

YORKSHIRE GARDENS TRUST

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 43

Autumn 2018

Snowdrop Walk at Bridge Farm House
Saturday 24 February 2018



Snowdrops and companion planting at Bridge Farm House. *Image: Jim Godfrey*

Saturday 24 February was a sunny cold morning at Great Heck. There was horizon in every direction but happily no wind. We were between the highways of the past and the present. On one side the Aire and Calder canal, on another the main North East rail line and on the third the M62. Several centuries of transport. Members parked in a grassy field, firm underfoot, the season begins.

We arrived for snowdrop viewing at Bridge Farm and, having filled the house, we were regaled, as people once said, with tea, coffee and cake. Much enjoyed and just right for a cold day. Our hosts, Barbara and Richard Ferrari, welcomed us and gave us an introduction to the garden and the snowdrop collection. In this partnership Barbara is plants and Richard is maintenance, he says. A project of just 15 years but a garden of about 2 acres with an emphasis on a snowdrop collection of about 200.

We walked out into the sun and immediately were looking down a long vista hedged on three sides and with borders on either side. The borders run parallel to but clear of the hedging giving an elegant and practical result. The far end of the hedging is another elegant feature with a concave semi-circular closure. This long space is looking south, back toward the house so all the garden plants are very well displayed. Behind the semi-circular closure is another delightful touch, a full circle hedge with a folly column in the centre. But this is just the beginning as to either side of the long garden are other spaces defined by a variety of hedging both in variety and shape. This seems to be what Richard means by maintenance. If you wander at ease there is just the chance of getting a little bit lost, always a pleasant experience in an unfamiliar garden.

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But what about the snowdrops? No surprise that they are everywhere; not in drifts but, mostly, discrete small clumps and, seemingly, all different but well labelled to provide an introduction to the big world of the snowdrop. An encyclopaedia of snowdrops with Barbara on hand to fill in the details. There is much to keep them company: a variety of blossoms, then cyclamen, primroses, crocus, aconites, scented daphne and multicolours of hellebores and iris. Then trees, grasses, bog garden, gravel garden, pond and not to forget the substantial compost heaps. All this achieved in only 15 years.

As we leave there are helpful aerial photographs to remind us where we have been plus a selection of home produce. I can particularly recommend the lemon marmalade. For some good photographs, especially of summer flowering, go to ngs.org.uk, enter Bridge Farm then select 'view gallery'.

Jim Godfrey

The Gardens Trust Annual Conference and AGM



The Gardens Trust's Annual Conference 2018 and AGM will take place on Saturday 1 and Sunday 2 September and booking is open for any YGT member wishing to attend. This year these will take place in Birmingham and the cost for the full two-day programme, excluding accommodation but inclusive of all refreshments, the Conference dinner and optional free of charge Friday afternoon tours is £240 for YGT members and £275 for non-members.

For the full programme and to check the possibility of late booking please go to the website

www.thegardenstrust.org

YGT: Ways to Keep in Touch

There are lots of ways to contact YGT, as follows:

For general and membership queries: visit our website www.yorkshiregardenstrust.org.uk and click the 'Contact' tab (members and non members alike can use this facility).

Or, if you are already a member, use the 'phone numbers on your membership card to give us a call.

Or you can write to us c/o the Secretary, YGT, 14 Huntington Road, York YO31 8RB

Event details/ availability: brief details and updates are shown on the 'Events' tab of our website.

Event bookings: members should send a cheque and booking form (or simply an accompanying letter) to The Events Secretary, 2 East Avenue, Huddersfield HD3 3LW

Event booking cancellations: please advise us **as soon as possible** by emailing events@yorkshiregardenstrust.org.uk or ringing 01904 347056 to leave a message.



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Chairman's Letter

Resilience ... and Mr Repton

Since 6 August 1945, Hiroshima has been a living monument to the devastating effects of the atomic bomb. A few weeks ago, Ian and I visited the Peace Memorial Park during our trip to Japan. Ian spent time in the museum but I sat quietly and watched nursery and older children solemnly approach the Memorial Cenotaph and Flame of Peace. Just behind where I was sitting was a gnarled cherry tree which had survived the destruction; a testament to the resilience of nature in all its forms and especially to how our plant life can survive. I was very moved by the whole experience.

My ancient dictionary notes 'resilience' as 'springing back; rebounding; to resume the original shape after compression'; and I'm reminded of the poem by George Herbert (1593-1633) *The Flower*, which includes the verse:

And now in age I bud again,
After so many deaths I live and write;
I once more smell the dew and rain,
And relish versing: O my only light,
It cannot be
That I am he
On whom thy tempests fell all night.

Despite Nature's resilience we do need to give her a helping hand rather than continually to attack with hostility and destruction, so it is very reassuring to think that Britain is the first country in the world to have preserved its botanical heritage with the Millennium Seed Bank at the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew/Wakehurst. The current phase is to conserve 25% of the world's plant species by 2020. Quite a task, but I understand that it is on track.

I'm sure that like me you also marvel at the human species ability to rebound after severe adversity; something that has occurred throughout recorded time and continues as we progress (or not!) through the twenty first century. Stories of human endurance and faith are legion. We seem to be bombarded with dreadful news but must not get overwhelmed as there are so many instances when people give their all to save others and improve the lot of those less fortunate. I was struck by the combined beauty and functionality of the Lemon Tree Trust garden at this year's RHS Chelsea Flower Show. Tom Massey designed their garden to celebrate the resilience of refugees living and gardening in Domiz camp, northern Iraq and he designed it with the refugees input. The garden had an Islamic layout with strong geometry, rills and screens, but incorporated found materials such as tin cans, plastic bottles and

concrete where food and decorative plants were growing; including figs, lemons and pomegranates.

Humphry Repton was also a resilient character but on a relatively simple level compared to refugees. On 29 January 1811 accompanied by his daughters Mary and Elizabeth he was returning late along snow-covered roads when his carriage hit an icy mound and overturned. The girls escaped without harm but their father injured his spine so severely that he was partially paralysed for many weeks and never entirely recovered as his heart was affected and he suffered frequent debilitating attacks of angina. Despite being largely confined to a wheelchair, with his son John's help he continued to prepare reports or Red Books including Endsleigh, Harleston, Uppark, Longleat and Sheringham. In c.1814 he was commissioned by the Earl of Bridgewater to produce designs for Ashridge. Repton mainly confined his ideas to the area round the house and wrote: '...this may be partly attributable to the importance and peculiar circumstances of the place; but, perhaps, more especially to its being the youngest favourite, the child of my age and declining powers: when no longer able to undertake the more extensive plans of *landscape* I was glad to contract my views within the narrow circle of the *garden*, independent of its accompaniment of distant scenery.' Probably due to his complaint brought on by the carriage accident, his end on 24 March 1818 came suddenly. He came down to breakfast and collapsed in the arms of his servant and was dead before John, who was in a nearby room, could reach him.

As you will know, Humphry Repton was a man of many talents including drawing, painting, music ... and very good at marketing himself! His Red Books, of which he created six for sites in Yorkshire, were beautifully produced artworks with hinged overlays to reveal his 'after' vision for his patron's estates. The YGT is proud to have financially helped Dr Patrick Eyres and Karen Lynch produce '*On The Spot: The Yorkshire Red Books of Humphry Repton, Landscape Gardener*'; a triumphant celebration of Mr Repton and I would like to pay tribute to the publication by the New Arcadian Press and the hard work of Karen and Patrick to achieve such a high standard of scholarship, and stoutly encourage you to buy a copy.

We have also granted some funding to the Yorkshire Philosophical Society (YPS) for their impending publication, "*The Most Fortunate Situation*" – a *History of York's Museum Gardens* by Dr Peter Hogarth and Professor Ewan Anderson. Founded by

the YPS in 1828, the Museum Gardens are a treasured green space in the heart of the City of York with a rich history from Roman times to the present day. In the words of Peter Hogarth, “We know who planned the Gardens, where the plants came from, what the gardeners were paid, how the grass was cut, who pruned the rhododendrons, and how the Society dealt with unruly youths (and obstreperous members!)”. The book is due for publication this Autumn.

To return to Mr Repton, YGT is supporting the two-day international conference, *Repton and Horticulture*, on 20/21 September with funding to enable students to attend at a reduced rate. The conference at Sheffield Botanical Gardens will explore aspects of Reptonian and late Georgian horticulture and can be booked via: <https://reptonandhorticulture.eventbrite.co.uk>. It should be a fantastic two days with the second day at Wentworth Woodhouse guided by our own Patrick and Karen. And incidentally the conference image is of Repton’s design for the gardens at Ashridge that I noted above.

I would also like to pay tribute to all the active members of YGT who achieve so much with their energy and time on so many fronts. They know who they are and so should you all if you read all that we produce and hear the short reports at the AGM. On the ‘bureaucratic’ front we have updated our Articles and are doing the same for our trustee documents using the current guidance given by the Charity Commission. Our new Business Plan is on our website and we have also given some time to the issue of Data Protection.

Please can I also highlight the good work achieved by our Newsletter Editor, Tony and former fellow trustee Ray, who has led on our refugee days. We now need new volunteers to fill these roles. Tony has written elsewhere (see p. 7) about what being the Newsletter Editor entails; and for our refugee days we need someone to liaise with a refugee organisation in York – or Leeds or other part of Yorkshire where there is already a group – and set up a day out for the families. The National Trust via our trustee David Morgan is happy to have another YGT Refugee Day at Beningbrough, it just needs someone to co-ordinate it and arrange transport and refreshments funded by YGT. Please let me know if you can help and I can give you pointers for the role; there will be other members who will help you too.

By the time that you read this I hope that you will be having a good Summer and I look forward to meeting you at our events later in the year and next.

Val Hepworth

Establishment of YGT Horticultural Bursary

One of the key objectives in the Trust's new five year business plan is to establish a bursary to support individuals in their horticultural careers. We will be working in partnership with colleges, employers and professional horticultural organisations to identify how the bursary can best be used.

We have set a target of raising £4,750 which currently equates to 50% of a student's college fees for one year. The Trustees are most grateful for the generosity of one of our former trustees, who has got the bursary off to a flying start with a donation of £500 (worth £625 with Gift Aid). You will see various other fundraising initiatives over the coming months and we also hope to encourage some corporate sponsors.

All monies raised for the bursary will be held as a restricted fund in the charity's accounts.

If you would like to make a donation towards the bursary or have any comments or questions, please contact any of the trustees via secretary@yorkshiregardenstrust.org.uk



YGT Refugee Day

Would you like a SMALL, DISCREET role to help Yorkshire Gardens Trust with one of our charitable missions?

