include photo competitions, lectures, garden visits, weekend courses and study days.

Do keep checking the dedicated web pages for all things Repton:

www.yorkshiregardenstrust.org.uk/news/repton-bicentenary-2018-1502465684

thegardenstrust.org/news/celebrating-humphry-repton-2018/repton-200-events/



Schools’ News

We mentioned in the last Newsletter that we were encouraging schools in the concept of Forest Gardening, showing it is possible to grow food in semi-shade, by offering a Forest Gardening Workshop. We were delighted that four schools expressed an interest; more of this in the next Newsletter.

Two schools received awards from the Rakusen Grounds Development Award 2017 in order to develop their school environment. Ingleby Greenhow C of E Primary School’s Award is to enable them to put a path through their wild flower meadow and sow more seeds; and Oxspring Primary School is to install a mobile garden kitchen garden in their orchard.

Carlton and Faceby C of E Primary School was given a set of Bulldog gardening tools from the Joyce Hampshire Award Scheme. These are high quality junior gardening tools so the children have the best available tools for their gardening.

Currently, members of the Schools Committee are consulting with teachers to find out how Yorkshire Gardens Trust can best help and encourage schools with their gardening at a time when there are so many demands on teachers and schools.



St Oswald’s Primary School, York won the offer of a visit to the Yorkshire Arboretum at Castle Howard.
Image: St Oswald’s Primary School.

Visit to Dalton Hall Grounds

Tuesday 4 July 2017

Yorkshire Gardens Trust's visits offer a range of experiences within that broad category of 'gardens'. These may include landscapes, botanical interest, fruit and vegetable growing, personal endeavour, famous names and historic buildings. Destinations are often in unfamiliar places, and I enjoy exploring the neighbourhood as the context for the venue.

In this case the context was provided by two villages in the Hotham estate. Still very clearly estate villages, Lockington also has an exceptional church and peaceful churchyard where I picnicked in good company, while South Dalton itself has a landmark church spire and intriguing asymmetric almshouses with a prominent wellhouse from 1873. Our hosts, the current Hothams, William and Katrina, continue to interpret the estate, in a modern commercial yet conservationist idiom which underpins the presentation of the grounds. Supported by Natural England, a Higher Level Stewardship agreement has enabled them to carry out repairs to walling on the Pavilion and Walled Garden and reduce encroaching woodland on the ride, all of which we were shortly to admire, whilst realising the amount of hard work put in by gardener Pawel Malyszek and his two assistants.

We didn't start at the Hall but began by taking a walk through the woods to emerge in the New Orchard. Here, free-standing and espaliered apples, pears, plums and cherries have been planted, using regional varieties where possible. Through a gateway in the restored and repointed wall we came into the 1820s Walled Garden, very much a current work-in-progress as the owners aim to achieve a balance between the practical and the decorative. The aim is to focus on colours, separated by partitions in a warm and sheltered environment. So far there is a stone-paved area and paths leading past a simple fountain with red roses and corner points of catmint and sweet pea to an uncut wild flower meadow. This offers the backdrop for weddings, part of the grounds' commercial use as they're not open to the wider public.

At this point we were made aware of the extent of the project to restore gardens originating in the 1730s, with developments in the 1820s and 1870s but overall little altered. The infrastructure – decent gravel paths, structurally sound walls and gateways, yew and hornbeam hedges – has to provide the skeleton on which a flowering body can be planted.

Passing the Old Orchard and the tennis courts (reinstated for the family's daughters) we came at last to the Hall itself. Here the pattern of former rose beds was clear through the lawn, while the footprint of Victorian extensions, later demolished, has been preserved with a small pond and a bee-loud lavender border. As we paused, we were told of the horrors of dry rot, and of their sole 'celebrity visitor'. A small larch tree marked the occasion of Princess Margaret's visit with the Girl Guides in 1953.



The Garden Pavilion Image: Val Hepworth

Now came the sight I had been eagerly awaiting: the Garden Pavilion. This is approached respectfully up a long tapering ride edged with woodland including beech, chestnut and sycamore. It is one of the earliest features, dating to 1733 and pre-dating the construction of the Hall. The Pavilion is built of Roche Abbey stone with a pedimented façade decorated by a band of Greek key and supported by four attached columns adorned with vermiculated rustication (less technically described as wormcast texture). The design is thought to be inspired by the York Walk Gate in London, reminiscent of Colen Campbell's gateway to Burlington House. Certainly there were family connections between the Hothams and the Burlington family with the latter's Londesborough estate only a stone's throw from

South Dalton. But despite this exalted pedigree, the impression is not one of elevated grandeur but a rather more cosy piece in ‘gingerbread classical’ mode, with side and rear walls in workaday brick.

