



YORKSHIRE GARDENS TRUST NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 45

Autumn 2019

YGT Schools' Group

How we do what we do!



Pupils from Ingleby Greenhow C of E Primary School releasing their butterflies from the YGT hatching kit.
(Photo credit: Ingleby Greenhow C of E Primary School)

There are several of us on this Sub-Committee – Nicola Harrison, who has given much time to YGT schools, Lucy Porritt and myself, Sue Lindley. We're ably supported by Fiona Barlow 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 forty-three member schools.

How we do this varies from year to year depending on how much money we have available but, whatever the state of the coffers, we still aim to provide a variety of opportunities to the schools.

This is because they vary significantly: some may be well-equipped, some are 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. Offering a variety of opportunities is a way, we hope, of making sure all our schools benefit.

Over one year we aim to give all schools something which we choose. Last year it was a book; this year it was a packet of cornflower seeds chosen as a follow-up to last year's laminated guides to insects. The seeds were kindly donated by Thompson and Morgan but we paid the distribution costs.

Additionally, each year we budget so that we can offer

something to all schools: it might be a mushroom box or, as this year, a butterfly hatching kit. (We are hoping the butterflies will enjoy the cornflowers!) Those schools to whom the offer appeals will apply and receive the gift. Next year we are planning to offer butterfly-friendly plants.

Each year we like to offer support for workshops, equipment or visits, such as the Wack's Wicked Plants Workshops about carnivorous plants, and this year's support was for a Yorkshire garden visit to one of the following: Whirlow Farm near Sheffield, Harlow Carr, the Yorkshire Arboretum, Beningbrough Hall and Burton Constable, which was an intentionally wide geographical spread to try and encourage as many schools as possible to apply.

We chose the successful school by taking

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names from a hat and Pyebank School in Sheffield was the lucky winner. Funds limit these more expensive offers so we can only give a few schools the chance each year.

Our children's hand tool kit offers have been very popular and we do hope funds will enable us to continue to offer schools such practical support.

Finally, we give **Grounds Development Awards**, normally two a year. Schools must apply for these, demonstrating their commitment to their project, its viability and usefulness, the involvement of the children in the planning and use, and provisions for aftercare. This year, our successful applicants are using the awards to build new raised beds (selling the produce in the village

shop!) and to renovate an over-grown garden. The winners were Halifax Academy, Clapham Primary and East Morton Primary.

I'll end with the words of one teacher at a large inner-city school which demonstrate why we do what we do. On hearing that they'd won our offer of support for a school visit to Whirlow Farm near Sheffield, she wrote:

"It will be a great first-hand experience for our children, most of whom have never left the city".

We'd like to thank Council, members of the YGT, and those who have made donations, for ensuring such things are possible.

Sue Lindley

YGT Membership Renewals and GDPR

YGT annual memberships are due for renewal on 1 April each year. The recently introduced General Data Protection Regulations permit us only to communicate with current members. Therefore, members paying annually by cheque are encouraged to forward payment promptly to the Membership Secretary.

No reminders will be sent because we must now interpret non payment as your resignation and this prevents us from any further contact with you.

We are most grateful for members' support which enables us to achieve so much together, and we hope you will wish to renew. Please post your renewal cheque, made payable to Yorkshire Gardens Trust (in full), to 14 Huntington Road, York YO31 8RB. Thank you.

YGT: Ways to Keep in Touch

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.

Future event details: as mentioned on the back page of this newsletter, please contact

Vicky Price: dvickyprice@waitrose.com or Madalyn Hughes: madalynhughes@aol.co.uk



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Val Hepworth BEM

British Empire Medal awarded to Val in the Queen's Birthday Honours 2019

Val Hepworth, co-founder and recently retired Chair of Yorkshire Gardens Trust, has been awarded the British Empire Medal in the Queen's Birthday Honours 2019 for her services to Yorkshire Gardens Trust (YGT) and conservation. Lady Legard, a Vice President of YGT, commented on Val's Award:

"YGT is delighted that Val's hard work for the Yorkshire Gardens Trust and landscape conservation has been recognised. This honour represents well over 20 years' outstanding service by Val to YGT and its work with historic landscapes throughout Yorkshire: protecting them from decay or destruction, preserving them for all to enjoy and introducing new audiences, such as the young people of our 47 partner schools, to their heritage.