We are looking for a member who would enjoy organising a day out for refugees, either from York or Leeds, to enjoy some green space and relax and enjoy our beautiful Yorkshire countryside. Previous years have been heart-warming for many reasons, from people enjoying plants from their own countries, to sharing picnic food, to watching the kids have a good run about.

We have contacts with refugee organisations and offers of venues – all we need is YOU to act as co-ordinator! If you are interested please contact Fiona Barlow on 0113 284 2039 or email gjmbarrow@yahoo.co.uk THANK YOU IN ADVANCE FOR VOLUNTEERING!

Yorkshire Gardens Trust AGM

Rudding Park, Saturday 24 March 2018

The first floor of the house at Rudding Park provided a splendid classical setting for the 21st AGM of YGT. We were welcomed with a cup of coffee thanks to the hospitality of Simon and Judy Mackaness, its owners. During the day we would learn that, although the house had been rebuilt between 1805 and 1824, it had inherited an earlier landscape setting which had been constructed in the 1790s to a design by Humphry Repton. Following the AGM, Professor Stephen Daniels would present a paper discussing Repton's approach to landscape design, and after lunch Simon would be leading us on a tour of the grounds on this auspicious day, which marked exactly the bicentenary of Repton's death.

The AGM was chaired by Caroline, Lady Legard, and its business was transacted smoothly. The Chair invited sub-committee chairs to report upon their activities during the last year. This is a great way for other, often newer, members to better understand the Trust, its successes, its priorities and its challenges and to put names to faces. Much effort is clearly being focused upon engaging the wider community and enthusing the next generation, including the small grants scheme, working with local horticultural colleges and schools etc. As Pat Gore said "... garden visits in themselves with an older group of people may not be what they want to do...".

The Annual Report of the Trustees provides a comprehensive account of all our activities.

Nigel Tooze, our Treasurer, reported that despite a deficit this year of £2,300, the Trust's accounts were in a healthy financial position. The deficit could largely be attributed to the costs of taking professional advice on our constitution which had not been reviewed for twenty years. The updated Articles of Association were presented to the meeting for approval.



Members enjoying the classical surroundings of Rudding Park Hotel during Professor Stephen Daniels' talk following the AGM.

Image: Nick Lane Fox

Revealing Repton: approaches to the art of landscape gardening in the bicentenary

Following the meeting Stephen Daniels, Professor of Cultural Geography at the University of Nottingham, talked to us. Stephen has written the seminal book *Revealing Repton: approaches to the art of landscape gardening in the bicentenary* (1999). His talk focused on Repton as a person, who he was and why he became a landscape gardener, rather than the technical detail of his designs. We discovered that he had been an accomplished flautist, could sing a passable glee, wrote for the theatre, was an accomplished artist and spent much time reflecting upon the human condition. He saw his landscape designs as vehicles to reinforce a social hierarchy. Prof Daniels suggested that Repton would be defined today as a "conservative

paternalist”, which is just the right attitude to assure his clients that he could provide them with suitable settings for their houses, which would both reassure them that the house and its estate were part of the timeless English landscape and also provide sufficient theatre to surprise, delight and impress visitors. Indeed his political philosophy bore sufficient common ground with some of his clients that he undertook electioneering on their behalf.

Prof Daniels reminded us that Repton presented his proposals to his clients using his famous Red Books. His splendid watercolours in these books enabled him to illustrate firstly the view as existing and, by deftly flapping away a half sheet, he would reveal the potential modified landscape. Prof Daniels noted how similar the theatricality of such presentations was to the then fashionable “raree shows”. The whereabouts of the Red Book for Rudding Park are sadly unknown, they were last seen at an auction sale in 1916. Repton was, of course, a successor to Capability Brown and in contrast to Brown’s ability to “make places”, Repton aimed to simply “reveal landscapes”. His touch was much lighter than Brown’s and Prof Daniels described his work as often “physically fragile”. This would lead us neatly on to the walk around the Park after lunch.

Walk around Rudding Park

Following a splendid lunch, Simon gathered us and introduced us to his two principal gardeners – Simon Davies (Head Gardener) and Adrian Reeves (Kitchen Gardener). He encouraged us to study a painting which he produced, painted by Francis Nicholson in 1792. It is a view up the Park towards the (earlier) house and apparently showing some early Repton features. We then began our walk through the gardens close to the house on our way to the new walled Kitchen Garden.

At Rudding Park, the in-house restaurants use all the home grown vegetables and fruit which Adrian can grow in their 52 raised beds, plus wall grown fruit, etc. Simon and his team have also decided that they will encourage their visitors to walk around the kitchen garden. This strategy generates both a functional demand and a pride in their produce which combine to produce success.

Our walk continued alongside new bedroom accommodation, each with a courtyard area, privacy being achieved by yew hedges. As we rounded a corner, nominally at the back of the main house, we found ourselves at an elevated level looking into a large and splendidly planted modern courtyard area (no “back of house” here!). One side of this courtyard is formed by the very new construction of a health club, unapologetically modern but sympathetic to its surroundings.

Our party was then led off into the Park itself. The majority of the open landscape has been turned into a golf course, a modern use of parkland to enable the retention of cropped/mown grass, specimen trees, tree groups/belts and lakes. The land was falling away from the house as we walked towards the lakes. As Simon led us over a small limestone, romantically styled, bridge he again produced the Nicholson painting. He suggested that this is the very point from which the artist made his sketches and that this bridge and its associated waterway are early Repton design work.

We found that there are in fact two lakes divided by a plot of land largely given over to a walled family cemetery. The ceremonial gateway into the cemetery faces west up to the house and it is guarded by two funereal yews standing like sentries guarding the afterlife. This cemetery might be mid C19, perhaps contemporary with the construction of the estate chapel? Our walk continued along the second lake, crossing it via a shallow timber bridge, and then back up the grassed slopes, between specimen trees and back to the house.



John Peltro after Humphry Repton, *Rudding-hall, in Yorkshire, the seat of Lord Loughborough*, engraving, 1792.
(The Collection of Nigel Temple, courtesy of the Gardens Trust).

Near the house we could see remains of a ha-ha. Simon regretted that it had been recently filled in for health and safety reasons. We guess that ha-has and drunken wedding guests do not mix well.

We returned to the house and standing before the principal front, looking down over the lawns and lakes, it comes as a surprise to recognise that we are not looking south, as almost all classical landscapes would do, but almost due east. We need to remember that the Repton landscape was designed and constructed around 1794, incorporating the original house on the site and in 1805 that house was demolished by its new owner and this new house was built nearby. Can we conjecture that the new house was (unusually) specifically orientated to take



Rudding Park, view by Francis Nicholson, c.1792.
(Image courtesy of Bonhams)

full advantage both of the new view over the falling landscape and its lakes which Mr Repton had just completed and to theatrically accommodate the drive up from the main gate (The Rudding Gate) in Follifoot village? Repton had not only planted tree belts around the boundary of the estate, but he had introduced planting within the Park for the very purpose of generating surprise views. Perhaps Rudding Park is an estate in which firstly Humphry Repton designed a landscape which addressed the house in 1794 and it has a subsequently re-configured house designed to address the landscape in 1805.

Christine Miskin & Roger Lambert

Vacancy for a Newsletter Editor: can you help?

After five years of collating the Newsletter I am sadly having to call it a day and ask someone to come forward to take on this role. The title 'Editor' is rather grandiose and somewhat misleading!! The main task is to receive reports by email and remember to put them in a file as soon as they have been received otherwise a lot of searching of emails is needed – believe me I have spent ages searching for an email with a report that I thought I would file later and never did.

Our Chairman is excellent at asking members to write up visits and events for the Newsletter and lets me know who has succumbed to her arm twisting, then I contact them with the deadline (which is in every Newsletter anyway) and wait. About three weeks before the deadline I contact these members if I have not had their report but also contact the leaders of the various groups ie Research & Recording, Schools etc to remind them that a report on their recent activities is due.

From time to time there are reports to include from The Gardens Trust or other like minded organisations together with book reviews and anything else the Trustees would like included in the Newsletter.

After the deadline it is just a case of checking you have everything for the Newsletter and sending it to our wonderful designer, Louise Amende, who does such a marvellous job setting out the text and images.

Louise sends me two hard copies for approval and proof reading, which I return duly annotated if needed and that's that. To summarise:

- Receive emailed reports and images and acknowledge receipt
- Download and file reports and images
- Check reports for typing errors etc and correct as necessary
- Send reminders about three weeks before the deadline
- Collate reports, images etc.
- Email everything to Louise Amende for layout and design
- Agree with Louise what the next deadline date will be
- Receive and check hard copy for content, printing errors and other mistakes.
- Return to Louise duly amended.

I have greatly enjoyed this role within YGT, it has given me an insight into the workings that go on behind the scene and been a real pleasure to have met so many members and be part of the YGT 'team'. I would urge you to consider taking on this most worthwhile role. Please contact me if you would any further details about what the role involves.

Tony Cleaver

Yorkshire Gardens Trust

Privacy Notice

Yorkshire Gardens Trust (YGT) is committed to protecting and respecting your privacy. For any personal data you provide, YGT is the Data Controller and is responsible for storing and processing that data in a fair, lawful, secure and transparent way.

What personal data we hold?

Members of YGT give us information by filling in forms sent by post, downloaded online, handed out at an event or by corresponding with us by phone, e-mail or otherwise. This includes information you provided when applied for membership. The information we hold may include your name, title, address, e-mail address, phone number, Gift Aid status, bank details and areas of our work where you said you would like to be involved.

On occasion we may collect personal data from non-members (e.g. where non-members book for an event organised by the Trust).

Why we need your personal data

The reason YGT needs personal data is so it can provide membership services, manage the YGT and administer any bookings made in connection with events we organise. The lawful bases for processing personal data are:

YGT has a contractual obligation to provide the services signed up to when members joined or where bookings are made by members or non-members to attend an event;

a legal responsibility under the Companies Act to communicate with members regarding Company Meetings; and

a legitimate interest in connection with our charitable activities which members have expressed interest in.

YGT has a social media presence which members are free to join. Social media platforms have their own privacy policies and YGT does not accept any responsibility for these policies.

Who YGT shares your personal data with

YGT Council Members are Directors and Trustees and may have access to all personal data. When event bookings are made, the YGT shares details of bookings with volunteers involved with event organisation. YGT does not share personal data with other members without consent. If you have signed a Gift Aid Declaration, YGT also include your details in a claim from HMRC.

YGT may share information with e-mail service providers to distribute e-mails and payment service providers to process payments. The Trust does not supply any personal data it holds to any other third party.