Were there any mentions of the Pavilion in eighteenth-century visitors’ diaries, I asked hopefully? It seems not. But there could be more than meets the eye to this eye-catching feature aligned with the Hall. An alternative approach to the grassy ride was through an elaborate network of serpentine paths, shown in the 1737 plan and still faintly discernible among the trees to either side. Thomas Knowlton’s rococo concept offered artful moments with sculpture and other features, places for discreet conversation and exchange of confidences. Imagination might repopulate these paths, but other former layouts have been found more prosaically as the owner’s mole-trapping activity in the park has revealed traces of the pre-1820s Kitchen Garden in an area now used for grazing.

After our tour which exercised mind and imagination, we were glad to rest our feet and enjoy tea and cake before setting out for the long drive home. Those who missed this visit may like to read some more in David Neave and Deborah Turnbull’s article in the Georgian Society of East Yorkshire’s *Gardens of Yorkshire*, 1992 (our handout) and in *Pevsner*, in a full entry for South Dalton (N. Pevsner and D. Neave), 2005.

Helen Caffrey

A new home for Parks & Gardens UK with Hestercombe Gardens Trust



Parks & Gardens UK is entering an exciting phase in its development at its new home with the Hestercombe Gardens Trust. In September 2016 Parks & Gardens UK (P&GUK) with Hestercombe Gardens Trust 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 P&GUK archive has records of over 9100 historic designed landscape sites and over 2400 biographies of associated people and organisations. The Hestercombe archive contains a significant collection of documents, photographs, plans and manuscripts relating not only to Hestercombe itself (with its 18th-century Landscape Garden and also its Jekyll/Lutyens gardens) but to other parks, gardens and designed landscapes in the United Kingdom. The combination of the two databases, by offering economies of scale and ease of access between them, will offer a powerful research resource unmatched elsewhere. It will also allow for its expansion by maintaining and developing the existing close relationship between County Gardens Trust and The Gardens Trust, as well as the development of new relationships with like-minded organisations. Hestercombe, near Taunton, 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.

Explaining the importance of the National Lottery support, Drew Bennellick, Head of Landscape & Natural Heritage at the Heritage Lottery Fund, said: “This project offers a unique opportunity to bring together two incredibly important sources of data and research for the very first time. Whether it’s someone just wanting to find out more about our rich history of landscape design, or a researcher delving into the history of an early park or garden, these databases are an important and accessible resource for all. Having supported the Parks & Gardens UK database since its inception, we’re pleased to offer this support so that it can transition into a new chapter in its existence.”

YGT Visit to Barnville

Wednesday 6 September 2017

A few miles east of Thornton Dale, along the A170 is the small village of Wilton. On turning right in Wilton, about 200 yards down the quiet road you will find yourself outside a modern detached house. Looking closely at the front garden, there are clues that this isn't an ordinary front garden. By the gate are three silver birches with pristine white stems, and behind the stone wall, there are two cornus trees. Leading from the terrace in front of the house is a double row of *Hackonechloa macra* 'Aureola' in front of a *Cornus controversa* 'Variegata'. Beneath the trees and shrubs are dish-plate sized groups of pink and white Autumn flowering Cyclamen. Barnville is a garden created by Bill and Liz Craven, and filled with the plants that they love. Not a perennial border in sight, this garden is filled with rare trees, shrubs, hydrangeas, grasses and bamboos, all under-planted with bulbs to create change and colour throughout the year. The Cravens ran an oil distribution company by day but their evening relaxation was making their garden; eventually friends in the village told them that they should open the garden for the public.

We were welcomed by the Cravens in the back garden but the visit was to be very informal and we wandered at our own speed, with Bill and Liz on hand to answer questions and queries. The immediate area beyond the house has immaculate lawns and pleached limes on either side, creating a formal space with pink *Crinum x powellii* already in flower on one side. The path leads between two parallel rows of eight foot high brick piers covered with wisteria which must look stunning and smell delicious

when the blossom is out. Then another lawn of velvet-like grass by the side of a sunken pond, with fish and water lilies and blue flowered *Pontederia cordata*. Bill was happy to talk about the skimmer that keeps the pond clean and the robot mower that trims the grass six days a week even when they're away on holiday so when they return the grass is still perfect and the water clean.

There is a small area where some vegetables are grown and the Cravens propagate new plants (the allotment), before one reaches what the Cravens call The Orchard but really it's more like their own highly stylized version of a woodland garden. The long, narrow garden falls away with two simple bark paths leading the way down the slope, with new discoveries to be made at every turn and views out to the surrounding countryside. There are small conifers, azaleas and rhododendrons, Japanese maples, specimen trees like the *Stewartia* which Bill told me was smothered with white flowers in the Summer, and magnolias. More cornus and three *Betula albosinensis* 'Fascination' (Chinese red-barked birch) with cinnamon-coloured bark that was peeling off to reveal shiny new layers underneath. I think we all found plants we didn't recognize, though Liz was on hand to give you the name.