Val's efforts have made an invaluable contribution to the horticultural and architectural landscape of Yorkshire for everyone in the UK, and indeed the world, to enjoy."

Val Hepworth's time as Chair of Yorkshire Gardens Trust coincided with several significant and highly successful projects, those to mark the tercentenary of Lancelot 'Capability' Brown in 2016 being of especial note. Yorkshire has many stunning historic landscapes, from small public parks to country estates sprawling across the County. As a founder member of YGT in 1996, Val's passionate support, promotion and on occasion, vehement protection of these precious places has been crucial to their flourishing, for all to enjoy.

Val commented: "I am profoundly honoured ... and stunned...to have received this award. As part of the founding YGT team I have sought to protect and promote Yorkshire's historic gardens, designed landscapes and views treasured by so many, and to nurture those skilled people (architects, landscape architects, local authorities, craftsmen, gardeners, farmers and property owners) who care for them. Yorkshire and more widely the UK really does offer something for everybody but the County Gardens



Val Hepworth BEM with a backdrop of *Rosa Adélaide d'Orléans*
(Photo credit: Ian Hepworth)

Trusts, and in our case YGT, play a vital role. YGT has achieved an enormous amount: a small charity comprising largely volunteers and yet covering one of the largest counties. Working with the national Gardens Trust, it is the statutory consulting body for historic landscape conservation and planning matters throughout Yorkshire; a not insignificant task. Our numerous successes over the past 23 years have been achieved only by the ongoing efforts of members including dear friends now departed and I have been privileged to work with so many outstanding specialists. I would also like to pay tribute to my husband, Ian, who as many of you will know, like me started out as a scientist but became increasingly involved with our historic buildings. He and the family have always given me much support... as long as I kept making cake.

YGT encourages everybody to appreciate their surroundings, starting on their doorstep; there is so much out there to discover. Our parks and gardens continue to be vitally important for our health and well-being apart from the sheer pleasure that they impart. Protecting this throughout Yorkshire and enabling others to enjoy it for many years ahead has been, truly, a privilege."

Congratulations to Val from all at YGT

Snowdrops at Goldsborough Hall

Saturday 9 February 2019

After a wild, wet and windy night thanks to Storm Erik we were blessed with a mostly dry and sunny afternoon for our visit to see not just the snowdrops but also the extensive work undertaken to restore the gardens at Goldsborough Hall, owned since 2005 by Clare and Mark Oglesby.

History of Goldsborough Hall

In 1599 Richard Hutton, a London lawyer who was knighted by King James I in 1617, purchased the village of Goldsborough and built the Hall. It was occupied by Cromwell's army during the siege of Knaresborough Castle in 1644 and then passed down through the female side until it was sold to Daniel Lascelles in 1953 and became part of the Harewood House estate. Moira Fulton, who wrote an article for *Newsletter Issue 26* on the previous YGT visit in April 2010, provided the following historical background to the Hall from this time:

“By 1762 Daniel Lascelles, brother of Edwin Lascelles of Harewood had bought the Goldsborough Estate, having abandoned his building plans at Plumpton. He employed John Carr to remodel the Hall and Richard Woods, the fashionable landscape designer, to draw up plans for the grounds. On his death in 1784, Daniel Lascelles left the Goldsborough Estate to his brother, Edwin.

In 1763 Richard Woods drew up a plan for improvements to the pleasure grounds for Daniel Lascelles. His brief seems to have been to modify an existing geometric layout, recorded in a survey by Thomas Pattison in 1738, rather than to create a large-scale designed landscape. In 1764 Woods sent detailed instructions to his foreman, William Stone, at Goldsborough, and presumably some of his recommended plantings of flowers, shrubs and evergreens, in clumps and borders were undertaken. There is a copy of Wood's plan of 1763 and discussion of his planting scheme in Mark Laird, *The Flowering of the English Landscape Garden*, Philadelphia, University of Pennsylvania Press, 1999. The plans are in West Yorkshire Archives.

However, by 1765, Daniel Lascelles had given the commission to re-plan the grounds to Thomas White, a landscape designer who favoured the large-scale extensive landscape with trees rather than the intimate pleasure grounds of Richard Woods.”