How long we hold your personal data

Personal data connected with financial transactions and event bookings is held for up to 7 years. Personal data connected with Gift Aid is held for 7 years. Other personal data connected with membership is kept until 2 years after membership ceases.

Your rights regarding your personal data

As a data subject you have the right at any time to:

request access to, rectification or erasure of your personal data;

restrict or object to certain kinds of processing of your personal data, including direct marketing;

to complain to the Information Commissioner's Office about the processing of your personal data.

You are not obliged to share your personal data with YGT. If you choose not to share your personal data with us you may not be able to continue as a member.

Captain Cook's first voyage to the South Pacific Ocean

It is 250 years since Yorkshire's Captain Cook sailed on a voyage of discovery to the south Pacific Ocean departing on 26 August 1768 in a former Whitby collier renamed *HMS Endeavour*; not the largest of vessels. The expedition was a joint venture between the Royal Navy and Royal Society, ostensibly to view the transit of Venus but with a secret brief to discover and claim new lands.

Accompanying Captain Cook was 25 year old Joseph Banks, a wealthy landowner and botanist. Banks was born in London in 1743 to a Lincolnshire county squire and MP who died in 1761. Upon reaching 21 the young Banks inherited his father's estate and wealth. He had developed an interest in botany at an early age and attended the University of Oxford where his studies were largely focused on natural history. Spending time in Lincolnshire (where he was a local squire and magistrate) and in London, he kept up his interest in science by attending the Chelsea Physic Garden of the Worshipful Society of Apothecaries and The British Museum. He became friends with scientific men of the day and corresponded with Carl Linnaeus. In 1766 Banks was elected to the Royal Society and the same year, aged 23, he went on the frigate *HMS Niger* to Newfoundland and Labrador to study the natural history. On his return he became well known by publishing the first Linnaean description of the plants and animals.

It seemed natural that in 1768 the Royal Society would appoint Banks to the joint Royal Navy and Royal Society scientific expedition to the south Pacific Ocean, especially as he was able to fund not only himself but eight others who would help record his findings: Daniel Solander a Swedish naturalist, Herman Spöring a Finnish naturalist and artist, Alexander Buchan and Sydney Parkinson both artists and four servants and field assistants. The key to the scientific work was the careful recording of the plant specimens; drawings and watercolours were painted whilst the plants were still fresh, with notes on each plant carefully kept for future use. Over 30,000 plant specimens were collected, including about 1,300 which were previously unknown, from Madeira, Brazil, Tierra del Fuego, the South Pacific, New Zealand, Australia and New Zealand. Buchan and Parkinson both died on the voyage but 269 plant watercolours and 673 unfinished sketches with notes on their colours were completed. On returning home, Banks hired five artists to create watercolours of all Parkinson's drawings then between 1771-1784 Banks hired eighteen engravers to create the copperplate line engravings from the completed watercolours – all at a considerable cost. The intended publication of *The Florilegium* sadly never took place due in part to Bank's financial losses following the American War of Independence.

The plates were left to the British Museum and today all the surviving artwork from Captain Cook's first voyage is at the Botanical Library at the Natural History Museum. In 1990, the 1st full colour edition of the *Florilegium* was published in 34 parts!! Only 100 sets were printed but in October 2017 a new book with a limited number of the plates was published under the title *Joseph Banks FLORILEGIUM Botanical Treasures from Cook's First Voyage*. There is also an exhibition of the first voyage at the British Library until 28 August 2018. YGT members may remember an article on Captain Cook's cottage (actually his parents' cottage) in the Autumn 2015 Newsletter.

Banks went on to become President of the Royal Society for over 41 years; he advised King George III on the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew and sent botanists around the world to collect plants. He is credited with introducing eucalyptus, acacia and the genus named after him, *Banksia* to Europe; about 80 species of plants bear his name.

Tony Cleaver



Sir Joseph Banks Society

The year 2020 will mark 200 years since Sir Joseph Banks' death; more details of the plans being made to recognise this can be found at www.joseph-banks.org.uk/moving-towards-2020-commemoration/

YGT Small Grants Scheme 2018

As you may be aware, 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. The application 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.

We have now paid **Ripon Walled Garden** their grant of £1,000 - a 'phase 2' grant to help them with their Weather Garden area which is costing £2,330. They had already raised £994 from Ripon City Council and our funding includes support for the path widening and relaying, a windmill weather station, information boards, a water feature and planting.

We have also been pleased to support a very good application from Ripon Museums Trust for the **Ripon Workhouse** to assist the volunteers with the reconstruction of the Master's Garden. This photograph was taken in early June 2018 and shows the work in progress: the screen fencing is in place and the borders created but there are still paving works to do and the first of the planting has only recently gone in. More plants will be supplementing this in due course. Richard Taylor, Chairman, writes that '...there is a real change to the feel of the site, with the master's garden being clearly separated from the spaces occupied by the inmates on either side. This segregation is such an essential part of the workhouse story and the YGT grant is helping to make this a reality.'



Master's Garden, Ripon Workhouse
Image: Richard Taylor

The **Wortley Hall Walled Garden** in South Yorkshire are producing a revised history and guide and we have agreed to a grant of £460 to assist with the printing of the guide. We have asked to see the proof copy and to have YGT acknowledged on the booklet.

Chris Mayes and Penelope Dawson Brown have met Trish Leach of the Friends of **Malton Castle Garden** regarding their application for funding to assist with the production of a management plan. At the moment we are giving advice to produce an initial 'brief' document for the type of plan that they require and the research needed so that the management plan answers the sites specific needs and is a practical document that the volunteers can use for several years.

It was very good to hear last winter that the work on the temples at Duncombe Park had been commended in the Georgian Group's Architectural Awards. The financial support of the Yorkshire [Historic] Gardens Trust – that's us – was acknowledged.

If you know of any publicly accessible historic park or garden in Yorkshire that would benefit from a YGT Small Grant then do suggest the form on our website. Chris Mayes who leads on the grant scheme will be pleased to help if he can. He can be contacted at smallgrants@yorkshiregardenstrust.org.uk

Val Hepworth

Richard Taylor writes:

YGT have been helpfully advising us for some time on the development of the gardens at the Workhouse Museum from the working kitchen garden at the rear to the more polite front garden, done originally for appearance. Our latest project has been to re-create the Master and Matron's Garden in front of their house in the centre of the site. Key to this has been the separation of this originally private space from the inmates' yards on either side. Lack of funds at the moment has meant that we cannot rebuild the boundary walls in brick as we would wish but instead we have installed substantial screen fencing which does the same job. The planting is still getting established and will be supplemented in the Autumn but already there is a feeling of a comfortable middle class Victorian garden. Visitors to the Workhouse Museum have been able to enjoy the new garden and find out about its history from the interpretation panel which records our generous funders including YGT. A big thank you from Ripon Museum Trust for all the support you have given us.

Conservation and Planning

The Conservation and Planning sub-committee continues to meet at Treasurer's House in York, gathering in a very pleasant environment and without any room charges to pay; thank you National Trust! From the team we have lost the expertise of Linda Smith (who now has an increasing workload) but we have gained the skills of another archaeologist, Gail Falkingham, which is happy coincidence. We have quite a breadth of expertise but we are always happy to welcome new team members... and as I've written before we continually learn together and enjoy much debate and friendship doing what we can to conserve Yorkshire's historic parks and gardens; an important aspect of YGT's charitable commitments.

Sometimes it seems that we're trying to combat 'death by a thousand cuts'. If I can explain; for some historic parks and gardens, there are numerous planning applications for changes particularly on the boundaries. Each of these may not be a fundamental alteration but cumulatively they can result in severe damage to the historic design of the park or garden or its setting and radically alter the experience of those seeing/visiting the site so that the significance and enjoyment is lost. As you would expect it is often urban sites which suffer the most from this continual 'attack' by planning applications.

The former mental hospital, **High Royds**, at Ilkley, is a nationally important example of a Victorian asylum. It is a striking building, deliberately placed in a rural setting with the grounds laid out in the style of a modified traditional country house estate. The grounds were landscaped when it was built to create a series of airing courts to help encourage healthy exercise for the patients. A kitchen garden was also provided, used for therapeutic purposes, and additionally a park laid out. It was an enlightened scheme for treatment of mental patients at that time. This registered landscape does not just form a setting for the buildings but is a major contributor to the historic and aesthetic significance of the site. While the main buildings have been sympathetically converted, mainly for housing, there has been some new housing development at High Royds which has damaged areas of the original environment, but enough is left for the site to retain its significance and its important iconic views. We continue to be notified of changes on the boundary and in particular have responded recently to the proposals to replace the existing Hare and Hounds public house with a much more extensive and largely four-storey development which will affect the iconic views of High Royds from Buckle Lane where its burial ground is located and the views from the Chevin. The picturesque **Temple Grounds** on the north bank of the river Swale at Richmond has been subjected to many planning applications on its boundary in the past twenty years, some were major developments as on the sites of the former Convent and an elderly person's home and many smaller changes such as housing extensions and conservatories. With good sensitive design and landscaping, proposals can often be improved so that the impact is minimised but sadly this can be difficult to achieve in practice. **Temple Newsam**, Leeds and **St Ives Estate**, Bingley, similarly have been subject to many planning applications over the years, damaging the historic integrity of the designed landscape.

The most recent at Temple Newsam was for a 'Go-Ape' attraction. However we are encouraged that Natural England plan a Higher Level Stewardship Scheme for the replanting of the historic parkland on the hillside below the Little Temple and we are hopeful that the existing Cultural Landscape Management Plan for Temple Newsam which was undertaken by Leeds Metropolitan University (2000), will be reviewed and revised as part of a proposed bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund.

St Ives, now a public park, was in the ownership of the Ferrand family for nearly 300 years. Between 1858 and 1889 it was developed by William Busfield Ferrand as a romantic wild landscape, "imbued with a variety of historical and mythical associations linking the past with the present. Conscientious enhancement of a naturally dramatic landscape reflects the fashion of the time for nature as a powerful force. It manifests in physical form its association with the philosophy of an important C19 Tory radical, a close friend of Disraeli, and a leading member of the young England movement". In a similar vein to the Parish Council, we wrote that the detailed application for twenty-eight dwellings of standard designs unrelated to both Harden village and St Ives, in a prominent location near the south western boundary of the estate, would have an adverse impact.