Everywhere there were cyclamen. "We just planted a few" Bill told me, "and now they are everywhere", but obviously they thrive in the conditions that the Cravens have created. Autumn crocus and nerines were beginning to poke through. At the far end of the garden we found clumps of late flowering

agapanthus, grasses and bamboos. The Cravens have created the 'woodland' feel by covering all the ground with a thick mulch, which also acts as a frame for each plant, and by limiting their choices, and choosing plants that suit the conditions the Cravens are able to show each plant off to its best. A welcome cup of tea and a scone filled with cream and jam ended a wonderful visit to a small and immaculate garden, full of ideas which we could all take away to maybe incorporate in our own gardens. And perhaps to make a plan to return in the Spring to see all the bulbs that lay hidden, Liz's favourite time of year in their garden.

Vicky Price

Grantley Hall Japanese Garden

In our last Newsletter (p6), the Conservation sub-committee briefly reported on the expertise that we contributed to the planning application for a restaurant, car park, access bridge etc at the Japanese Garden at Grantley Hall and also to the Registering (Listing) of the Japanese Garden at Grade II. We are of course very pleased that the garden has been recognised and will be protected for future generations.

Historic England's listing notes that: 'Interest in Japanese-influenced gardens developed from the late Victorian period but became highly fashionable following a major exhibition in the summer of 1910 at White City, London. This showcased life in Japan and included two large gardens, attracting more than eight million visitors during its six month run. Around this time, a flat area of flood plain adjacent to Grantley Hall was converted into an intricate area of rocky canyons, woodland dells, and water features. This forms an enclosed, intimate garden that is naturalistic in appearance and inspired by Brimham Rocks, a local natural beauty spot which was then owned by the estate. The garden follows authentic Japanese design principles. It has informal paths designed for contemplative walks and its clever layout, with its many varied routes, view-points and features of interest, feels deceptively large.'

Grantley Hall (listed Grade II*) may have late seventeenth century origins as a mill house, being remodelled several times and becoming a secondary home to the Norton family, who from 1782 became Barons Grantley of Markenfield. In 1900 the Hall and estate was sold by the 5th Lord Grantley to Sir Christopher Furness (a shipping industrialist from Hartlepool) who was raised to the peerage as Baron Furness of Grantley in 1910. It is thought that Sir Christopher extensively remodelled the house and grounds, with the Japanese Garden being created under the direction of Lady Furness sometime around 1910, certainly after 1908.

Grantley was bought in 1925 by another industrialist Sir William Aykroyd, but the estate was broken up after his death in 1947, with the hall becoming an adult education college. In 2015, a local Yorkshire family purchased the property and the house is becoming a luxury country house hotel and spa, hence the planning applications. The owners are very supportive of the special nature of the Japanese

Gardens and are delighted that they have been included on the National Heritage List. We should all be able to see them in Spring 2019 when the hotel opens. The Yorkshire branch of the Japanese Garden Society have also given advice and visited the site in 2017.

For further information about the garden's design, contact the Japanese Garden Society locally:

www.jgs.org.uk/contact-us/yorkshire-humber-region/

Grantley Hall now has a website too: www.grantleyhall.co.uk/contact/

Val Hepworth



Stepping stones through stream—June 2017

Image Louise Wickham

A Day at Beningbrough Hall

Yorkshire Gardens Trust invited a group from Refugee Action York (RAY) to a day out at Beningbrough Hall during the summer holidays. As the rain began to fall, my colleague John and I looked at each other and groaned. We were surrounded by 20 plus mums, dads, teenagers and toddlers excitedly waiting for the coach to take them on the much-anticipated trip to Beningbrough Hall. It looked like none of us had prepared for wet weather. Not a raincoat or umbrella between us. But Ray from Yorkshire Gardens Trust had promised us a grand day out, so we set off in a downpour full of optimism that the rain would clear soon. By lunchtime we were basking in beautiful sunshine in the idyllic setting of a Beningbrough lawn, tucking into a huge picnic set out under the trees; it was a perfect English summer's day scene.

We started our visit in the traditional British way, with a cup of tea and a chat. Our welcoming hosts caught up with the families who they recognised from last year's visit, and new friendships were made. By now the sun was making an appearance so it was time for a walk around the grounds which were looking magnificent, especially the dozens of apple and pear varieties which are one of the outstanding features of Beningbrough.

A pre-lunch inspection of the kitchen garden prompted many discussions about growing methods, and an impromptu English lesson on fruit and veg names. Several of the refugee families have allotments in York which have made a big difference to their lifestyles. It gives them something productive to do while they try to get paid employment, provides fresh food, and ensures they get plenty of exercise. It's also given them an opportunity to meet new people, fellow allotment holders who have been generous with their advice and the loan of tools.