The South Front. (Photo credit: Chris and Ruth Mayes)

Recent history

The Hall has had a varied history in the last century, in 1922 becoming a Royal residence when Henry Lascelles married Princess Mary and they made it their home. During World War II it housed Oatlands School and was sold to the school in 1951. In 1961 it again became a private house, and was converted to a nursing home which was sold to BUPA in 1997. The Oglesby family saved the Hall from developers when they bought it from BUPA in 2005.

Tour of the garden

Our tour, led by Mike Heagney and the Goldsborough Hall gardener Mark Waller, was highly informative and allowed us to see both what remains of the historic landscape and to admire the work that has taken place over the period since the Oglesby family began to implement their vision to secure the Hall's future as a venue with luxury accommodation for weddings and functions and as a family home.

We began by admiring the first of three British Champion trees, a *Robinia Pseudoacacia* which dates back to c. 1706. It is the oldest Robinia recorded in Yorkshire and has the largest multi-stem girth for its species in Britain. It is reputed to be the burial site of the famous horse Byerley Turk, one of three fathers of all of today's thoroughbreds. The nearby evergreen oak *Quercus x Turneri 'pseudoturneri'* is a Yorkshire champion due to its huge girth.

Mike's vast knowledge of trees was apparent throughout our tour but no more so than when we were looking at a tree which he had on a previous visit been able to identify as a Japanese Plum Yew, *Cephalotaxus 'harringtonia var drupacea'*. North of here are two giant redwoods, *Sequoiadendron giganteum* planted very close together and out of proportion to the surrounding planting. We speculated that those who planted them were perhaps unaware of their potential size.

Next on the tour was a clearing, kept as a wildlife haven.

As well as our first sight of snowdrops and aconites we also saw the pet cemetery including the grave of George, a Komondor (Hungarian sheepdog). Mark commented on the challenging bamboo.

We then admired the Norman door of the estate's church and were told of the find in 1859 of the Goldsborough Hoard, coins and artefacts dating from 900 – 1050 and now housed at the British Museum. The churchyard is closed, having been replaced by a new site on the edge of the village but the beautiful church is an added attraction for the many weddings held at the Hall.

As we returned to the sweeping lawns we saw our next British Champion trees, two purple leaved plums *Prunus cerasifera Pissardii*, which have the largest multi-stem girth and are believed to date from the 1860s. We were advised that the Union Jack cut into the lawn is in fact the helipad, a dramatic aerial view is enjoyed by guests arriving by this means of transport. Nearby was an impressive copse of Japanese cherry trees *Prunus 'Shirotae' Mount Fuji*, a gift from the Emperor of Japan to Princess Mary. These are a beautiful sight in May when the white blossom is complemented by blue scilla.

The Lime Walk is a quarter mile avenue of *Tilia europea var Handsworthensis*. Mike explained to us that the trees in the Lime Walk and some in other parts of the garden were supplied by Fisher, Son and Sibray Ltd of Handsworth Nurseries in Sheffield who had a Royal Warrant to George V and hence would have supplied Princess Mary. All the 34 lime trees bear the name of the Royal visitors who planted them in the 1920s. When facing south, all those on the left were planted by gentlemen, all those on the right by ladies.

The next stage of our tour revealed Mark's passion for growing vegetables. He was delighted to be able to show us the new glasshouse and planting area which is nearing completion.

The glasshouse is split into three sections which allows for a range of temperatures.



New glasshouse. (Photo credit: Chris and Ruth Mayes)

Mark explained that for ten years he was a market gardener and his knowledge and enthusiasm for providing a range of vegetables for the Hall was exemplified by his plan to plant the raised bed (also in the shape of a Union Jack) with brassicas of the appropriate shades. He also has plans for, amongst other produce, pumpkins, asparagus, courgettes, herbs and rhubarb. Mark is excited by the opportunity that the propagation space gives him to raise annuals to add to the summer display of perennials.

Woodland snowdrop walk

Mike then led us via the Champion of Britain whitebeam, a rare *Sorbus Latifolia*, to the woodland walk. This greeted us with a carpet of aconites and snowdrops with a sculpture of a stag set amongst them. Clare Oglesby has been a driver in the planting of the snowdrops and sought advice from Mike in choosing and planting the increasing range of rare and unusual varieties such as *Galanthus S. Arnott* which has the scent of honey and *Galanthus Angel* which is named for Mike's sister Gel. Mike told us how he found this broad-leaved variety after asking the owners of a house near Otterington Hall where he was working whether he could dig some up. He subsequently found out that the garden had previously been a nursery, but sadly the remaining plants were lost after later owners got rid of them.