We have had help again from David Rhodes in responding to several applications at Allerton Grange Farm, alongside the walled kitchen garden at **Allerton Park**. Some of our suggestions for improvement were incorporated. Another farm application, this time in the Yorkshire Dales National Park at **Heaning Hall, Thoraby** was for the installation of a large concrete slurry store. This was a well-documented application with sensitive landscaping and we supported the application which was approved. Also in the Yorkshire Dales National Park we supported a well-documented application for the restoration of listed

gate piers and the installation of new wrought iron gates and railings at **Scale House, Rylstone**. However, at **Parcevall Hall**, although we supported in principle the restoration of the Propagation Glasshouse and the provision of further permanent parking in the kitchen garden we had concerns about the details proposed and the lack of understanding of the significance of Sir William Milner's designs.

Recently we have had two planning applications for **Greenhead Park** at Huddersfield; one straightforward, the other requiring much more consideration. The proposal for a log cabin for the Huddersfield Petanque Club was for the northern area of the park near existing tennis and other sports courts, well away from the historic buildings/vistas, so we had no objection. Our comments for the erection of a Sikh memorial in the rose garden took a good deal of time and we consulted with the Friends of Greenhead Park and indirectly Huddersfield Civic Society for their local understanding. Greenhead Park opened to the public in 1884 and by 1890 most of the site had been laid out with the majority of the park's distinctive elements. These lie in the southern section of the park. The existing war memorials; for World Wars I and II and the Boer War, commemorate local casualties and are in this southern section as is the proposed new memorial. Although we are sympathetic to the Sikh ambition to have a war memorial, there are not specific military links of Sikhs to Huddersfield and we felt that the scale (4.4m high), painted surfaces and location near the recently restored 1930's conservatory were not suitable. As I write there have been some developments regarding the planning application which we will consider: the statue of the Sikh soldier will be in bronze and not painted, the plinth is to be a plain stone base 1200mm high with a 1000mm square base and an overall height 3.2m.



Greenhead Park, Huddersfield – Boer War Memorial
Image: Friends of Greenhead Park



Greenhead Park, Huddersfield conservatory and border
Image: Friends of Greenhead Park

In Sheffield we spent a good deal of time considering a large detailed application for the outstanding Victorian **Sheffield General Cemetery** which included conservation works to listed and non-listed historic site infrastructure and monuments. These proposals, to be welcomed, should remove it from the Heritage at Risk Register. However like many local residents, we had serious concerns about the proposal for a car park and future café associated with the car park in the north eastern section of the cemetery - the Anglican cemetery/New Cemetery where it seems likely that Robert Marnock, in addition to providing planting plans, advised the architect William Flockton on the layout and where 7,800 headstones/memorials were cleared in 1980 forming a 'public park' area, a much valued green space. We understand that the graves remain below ground and consider this to be highly disrespectful. Cemeteries were designed in the nineteenth century to "create sites fit for the dead and to evoke meaning and sacredness", also to create an idealized landscape, a "paradise. We objected to this aspect of the planning application and we understand that there will now be three permanent disabled spaces in the car park and a further two occasional spaces near the non-conformist chapel.

Since the last Newsletter there have been further developments regarding the **Parlington** estate at Aberford. At the end of November we heard that M & G, the owners of the estate, were challenging Historic England on the Registration of Parlington and had put in a Freedom of



Sheffield General Cemetery: a view from near the Anglican chapel with the proposed car park area on the left through the trees.

Image: Val Hepworth

Information (FOI) request to Historic England (HE) to disclose all the contact e-mails, letter, telephone conversations between HE, Susan Kellerman, Dick Knight, myself and YGT with respect to Parlington. In turn, Susan submitted a FOI request to HE to see all correspondence etc between HE and M&G, and as a result she learned M&G had had access to all details of the research findings that she had sent in to the HE listing officer to assist with her advisory report. As Susan says: ‘...this is a cheap (in every sense) way for big, wealthy, corporations to acquire information it would have cost them thousands of pounds to acquire themselves by employing researchers. Historic England have consulted on the proposed listing of the Light Arch and Dark Arch, Stallion pens to the north-east of Home Farm, Ice House situated in the Wilderness to the east of the former kitchen garden, Home Farm, including the farmhouse and farm buildings, Wakefield Lodge, Aberford Road and Barwick Lodge, Cattle Lane. The new date for considering Parlington in the Examination of Leeds CC Site Allocation Plan is 1 August.

As I write there is no news on the HE Review in response to the M&G challenge; however, after writing this we have found out that on 8 June Historic England listed the Light Arch and Dark Arch, the stallion pens, ice house, Home Farm, Wakefield Lodge and Barwick Lodge.

Returning to Sheffield, there is some good news at last on the lime avenue leading to **Sheffield Botanical Gardens**. The contractor, Amey has relaid the stone around the tree at the entrance, successfully creating a safe, attractive pavement. Neither Amey nor the Council will comment on what that means for the tree, but we can only assume it is a reprieve. The Friends of the Botanical Gardens have contacted the new Cabinet member responsible for the Streets Ahead contract, Cllr Lewis Dagnall, and invited him to come and visit Thompson Road. It is hoped he will ensure that all six threatened trees are saved.

Val Hepworth



Before and after views of work to the area around the lime tree at the entrance to Sheffield Botanical Gardens, with a relaid stone pavement replacing tarmac.

Images: Jill Sinclair

Visit to Lotherton Hall & Parlington Estate

Thursday 19 April 2018

On a gloriously sunny April day, with temperatures hitting 25 degrees, the hottest day of the year so far, a group of 23 YGT members assembled in the school room at Lotherton Hall for a morning of talks. This was followed by an afternoon visit to the Parlington Estate, a short drive to the west across the A1, south of Aberford village.

Adam Toole, Curator at Lotherton Hall, told us about the history of Lotherton and the 19th century links between Lotherton, Parlington and the Gascoigne family. All that remains of the former medieval village of Lotherton is the old stone manor house which forms part of the stable courtyard, and the 12th century chapel which stands beside the Hall.

The Georgian house at Lotherton is believed to have been built by the Maud family and in 1790, the Estate was bought by John Raper. Richard Oliver Gascoigne of Parlington purchased Lotherton Hall in 1825, by which time there were pleasure grounds and parkland. Perhaps he intended for his daughters Mary Isabella and Elizabeth to live there, but they never did and, instead, the Hall was leased out to tenants. In 1828, Richard Gascoigne had plans drawn up by Pritchett, Watson and Pritchett of York for both Lotherton and Parlington, but it seems that neither was acted upon. After both his sons died in 1842, and he himself died in 1843, Richard's daughters inherited estates in both Yorkshire and Ireland. Meanwhile, Lotherton Hall continued to be leased out. When the two daughters were both married in the early 1850s, they divided the estates. Mary Isabella took Parlington and lived there, and Elizabeth, Lady Ashdown, took Lotherton and the Irish estates in County Galway.

In 1893, Elizabeth died and the Lotherton Estate was inherited by Colonel Richard Gascoigne, the son of Mary Isabella. When Richard's son, Alvary, was born in 1893, the family moved into Lotherton Hall and made plans to expand the house and develop the grounds. The first major extension was built in 1896, and a second entertainment wing was added in 1903. This was a very modern house, with electricity, plumbed baths and central heating. In 1905, Colonel Gascoigne's father died and he inherited the Parlington Estate. However, the family remained at Lotherton and Parlington Hall was abandoned.

During the First World War, Lotherton Hall was used as a military hospital. Sir Alvary Gascoigne inherited in 1937 on the death of his father; his only son Douglas was killed in 1944, leaving no heir.

Lotherton Hall and grounds were gifted to the City of Leeds in 1968 by Sir Alvary and Lady Gascoigne, including the contents of the house. In 1969, the Hall became a sister museum to Temple Newsam, displaying not only items given by the Gascoignes, some of which come from Parlington, but also an important collection of 19th and 20th century decorative art.

The Edwardian gardens created by Sir Alvary's mother, Mrs Laura Gwendolen Trench-Gascoigne, are relatively well preserved, their structure largely intact. Laura Gwendolen was well-travelled and the layout absorbs Arts and Crafts influences. The present bird garden is located in what was once the kitchen garden.

Then, Susan Kellerman of YGT gave us a detailed talk about Parlington and its history, based upon the extensive research that she and Dick Knight have done on the Estate and its designed landscape. This arose a couple of years ago in response to the estate of c.3000 acres being offered by the owners, M & G Investments Ltd, to Leeds City Council. There are proposals to build a new community here over the next twenty years as part of the City Council's Site Allocations Plan. Parts of the historic park would be left, but others would have houses, roads, and other infrastructure built over them. Historic England approached YGT to ask for information, so Susan and Dick did some rapid initial research and put together an application to have the site included on the Historic England Register of Historic Parks and Gardens. This was submitted in December 2016 and on 21 September 2017, the Parlington Estate was included on the Register as Grade II, a great achievement recognising the significance of the surviving designed landscape. A challenge by the owners to this is still ongoing. The Site Allocation Plan hearing later this year is due to be attended by Susan and Historic England.

Sir Thomas Gascoigne, who owned Parlington in the second half of the 18th century, was not an insignificant figure; he had connections with Marie Antoinette.

For anyone interested in knowing more about Sir Thomas, his Grand Tour, politics and the management of an 18th century Catholic estate, Susan recommended a very good book "*Catholicism, Identity and*

Politics in the Age of Enlightenment: The Life and Career of Sir Thomas Gascoigne, 1745-1810 by A Lock, 2016, Boydell Press.

Susan and Dick came across evidence held by the West Yorkshire Archive Service in Leeds for an earlier period of Parlington's history, before c.1770, in a series of five account books kept by Sir Edward Gascoigne in the early to mid-18th century. All of the books begin with 'A. M. D. G' – *Ad Meum Deum Gloriam*, 'for the greater glory of God'. They are really more like diaries than account books, as Sir Edward records not only payments, but other information, such as weather observations and a huge amount of detail about the shrubs, trees and plants which were planted in the grounds. For example, he records in 1727 all the fruit trees that he planted, where he got them from, where he planted them and on what date, and what he paid for them.

Sir Edward made changes to the original house at Parlington after he inherited in 1723. He went on the Grand Tour 1724-26 and married Mary Hungate of Huddlestone Hall. As a Catholic during this period, he had penal fines to pay and was unable to hold public office, to be in Government, an MP, or serve in the Army. It must have been a difficult time for him. The account books describe the day that the Constable arrived to take away his prized horses, as Catholics were not allowed to keep horses worth over £5. There were apparently repeated visits due to issues with the paperwork!

As estate owners without an income from public office, the Gascoignes had to maximise the money that they made from their estate. They were agricultural improvers and had quarries and coal pits.