Smelling the different herbs got the women talking about food. They shared their favourite recipes and recommended the best shops to buy ingredients in York. Most use an abundance of herbs and spices in their dishes and they can't get over the prices in British supermarkets "90p for a tiny packet of parsley! You could get an armful for that in my country", was the general complaint. At RAY we are lucky enough to be able to sample dishes from around the world at the shared meal we have after activities on Sundays. It's a great way to stimulate conversation as people are always ready to share their culinary secrets. Dishes such as the most delicious Syrian rice dish with minced lamb and toasted cashews, Turkish savoury pancakes and desserts dripping with syrup can often be found on the buffet table alongside the pizzas and Pringles.

While our hosts from YGT set up the picnic, the older boys set up a football game on the grass and the little ones hit the playground. Swings, slides and obstacle courses were all tested thoroughly, with the slide a clear winner. There were a few tears when they had to leave for lunch, but the sight of the picnic table laden with quiches, salads, strawberries, crisps and cake cheered them up. We were overwhelmed by the fantastic spread, particularly the fabulous home baking.

It was tempting to spend the rest of the afternoon enjoying the glorious sunshine, but we couldn't leave without a tour of the hall. After some persuading even the boys left their football, curious to see what was inside. There was disbelief that the house was built for just one family. Why did they need all this space? Even though we were impressed with the big rooms, exquisite furniture and oil paintings, the consensus was we wouldn't want to live there because it must have been very cold in the Winter – although the big hall on the first floor would be perfect for an indoor football game. Finding the portrait of David Beckham was a bonus for the boys. The dressing-up room was a big hit and surprisingly it was the adults who dived in first to put on the gowns and frock coats. The mobile phones came out to take pictures of friends and family dressed as English lords and ladies.

My favourite snapshot of the day was of a husband and wife who had to flee their home with their three children four years ago. They came to York as refugees in 2016 and have had to build a new life in an environment alien to their own, including the struggle of learning a new language.

They were sitting in the sun under a climbing rose, smiling and looking totally relaxed. For a few hours they had been able to put aside their concerns and have a tranquil day out with the family.

Thank you to all our friends at Yorkshire Gardens Trust and Beningbrough Hall for giving us all such a special time. It really was a grand day out.

Carole Jackson, volunteer coordinator at RAY

Footnote: RAY is a small charity which supports refugees, asylum seekers and other migrants in York. Its key aims are to advance education and relieve financial hardship primarily by providing advice and guidance, and to dispel myths about refugees and asylum seekers. More than 100 people, representing around 15 different nationalities, regularly use RAY's services.

RAY offers English teaching, a youth club for teenagers, parenting courses, information and support for people struggling with housing, benefits, education, health and so on; coffee mornings to reduce isolation; mentoring for young people and for people trying to find employment and much more. It is run by four part-time paid staff members, a team of dedicated trustees and band of skilled and enthusiastic volunteers who give up their time to help make all these things happen.

Events—2018 Full Programme

New Procedure for Booking YGT Events

Thank you to those who responded to our request, in the last issue, for help with the organisation of YGT events. We are delighted that Madalyn Hughes has joined the Events Team specifically to be Bookings Secretary. **Please refer to the Events Programme for full details of the new procedure.**

Saturday 24 February – morning Snowdrop Visit to Bridge Farm House near Selby.

Saturday 24 March – all day AGM at Rudding Park

Thursday 19 April - morning Lotherton Hall and Parlington Landscape visit

Tuesday 8 May – evening Tempest Anderson Hall.

York Philosophical Society/Yorkshire Gardens Trust Reception and Lecture:

Humphry Repton, landscape gardener (1752-1818) and his Yorkshire commissions

Lecture by Patrick Eyres. This is a free lecture but you need to book, following special instructions shown in the Events Programme; bookings must be received by 31 March

Saturday 12 May - morning Rokeby Park Landscape visit with Northumbria Gardens Trust

Wednesday 23 May - morning Mulgrave Castle Estate Landscape visit with Northumbria GT

Saturday 30 June - all day Wassand Landscape visit and Summer Picnic

Tuesday 10 July – morning Hoyland Plant Centre Nursery visit

Wednesday 18 July – evening Old Sleningford Hall

Wednesday 5 September – afternoon Lower Crawshaw Garden visit

Wednesday 10 October – morning Firbeck, Park Hill and Langold Joint landscape visit with Nottinghamshire Gardens Trust

Please refer to the YGT Members' 2018 Events Programme for full details

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

Newsletter Autumn 2018

Deadline for next edition: Wednesday 6 June 2018

Editor: Tony Cleaver tonycyork@hotmail.com