We also saw the recently planted orchard with 30 trees of apple, medlar, damson, pear, greengage, quince and plum, and the Princess Mary bower with its semicircle of copper beech around a stone seat and a view across to the parkland.

An added bonus for the galanthophiles (the name derives from the Greek 'gala' milk and 'anthos' flower) among us was a very informative board explaining the history of snowdrops in Britain. They are not in fact native, having originally been brought over by the Romans but becoming more widespread after soldiers who served in the Crimean War brought bulbs back in their pockets. And of course, there was the wonderful plant stall which left many of us well out of pocket as we were spoilt for choice with tempting species of snowdrop as well as aconites, hellebores and iris.

Our recovery was guaranteed with a very welcome and delicious cream tea served in the delightful orangery, during which Val Hepworth thanked Mark and Mike and our very welcoming hosts Clare and Mark Oglesby. Doubtless many of us will return when the garden is open in the summer; its informative leaflet gives very tempting descriptions of the development of the long borders and rose garden.

Ruth Mayes

Visit to Aldby Park

Thursday 2 May 2019



Aldby Park west front
(Photo credit: Gail Falkingham)

We were fortunate to have a beautiful Spring day for our visit to Aldby Park. The rain held off and we saw the house and garden at their best. The handsome house of brick with stone dressings is approached on the west side, overlooking a wide green expanse which was formerly used by the local cricket club. The present avenue of poplars, replacing dead elms, will in due course be flanked by a recently planted double avenue of Sargentii cherry and lime trees.

The interest of Aldby lies not only in the distinguished 18th century house and garden but also in the Castle Mound, the remains of an ancient fortification whose earliest association is with Edwin, King of Northumbria, who is thought to have had one of his palaces or strongholds here. There is also a tradition of a motte-and-bailey castle on the site, borne out by some of the existing features. William Camden on his Yorkshire tour of 1582 dismisses the site as two small hillocks “the rubbish of an old castle”. Fortunately Peter Goodchild came on our visit, armed with maps to help us to look more closely and attempt to untangle the history of a still problematic historic site.

The visit began in the Hall where we were welcomed by George and Sara Winn-Darley, with warming drinks and homemade shortbread. As we assembled, there was an opportunity to admire the vast portrait of one of the distinguished inhabitants of Aldby, the legendary stallion Darley Arabian, shipped from Aleppo to Hull in 1703 and

destined to be the most famous sire of today’s racing bloodstock.

History of the house

George explained the history of the house and garden. The family established itself at Aldby in 1557, when William Darley bought the land from the Countess of Westmorland, who had in turn acquired it at the Dissolution of the Monasteries. The present house, built by John Brewster Darley and his wife Jane, dates from 1726, although the grand hall with its classical columns and splendid cantilever staircase were part of the enriching of the house by Henry Wyatt in 1840. Two wings were also added then, to accommodate a ballroom and dining room, but were subsequently pulled down in the 1950s to make a more manageable house. On the south side Francis Johnson designed a small conservatory. After occupation by the army in the Second World War, the house and garden fell into disrepair and was finally reclaimed by the family in the 1960’s. It remains a family house today.

History of the garden

Peter Goodchild outlined for us the history of the garden, much of which is undocumented. However, evidence of the earlier house on the site exists in a Buck drawing circa. 1720. More significant is the existence of a 1633 plan by George Osborne of Hull which shows the early house, closer to the Castle Mound than the present house, with the layout of circular paths on the Mound still evident today. The mill stream was

diverted in a loop from the River Derwent at the time, to drive a corn mill and to bring water closer to the early house.

The present grand garden with its terraces and walks dates from the mid-eighteenth century, following on, no doubt, from the building of the new house. The terraced lawns lead down to the steep bank to the Derwent below and create a formal setting to the garden side of the house. A surviving bill of 1746 shows that Lord Burlington's gardener Knowlton was responsible for the layout – "levelling, making and forming" – as well as planting, and uniting the earlier Castle Mound in the scheme. The final documented chapter in the garden's history was in the 1950s when Jim Russell advised on planning after the demolition of the wings. Peter brought copies of the project, although it is uncertain how much was in fact executed. Russell's papers are preserved in the Borthwick Institute.