In 1743, Sir Edward, his wife Mary and their children moved to northern France where his sister was the Abbess at Cambrai. The reason for this move is unclear. Thomas Gascoigne was born in France not long afterwards, in 1745. Like all Catholic boys, he had an enlightened education there and, because he had an elder brother, did not expect to inherit. However, seven years after moving to France, Edward died and then, in 1762, his eldest son died unexpectedly, so Thomas inherited aged 18.

During all of this time, Parlington was not lived in and was looked after by an agent and steward. It was only in 1779 that Thomas Gascoigne came to Parlington to settle for good. Prior to this date, he only came over occasionally, having undertaken the grandest of Grand Tours, mixing with the Royal families of Europe and staying in all the religious houses. He was very keen on horse racing.

In 1783, by which time Thomas had given up Catholicism and was anti-Government, he erected a triumphal arch commemorating the American War of Independence. This is Listed Grade II* (see: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1135624>).

Other features of the designed landscape of this period include the ruin of the so-called round house by William Lindley; the Garden House and garden walls, and the stallion pens. These were built for the racehorse stud and have 8 foot high walls, with rounded sections of limestone walls so the horses don't injure themselves. There is also a later Keeper's cottage and, originally, cross-shaped dog kennels which have now been demolished. Some of the surviving features are designated as listed buildings and Historic England is currently assessing seven more structures for listing. (*Editor – see the note at the end of this article*)

The Hall was largely demolished in 1952 and only part of the service wing survives which is now a private house. The Estate was sold in the 1960s.

After reviewing a selection of historic maps of the area, the earliest dating to 1773, we broke for lunch, when there was chance to look around the Hall and its Edwardian gardens, as well as the restored Grade II* listed chapel.

At 2pm, we assembled on Parlington Lane at its junction with Aberford High Street and completed a three-hour, circular guided walk of c. three miles via the public footpaths of the Estate. We headed west along Parlington Lane, once the main route from Aberford to Leeds, which runs through the Estate. This was kept to move the Gascoigne coal from their pits in Garforth to Aberford. The original railtrack survives along the lane where a steam train once ran. We passed a lodge, Parlington Cottage, then on to the former quarry and woodland walks. The path also took us past a series of three enclosed paddocks of late-18th century date, which have limestone boundary walls. These are thought to have been areas where the prize horses could graze and be seen from the road to the north.

Then, onwards to the Dark Arch and the Light Arch, and past what remains of the Hall, then back northwards past the octagonal shelter, and up across to the Triumphal Arch and the stallion pens.

A detailed description of the designed landscape at Parlington can be found in the Register entry at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1447854>. A wealth of information about the Hall

can also be found on the Parlington website at: <http://www.parlington.co.uk/>.

At the end of the walk, somewhat hot and fatigued and in need of hydration, a stalwart few retired to the Arabian Horse in Aberford for well-earned refreshments to sustain us for the journey home, by which time the temperature in the car had reached 29 degrees! All in all, it was an incredibly beautiful landscape; you wouldn't think you were so close to the A1 road but rather in the middle of nowhere.

Many of the elements of the original 18th century designed landscape have survived, despite the loss of the Hall. We can only hope that they continue to do so into the future now that their significance has been acknowledged.

Thank you to Susan and Dick for such a fantastic day out, which was both thoroughly enjoyable as well as educational!

Words and images: Gail Falkingham



Pausing to look at the lodge, Parlington Cottage on Parlington Lane



The Triumphal Arch, Parlington

Parlington Late News

On 8 June 2018, Historic England added seven new listings at Parlington to the National Heritage List for England, all Grade II.

These include:

- the Light Arch (ref: 1451941)
- and Dark Arch (ref: 1451942);
- the stallion pens (ref: 1451947);
- icehouse in the Wilderness (ref: 1451948);
- Parlington Home Farm (ref: 1451959);
- Wakefield Lodge (ref: 1451952)
- and Barwick Lodge (ref: 1451952).

News from the Schools Group

Normally there are three of us on this Sub-Committee –Lucy Porritt, Sue Lindley, and Nicola Harrison. Nicola has been taking some time out this year so we have enjoyed the support of Fiona Barlow who has taken on the secretarial duties – and of course, Penelope Dawson Brown and Val Hepworth who often come to our meetings. We exist to support, advise and channel funds in one way or another to our 42 member schools.

What we do varies from year to year depending on how much money we have available. We have been well-supported by donations recently for which we are very grateful. The late John Hampshire's donation for instance enabled us to offer sets of good quality children's garden tools. However, whatever the state of the coffers, we still aim to provide a variety of opportunities to the schools. This is because the schools vary significantly – some may be well-equipped, some just starting out on their gardening ventures, some may be surrounded by lots of space to fill with a variety of gardens, others may just have a tiny area to play with squeezed between the netball pitch and the bicycle rack. Therefore, offering a variety of opportunities is a way, we hope, of making sure all our schools benefit.

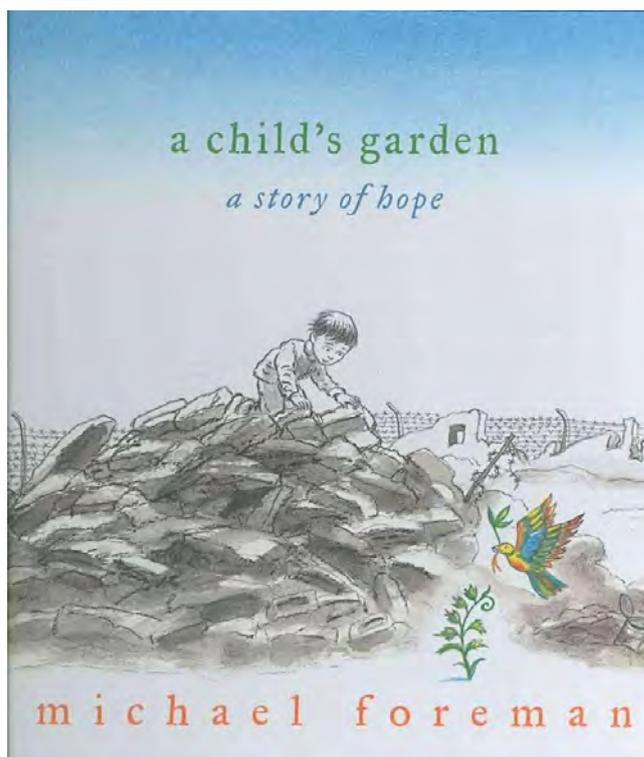
Firstly, and importantly, we give Grounds Development Awards. Schools apply, demonstrating their commitment to their project, its viability and usefulness, involvement of the children in the planning and use, and provisions for aftercare. Last year, a school near Middlesbrough put a hard path through a wild flower area. The children will be able to get right in amongst the flowers and wildlife to study nature and create artwork. A Sheffield school capitalized on its very successful growing by making a garden kitchen so that the children – to quote their teacher - 'can learn and benefit from all their hard work, by eating the produce they have grown from seed'. We are waiting to see what exciting ideas the schools come up with this time!

Secondly, we aim to offer something to all schools. This year, we offered laminated guides to 'Bugs and Beasties', and 'Butterflies' produced by the Field Studies Council. Those schools to whom that offer appealed applied and received the gift. We budget so that if all schools wanted that item, they would receive it. Also, funds permitting, we offer support for workshops or visits. This spring, using YGT's own funds, we offered to support a visit to Harlow Carr or the Arboretum at Castle Howard (equally wonderful facilities but quite different). Great Ouseburn chose to visit the Arboretum.

Lastly, we aim to give all schools something. In the Spring term, with the help of The Little Apple Bookshop in York, we sent a copy of 'A Child's Garden: A Story of Hope' by Michael Foreman to all member schools. Some of you may be familiar with his beautiful illustrations. This story tells of a boy in a war-torn world, caring for a fragile plant – and through that experience he makes contact with another child, a child of the 'enemy'. Well-reviewed by teachers, this book can be read on a number of levels and we hope will be useful in our schools. One grateful teacher wrote: "We have received ours...what a lovely surprise. Thank you so much."

The School's Group would like to thank Council, members of the YGT and those who have made donations, for making such outcomes as this possible.

The Schools Group



Midsummer Picnic

and visits to

Three Haggas Wood Meadow and Skipwith Hall Gardens

Tuesday 21 June 2016

Ros and Charlie Forbes Adam kindly provided hospitality for our Summer Picnic which was held at Skipwith Hall Gardens. The day started with a large band of us assembling at Three Haggas Wood Meadow for coffee and an introductory talk by Ros about the wood-meadow. This was followed by a conducted walk round the meadow and then on to the Hall for our picnic lunch, with our usual delicious strawberries and cream. We had the opportunity to listen briefly to Charlie talking about the house and then to walk around the garden. We were very lucky with the weather which remained bright and cheerful throughout the day.

The villages of Skipwith and Escrick are located in low-lying, rich alluvial farmland between the rivers Derwent and Ouse. The OS map reveals how cherished this land has been since Norman and earlier times, evidenced by a remarkably generous peppering of tumuli, mottes, moats and earthworks. Escrick Park had grown during the C17 and C18 to over 20,000 acres, one of the largest parks in the North of England but, following remarkably late enclosure and reluctant modernisation, the slings and arrows of death duties, etc. the Park has been reduced to about 8,000 acres today. It is now run from Skipwith Hall to which the family “downsized” from Escrick in 1929.

Three Haggas Wood Meadow

Ros noted that the UK has only 11% tree cover, the lowest in Europe, and she reminded us that the UK has lost 95% of its meadows in recent years. The creation of Three Haggas Wood Meadow seeks to demonstrate that this demeaning of our environment can be resisted, and perhaps reversed. Prince Charles has been quoted as recommending that every village should have its own meadow. Whilst Ros has been the driving force behind this project, the patron is George Peterkin and the Trust has received much advice from Professor John Lawton, author of *Making Space for Nature*.

The land which now comprises the wood-meadow had latterly been a barley field. As its name suggests, the wood-meadow combines woodland and meadow and offers a key method of enhancing and preserving wild life. The project occupies 25 acres of the Escrick Park Estate. It was set up as a registered charity in 2012, Haggas Woods Trust, which holds a 35 year lease on the land.

The area of this project has been designated community woodland and access is free. Grants have been obtained from the Forestry Commission and so far 10,000 trees have been planted, mainly in 12 copses. There are 28 species including oak, hazel, sycamore, and alder. The trees have been planted as small saplings and careful protection against injury by voles and mowing machines has enabled this aspiring woodland to reach generally 1m or 2m.

By careful management there are already 200 plant species flourishing in the meadow. The grass is mowed at Lammastide, a date carefully chosen to allow the flowers to have shed their seeds. The brush cutter mowing machines are carefully selected to weave optimally through the planting and the cut grass is sold to the local farmer.

We enjoyed the sunshine as we walked around the site with Ros. She told us, amongst other things, that a brood of blue tits needs the equivalent of 300 caterpillars a day to survive and a major aim is to



The Bodgers' Den and an information board at Three Haggas Wood Meadow
Image: Roger Lambert

provide a suitable habitat for insects, small mammals, birds and butterflies.

It was a most interesting walk. I'm sure we all learnt a great deal about the beneficial effects of such meadows on our wildlife and the encouragement of our native species of trees, grasses and flowers. Ros's enthusiasm was infectious and we wish her well in her venture.

Skipwith Hall and Gardens

We then relocated to Skipwith Hall where we enjoyed our picnics and strawberries and cream in the gardens. The current house was built in 1640, relocating from a nearby mediaeval moated site, and has been altered over the years culminating, in 2002, in a major restoration project carried out by Ros and Charlie; it is Grade II* listed.

The Hall became the family house for the Escrick Park Estate, in 1929 when Charlie's grandmother, Irene Forbes Adam, who had lived at Escrick Park, ran out of money. She had to "downsize" to Skipwith which she had never before visited! She added the east, west and north wings and she relocated the "front door" from the south front to the rear. Consequently, this is not a house which dominates or commands its garden, but rather sits in it as an equal.

The Gardens

Matthew Fox, the Head Gardener, escorted us round the gardens and informed us that Irene was responsible for much of the planting that we see today. Thirty years later in the 1960s, Irene's son Nigel reviewed much of the tree planting, felling some and creating a small arboretum to the SW of the house. Nigel also refurbished and replanted the Italian garden.

The original kitchen garden, with its heated wall dates from the 1700s but again reflecting change over the years, the planting layout in this space has been entirely reconfigured by Ros and Charlie in 2005. Helped by a designer, Miranda Holland-Cooper, the layout now boasts an immense circular theme of intricately interconnected, and sometimes hedged, beds with a dipping pond at its centre.

A mixed border has been created against a yew hedge alongside the main lawn. The arboretum now contains some attention-seeking sculptures. Exotic fruit trees have been added to the orchard, including espaliered and fan-trained apricots, peach, nectarines, figs and almonds. A garden shelter has been refurbished, with artist Linda Fenwick employing remarkable rocaille work. The result is a delightful, rococo summerhouse, incorporating a bust of Homer and providing the perfect setting for Ros and Charlie to have a private glass of wine of an evening when there are no visitors around!

This was once again a most rewarding visit. As new members of the Yorkshire Gardens Trust we have been most impressed by the interest and quality of the visits we have been on. Without exception we have thoroughly enjoyed them and we are most grateful to the hard work of the visits team and to Val, in particular, for her huge enthusiasm and knowledge.

Roger Lambert and Christine Miskin

From the Editor – I have to apologise to Roger and Christine for omitting this report from a 2016 Newsletter.



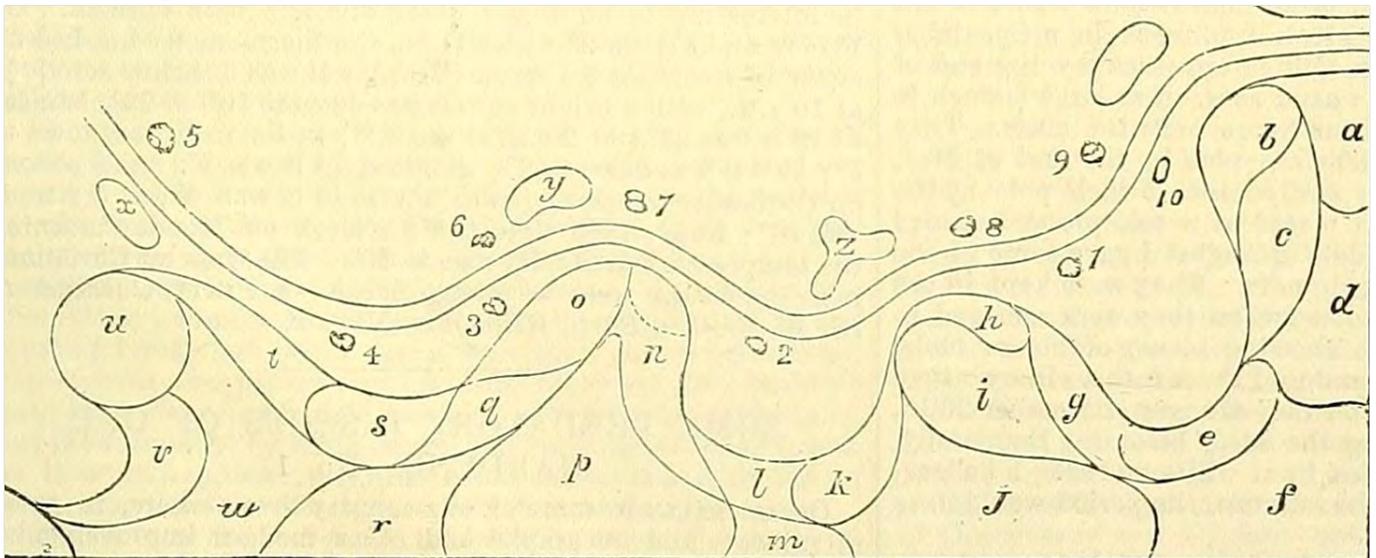
The kitchen garden at Skipwith Hall.
Image: Roger Lambert.

Research and Recording

One of the delights of researching and recording Yorkshire's historic designed landscapes is the sheer diversity of the sites. This is partly due to the large geographical area we cover, affording a great variety in the natural landscape but also the long history of garden making in our county. This extends to parts that one would not think would be fertile ground to make gardens such as the North York Moors. Earlier this year, we started looking at sites in the NYM National Park, starting with Grinkle Park between Guisborough and Whitby. George Abbey, the head gardener and the designer of the landscaped grounds, summed up his position on arrival at his post in 1870:

'Now, I am in the north-east corner of North Yorkshire, about 300 feet above the sea and perhaps three miles from it as the crow flies, exposed to its full effects when the wind blows from the east. South, and to a great extent westward, there are miles of moor. What succeeds here will do so almost anywhere. I must however state we are well sheltered to the north by plantations' (Journal of Horticulture and Cottage Gardener, 1 December)

However over the next 20 years, he created a delightful landscape using then the innovative design idea of using trees and shrubs for their colour and form [Figure 1]. While many plants from the original planting have now gone, some specimen trees remain as does the overall layout. It is for this reason that the North York Moors National Park Authority have put forward Grinkle Park for inclusion on the Historic England Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest.



a, Chinese Arbor-Vitae; b, Gold-leaved Holly; c, Rhododendron catawbiense varieties; d, Phillyrea olaeifolia; e, Azalea pontica varieties; f, Guelder rose; g, Kalmia glauca; h, Berberis empetrifolia; i, Syringa or Mock Orange, double-flowered; j, Green hollies; k, Deutzia gracilis; l, Aucuba foemina limbata; m, Scarlet Thorn; n, Weigela rosea, with the dotted space its variety variegata nana; o, Berberis darwinii; p, Portugal laurel; r, Scotch laburnum with Colchian laurel; s, Cydonia japonica; t, Silver Holly; u, laurustinus; v, Ribes varieties; w, Lilacs; x, Double Gorse; y, Kalmia; z, Scarlet Rhododendron and hardy Heaths

1 and 8, Kalmia latifolia; 9 and 10, Rhododendron; 2 and 7, Yucca recurve; 3 and 6, Andromeda floribunda; 4, Tree Paeony and 5, Rhus glabra laciniata

Figure 1: Planting plan for a border from article by George Abbey on 'Pruning Ornamental Trees and Shrubs, No. 7. (Journal of Horticulture, 29 December 1870)

We are researching five more sites in the North York Moors area. Louise Wickham is looking at Hutton Hall, Guisborough that was developed by Sir Joseph Whitwell Pease between 1867 and 1883. It is of great interest not only being a prime example of a late Victorian landscape, but also because she grew up next to it and so knows the landscape very well. Ruth and Chris Mayes are researching Busby Hall, where Chris is a volunteer. A new YGT member and now volunteer, Linda Chapman, is looking at Woodlands, outside Whitby, as she had previously done some research on it and Elleron Lodge, which is near to where she lives. Gail Falkingham, who is currently researching some sites in Hambleton, will go back to work she has done previously on Raithwaite Hall.

The last few remaining sites in the Selby District are being completed. As they are finished, they are being posted onto the YGT website. Please go to the 'Research' section and then click on the link for 'Selby District' where each site has its own page. Mary Ratcliffe has recently completed Thicket Priory and is currently working on Newton Kyme Hall. For both of these sites it was possible to track the ownership history from Domesday. However, despite extant remains of parkland and garden, very little documentary evidence exists concerning the construction and dating of garden features. What little there is, gives tantalising glimpses of owners' interests. For example in a memo book of 1774-1802, Robert Fairfax, the then owner of Newton Kyme Hall, frequently indicates the health of fish ponds:

'1774 Taken from the Lower Pond in the Low Garden 10 Brace of smallish Tench and put them into the Paddock Dyke [pond]. Made a Channel of Brick laid crossways betwixt the Upper and Lower Pond in the Lower Garden. 1780 The Upper Pond being let off there was found in it about 40 Brace of Carp 35 of which were returned into the Pond.'

While the upper and lower ponds no longer exist, the Paddock Dyke pond does, but what fish it contains is uncertain.

Work continues in the Hambleton district as we have a long list there! Margaret Mathews has completed the reports for two sites: East Rounton Lodge and Thornton Park (also known as Wood End). Her research on East Rounton is particularly interesting as it was the childhood home of the explorer and Arabist, Gertrude Bell. Judging by her letters that are preserved in an archive at Newcastle University (<http://gertrudebell.ncl.ac.uk/>), she had some strong opinions about how her father should lay out the garden after he inherited the property from his father! Also of note was her 1903 trip to Japan, where she met the plant hunter, Reginald Farrer, and the clear influence that had on the way the garden subsequently developed [Figure 2].

We are also looking to the future and will be starting research on sites in the Doncaster district of South Yorkshire in the second half of the year. Information on these can again be found on our website.

Research and Recording Team (Louise Wickham, Mary Ratcliffe, Helen Caffrey)



Figure 2: Looking from the rock garden pond towards the house along a lawned alley.
Pers_U_032 reproduced by permission of Gertrude Bell Archive, Newcastle University.

The following paragraph was inaccurately edited in the Research & Recording report in the Spring 2018 Newsletter, it should have read:

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 and the Doncaster district of South Yorkshire are currently under consideration.

Celebrating Humphry Repton 2018

1752-1818

Yorkshire Gardens Trust & Yorkshire Philosophical Society Joint Lecture
by Dr Patrick Eyres
and Book Launch on Tuesday 8 May 2018

***On the Spot: The Yorkshire Red Books of Humphry Repton, Landscape Gardener* by Dr Patrick Eyres and Karen Lynch**



William Holl the Elder after Samuel Shelley,
Humphry Repton, engraving,
frontispiece of Repton's *Observations on the
Theory and Practice of Landscape Gardening*, 1803
(© Leeds Library and Information Services)

On a pleasant balmy evening, members enjoyed a delightful walk through the Museum Gardens in York before arriving at the lively drinks reception in the Yorkshire Museum foyer to launch *On the Spot*. This occasion was the first opportunity to buy the sumptuous Repton book and have it signed by the authors.

Val Hepworth gave a brief speech welcoming all members to the celebration of Humphry Repton and bicentenary of the death of this picturesque landscape gardener. Thanks were due to Yorkshire Philosophical Society, the Yorkshire Museum and staff, the York office of Savills for sponsorship, the trustees of YGT who have been delighted to underwrite the book and finally to Patrick and Karen who have splendidly researched and investigated Repton in Yorkshire and produced *On the Spot*, an amazing record published by the New Arcadian Press.

Patrick responded with a brief preliminary setting of the scene on Repton; Patrick's knowledge of the "Talented Mr Repton" was inspiring. This left us just time for a very quick peek at the new *Yorkshire's Jurassic World* exhibition in the Museum before we were invited to take our seats for the lecture in the Tempest Anderson Hall along with the YPS members. Catherine Brophy, the chair of YPS, introduced the formal proceedings along with a thoughtful promotion for *On the Spot*.

Patrick began his lecture on Repton, 1752 to 1818, and his Yorkshire Commissions. He was 36 before starting his career as a professional landscape gardener having tried other careers and his success now rested on being able to follow in the footsteps of Capability Brown. Brown had managed a large team of men to accomplish his visions; Repton's strength lay in his talent for self-promotion and showmanship, combining landscape painter with visionary gardening ideas. He introduced a trade card showing himself at work and surveying a landscape. He discovered the *Pocket Companion* or *Peacock's Polite Repository* with amongst other wording in its title page, "Ornamented with Elegant Engravings" and, being aware of the value of print he was able to ensure his illustrations of improved places were in the popular almanac which he could distribute with his trade card to potential clients; cold calling in its early days!



Thomas Medland after Humphry Repton,
Trade Card of Humphry Repton,
engraving, 1788, frontispiece inserted in the
Red Book for Owston, 1793
(© Doncaster Heritage Services)

Repton's renown lay in his innovation of presenting his design proposals to clients in their own exclusive Red Book, a brilliant and unique concept. "On the Spot" referring to his site visit. There were at least nine known Red Books produced for Yorkshire clients. The books were so called because they were often bound in red Morocco leather with a colourful individually designed marbled flyleaf and the text all in handwritten copperplate. His showmanship was devising the illustrations of 'before' views of the existing unexciting landscape and the use of an overlay to show the possible dramatic 'after' views, thereby emphasising the magnificent transformation that could be achieved with his design and vision.

Despite Repton's brilliant talent he did not fully achieve the success he yearned for; his proposals were not always carried out and the wars with France brought about change and a shift in fortunes of his clientele. Patrick's PowerPoint presentation gave us details of the Yorkshire Red Books, two of which have been lost, and photographs showed many of Repton's illustrations. Of course, all this is in the book brilliantly produced by Patrick and Karen; to tell you more would spoil your enjoyment of *On the Spot*.

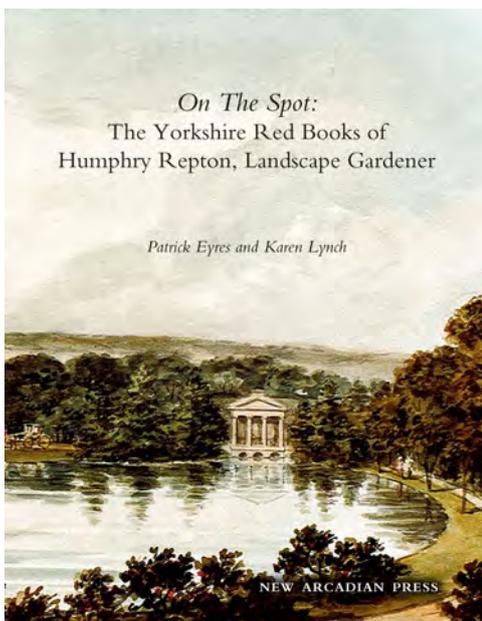
Patrick was thanked by Val for his truly absorbing and thoroughly enjoyable lecture. The book, not to be missed, can be ordered via The New Arcadian Press and by way of acknowledging the YGT's generous grant, the book remains at £20, including postage, which is a discount of 20% for YGT members only.

Review: *On the Spot*

The Yorkshire Red Books of Humphry Repton, Landscape Gardener

by Dr Patrick Eyres and Karen Lynch

This is a lavishly illustrated book to commemorate the bicentenary of the death of Humphry Repton, landscape gardener, written by Yorkshire Gardens Trust members Karen Lynch and Patrick Eyres. Repton



produced a 'Red Book' for each of his commissions, so called because they were often bound in red Morocco leather, he is known to have had nine such commissions in Yorkshire between 1790 and 1810 and each has been extensively researched by Karen. Where the Red Books for Yorkshire still exist they have been reproduced, both watercolours and text, together with information gleaned by Karen in her research. In the second part of the book Patrick goes on to consider Repton's Yorkshire patrons, the man himself and the context of the age in which he worked.

A very readable book whether as source of information or as a book to dip into and enjoy each of the reproduced Red Books one by one. This is a must for Yorkshire Gardens Trust members!!

Tony Cleaver

Payment options: by cheque payable to New Arcadian Press (sent to 13 Graham Grove, Leeds (LS4 2NF), via PayPal through the website (www.NewArcadianPress.co.uk), or by bank transfer to New Arcadian Press (Sort Code: 30-91-12, Acc No: 01958675).



Oulton Hall and the Yorkshire Red Books of Humphry Repton

Sunday 9 September 2.00 pm

Oulton Hall, Rothwell Lane, Oulton, Leeds LS26 8HN

Dr Patrick Eyres will give a talk about the work of Humphry Repton (1752 - 1818) in the setting of Oulton Hall, one of the estates designed by Repton.

To mark the bicentenary of the death of Humphry Repton (1752 - 1818), this talk will discuss his innovative role as a professional landscape gardener and successor to 'Capability' Brown, highlighting Red Books for local properties including Oulton Hall and Armley House.

After the talk there will be an opportunity to view some of Repton's work in the grounds.

To book: email Helen Blacker at hblacker@oultonhallhotel.co.uk

www.heritageopendays.org.uk

Image from Repton's Red Book for Ashridge gardens, courtesy of the Getty's Open Content Program.



Repton and Horticulture

Two Day International Conference

20 & 21 September 2018

Sheffield Botanical Gardens

<https://reptonandhorticulture.eventbrite.co.uk>

This year is the 200th anniversary of the death of Humphry Repton, one of England's finest landscape designers.

Organised by the Department of Landscape of the University of Sheffield and the Friends of the Sheffield Botanical Gardens, this conference will explore aspects of Reptonian and late Georgian horticulture.

Held in the beautiful surroundings of Sheffield's Botanical Gardens, the conference

will feature national and international experts on Repton, and a tour of the nearby Repton landscape at Wentworth Woodhouse.

The conference is aimed at those who own or manage late Georgian gardens, researchers in county gardens trusts, landscape architects involved in restoration projects, horticultural & garden history students, and anyone with an interest in plants and design in a historical context.



The University Of Sheffield.



Stanley Smith (UK) Horticultural Trust



THE GARDENS TRUST



Supported by Historic England

DISCOVERING THE REAL REPTON

County gardens trust members have another chance to hear YGT's Dr Patrick Eyres when he contributes to a Gardens Museum/Gardens Trust joint event on Monday 5 November from 10.30 am – 5.30 pm at the Gardens Museum, Lambeth Palace Road, London SE1 7LB. The programme is still being finalised but will include approx. 10 excellent speakers from CGTs nationwide.

The morning session will be chaired by Prof Stephen Daniels, speaker at our 2017 AGM (see p. 5).

To book, please visit: <https://gardenmuseum.org.uk/product/discovering-the-real-repton/>

YGT Visit to Rokeby Park

Saturday 12 May 2018

We gathered in May for a visit to Rokeby Park, beginning with the house itself. We were to be joined by members of the Northumbria Gardens Trust.

Rokeby Park is an ancient site situated between the A66, the River Greta and the River Tees. The Rokeby family lived during the medieval period in various houses on the site of the Mortham Pele Tower. The tower itself was built in the reign of Henry VII as a defence against the Scots' raiding



The approach to Rokeby Park from the west
Image: Gail Falkingham

parties. It still stands on higher ground to the east of the main house over the Greta.

Our arrival at the house was an immediate surprise as it is built in the Palladian style with balancing wings on either side. The house is partially decorated on the outer walls with an Italian ochre colour.

The land belonged to the Robinson family from the early 17th century and work begun on the house and grounds by William Robinson was continued later by Thomas Robinson. He was an amateur architect and drew up his own plans for the future house and grounds. He had the opportunity to travel to Italy on the Grand Tour and there saw the buildings constructed in the Palladian style.

Thomas had a wide circle of influential friends including Lord Burlington and Sir Walter Scott. Sir Walter often visited Rokeby and was said to have written his poem *Rokeby* in a grotto style cave built alongside the Greta. The site can still be seen today.

The house has undergone many additions and changes both inside and out with Thomas Robinson playing an active part in all developments during his lifetime. The estate was sold to the Morritt family in the middle of the 18th century and J. B. S. Morritt continued to develop the house and grounds. His sister, Anne lived in the house and was an artist and a very fine needlewoman. The collection of her needle work is hung in the house; they cover many varying subjects and are exquisite in their detail.

The interior of the house is welcoming and comfortable with some beautiful plaster work on the ceilings. It is thought that the ceiling arch in the dining room was designed by John Carr of York.

One cosy room is the print room with the rare appearance of the walls actually papered with prints of old masters.

Another feature of interest is the copy of the Rokeby Venus hanging in the Saloon. The original painting by Velasquez, once owned by the estate, now hangs in the National Gallery. The copy was painted by W. A. Menzies in 1906 after the original was sold by Major H.E. Morrit.

After the lunch break we broke into two groups, one group to undertake the longer estate routes and the other a more compact route. I accompanied the shorter route. The main impression is a pastoral parkland setting with ha-ha and sheep grazing in the fields near to the house. There are lawns to the east and west of the house and some perennial plantings on the edges but no formal gardens.

Once more it appears that the original Robinson plans for the layout of the grounds have undergone many changes involving the tree plantings, walks and axial rides during the 18th and 19th centuries. There are many parts that still offer the picturesque views that were so popular in the 18th century.

We approached the Greta from the east and found a steep scarp down to the river and the old Pleasure Ground. The banks at this stage have been reinforced to act as a defence against the river when in flood. The walk along the Greta at this time of year was indeed a pleasure with the wild flowers and native trees just coming into leaf.

It was difficult to find any evidence of the original kitchen garden set on the river bank as shown on the

1741 map. It may have been there as a feature for the benefit of the strollers at the time. There was no sign of a gardener's lodgings. The walled garden that is sited nearer the main entrance and the stables is a much more realistic site.

The River Greta itself is a delight and is still best described by the writings of a Travel Writer called Arthur Young in 1770 (Six months Tour through the North of England Volume 2 pp186, 187) “ .. raging like a torrent over the rocks, and tumbling in a romantic manner under the windows. A little below it joins the Tees, under noble rocks of free stone”.

Young describes the Pleasure Ground as having a tea-room, hence the windows. There have been a variety of bridges over the years built and felled over the Greta due to flooding damage. The Greta has long been the haunt of artists including Cotman and Turner, all seeking the romantic and the picturesque aspects of the terrain.



The River Greta runs through Rokeby Park
(Image: Gail Falkingham)

Our group, following the shorter route came next to the Dairy Bridge as a crossing. Looking down river from there is the meeting of the Greta and the Tees. This is a very well known local spot called ‘The Meeting of the Waters’ and is still as dramatic as when captured in earlier paintings and drawings.

We crossed the bridge and walked into the land that now surrounds the Morthem Tower at the top of the slope. The views from there provided another aspect of the Rokeby estate.

When we returned down to the Greta again we approached the house once more, stopping for a look at the ice house on the way.

Finally on our way back to the stables we passed the remains of the Roman altar stones arranged on the lawn, reminding us of the Greta Bridge encampment nearby and all the history of this ancient place.

The house and grounds are open to the public on two days of the week during the spring and summer. I certainly intend to return here and undertake another leisurely stroll through these entrancing grounds.

Our thanks go to the curator, Sally Davies and her team for providing us with such a knowledgeable and informative day at Rokeby Park.

Roz Earle

Yorkshire Philosophical Society— Book Launch

As part of its bicentenary celebrations, YPS is publishing a history of York Museum Gardens, researched and written by YPS members Dr Peter Hogarth (University of York) and Professor Ewan Anderson (University of Durham). The book will reveal the rich history of these grounds from Roman times to the present day, add to our knowledge of York and explore the wider context of botanic and public gardens; it will also reveal the many stories of the Gardens’ rich history from the escaped bear to the Champion trees and with its many illustrations will explore plant, animal and human life there.

YPS is grateful for the support of YGT with a generous donation towards the costs of publishing the book.

Subscriptions in advance of publication are available at the discounted price of £20 (full price £25); all orders will be acknowledged.

Yorkshire Philosophical Society, The Lodge, Museum Gardens, York, YO1 7DR

Tel 01904 656713 Email: info@ypspsych.org

Website: www.ypspsych.org

Charity registration no. 529709



Bloom! York

5-8 July 2018

Celebrating 250 years of horticulture in York 1768-2018



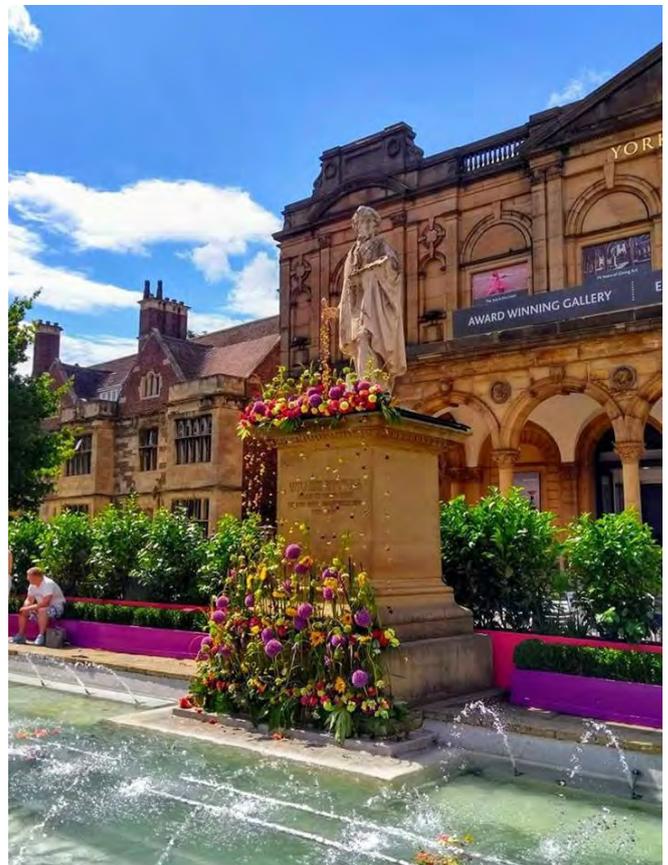
ASYF plaque above the door of Barnitts Limited on Colliergate, York. *Image: Peter Mathers*

The transformation of York city centre into a horticultural paradise was masterminded by Lotte Inch, known to many Yorkshire Gardens Trust members, to celebrate 250 years since the first flower show of The Ancient Society of York Florists in 1768. In the 17th century, a florist was a person who grew a very limited range of flowers for exhibition and at that first show, prizes were awarded for the best Auricula, Hyacinth and Polyanthus. The show was held at a public house, The Sandhill which is where Barnitts' lighting department is today in Kings Square; in 2010 YGT contributed to the above plaque on that spot. The number of events taking place over the weekend of 5-8 July was amazing including: floral displays in York's squares, a floral boat on the Ouse, a beer gardens competition, a garden trail of hidden York gardens, posh floral afternoon teas, brilliant activities for children, flowers in Fairfax House and Mansion House, not to mention the Ancient Society's Summer Flower Show in a marquee in Parliament Street, the list was seemingly endless.

YGT members contributed to two main events both held at Bootham School, York. The first was a question and answer session on the famous Backhouse nurseries of York chaired by Janette Ray with Backhouse experts Penelope Dawson Brown and Peter Goodchild answering questions and revealing fascinating information about the two founder brothers and rise and subsequent demise of the nursery. YGT also contributed to a blue plaque in 2017 on their house in Micklegate. The other event was a talk and visual presentation, *York Gardens and Gardeners* by myself supported by YGT. There was a brief history of The Ancient Society together with mini biographies of the Backhouses, George Russell (lupins) and George Yeld (hemerocallis), all of whom put York on the horticultural map. These were interspersed with images of some of the delightful private and public gardens in York.

My own personal favourites of Bloom! were; the garden created around the statue of William Etty and his fountain in front of York Art Gallery, the amazing garden in St Helen's Square and the village green in St Sampson's Square. On one of the hottest weekends of a hot Summer it was wonderful to enter Holy Trinity Church, Micklegate where it was so cool amidst the trees that filled the nave with lovely birdsong everywhere. Bloom! was four splendid days and it was a delight to be part of it.

Tony Cleaver

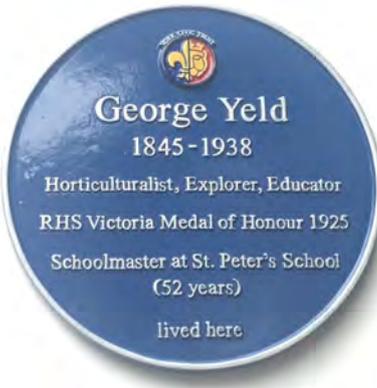


The William Etty statue in Exhibition Square, York beautifully decorated for Bloom!
Image: Chris Lowther

York Gardeners Remembered

On Saturday 7 July as part of the Bloom! York weekend, York Civic Trust unveiled plaques to two gardeners who both helped put York the horticultural map.

At midday a plaque was unveiled on a terraced house in Kensington Street, a house with no garden, to George Russell who became known as the lupin man. He was born on 13 October 1857 in the village of Stillington and became a gardeners' boy, going on to work for the Backhouse Nursery before becoming a jobbing gardener. In a vase in his employer's house he saw lupins, not as we know them today but with few florets and he spent the next 20 years developing a fuller stem of florets and in a greater variety of colours. He relied on bees for pollination and was ruthless in destroying what he thought were inferior; all this was done on his allotment.



The second plaque, to schoolmaster George Yeld (1845-1938) was unveiled on the cottage in which he lived during the 52 years he taught at St Peter's School, York. School holidays were spent climbing the Alps or mountains nearer home in Wales and the Lake District, exploring and discovering alpine plants. At home in York he became a hybridiser of Hemerocallis (Day Lilies) and won awards from the RHS for new varieties. This culminated in Yeld being awarded the RHS Victoria Medal of Honour in 1925.

Tony Cleaver

2019 Events— a Date for your Diary

Snowdrops at Goldsborough Hall

Saturday 9 February 2019 at 1.30pm
Cost £14.00 per person, includes cream tea.



Snowdrops and aconites at Goldsborough Hall.
Image: Tony Cleaver

The first event of 2019 will be a visit to Goldsborough Hall, near Knaresborough to see snowdrops, by kind permission of Mark and Clare Oglesby. Mike Heagney has kindly agreed to take us on a tour of the Snowdrop Walk he created in 2012 with Della Kerr, which has over 50 rare species and he will also bring snowdrops to sell. You will also be able to walk in the gardens, planted with hellebores and sheets of winter aconites and snowdrops, so please wear suitable warm clothing and sensible shoes. Dogs allowed, on leads.

Afterwards there will be cream teas in the Orangery.

Tickets will be on sale early next year, but if you are a really early bird please let Maddy Hughes know at events@yorkshiregardenstrust.org that you would like to reserve tickets.

Please remember the new procedure for booking YGT events, as outlined in the YGT members' events' programme. Not a member? Find out more at www.yorkshiregardenstrust.org.uk/join_us

Newsletter Spring 2019

Deadline for next edition: Thursday 6 December 2018

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