Aldby Park terraced lawns to east
(Photo credit: Gail Falkingham)

Tour of the garden

After this introduction we emerged on the garden side of the house to find ourselves at the top of the terraced lawns, which provide a wonderful setting for the house, and then a gradual descent to the steep drop to the mill stream and the River Derwent beyond. Both lawns are flanked by massive yew hedges and the upper lawn is punctuated by four Irish yews and statues of the Four Seasons, concrete replacements for originals sadly stolen. Peter drew our attention to the similarities of the layout to that at Duncombe Park and Rousham, with curving terraces and walks designed around a steep drop and views into wider countryside. Perhaps a firmer connection between the two Yorkshire parks may eventually be discovered.

We then made our way along the wide grass walk leading to Castle Mound, admiring two huge ancient yew trees at the base of the Mound and delightful images of a hare and a fox carved into the stumps of felled sycamores. These carvings by

Karl Barker, the Yorkshire chainsaw carver, turned out to be a charming and unexpected feature of the garden, and several more were spotted as we walked around.



Aldby Park castle mound shrubbery from west
(Photo credit: Gail Falkingham)

The grass walk led us to the brick façade of the ice house, which must have been tunnelled deep into the Mound and from there we took one of the circular paths that lead up and around the Mound. As Camden discerned, there are not one but two mounds and Peter pointed out the significance of Osborne's plan of 1633 which shows the layout of the Mound with circular paths, much as it is today. This introduces the tantalising possibility that there could have been an even earlier Tudor or Stuart garden. As we descended on the west side of the mound, the deep ditch or moat, connecting this area with the motte-and-bailey tradition, posed more questions: perhaps future research will be able to throw light on the development of a fascinating historic site.

After a delicious light lunch, ably provided by Sara, we were able to wander further in the park and garden and many of us took the winding path down the escarpment to the mill stream, with the possibility of crossing the wooden bridge to the island and the River Derwent beyond. Above our heads the steep bank was thickly planted with white narcissi and wild garlic dotted the path. It was interesting to see the charming brick corn mill whose predecessor had housed the famous Darley Arabian.

We left feeling there was much still to explore. George and Sara were wonderfully generous hosts and we enjoyed a fascinating day. We left them with copies of the 19th century flower garden plan from North Yorkshire County Records Office and two historic plans which we hope will be a reminder of a very happy visit.

Catherine Thompson-McCausland

Armley House and Gott's Park

Saturday 16 March 2019



The front elevation of Gott's Park.
(Photo credit: Karen Lynch)

YGT Study Day on Humphry Repton

The day at Armley House arrived with snow on the ground at home and a poor weather forecast. As the labyrinthine roads round Leeds were also to navigate I set out with some trepidation. I was fortunate to arrive in good time and the approach from the road gave an immediate impression of how the house is located on a high point with the land falling away on three sides. Entering the house I received a warm welcome from the staff at what is now used as the club house for the golf course. The programme planned for the day started with background talks by Nick Mercer, trustee of Wade's Charity which now owns Gott's Park, and Peter Goodchild representing the Garland Trust on the Repton Exhibition currently on display in the mansion. Following on Patrick Eyres shared his knowledge about Humphry Repton at Armley, Harewood and Oulton. This was scheduled to take us up to lunch with outdoor tours arranged for the afternoon, although unfortunately the adverse weather foreshortened these.

Wade's Charity and Gott's Park

Nick Mercer, with help from the charity's property adviser Janet Hindle, told us about Wade's Charity and how it came to buy Gott's Park. Although few people are aware of the charity it originates from the Will of Thomas

Wade in 1530 which provided for funds to "remain and go to the use of mending, upholding and keeping of the highways about Leeds".

The Leeds Improvement Act 1866 provided that the entire management of the making, maintaining, paving, repairing, covering and cleansing of the streets within the borough should be vested in the Leeds Corporation. Almost inevitably the existence of two highway authorities caused difficulty and in 1884 the Corporation applied to the Charity Commissioners for a new Scheme to be established and administered by the Corporation.

After court proceedings which progressed as far as the Attorney General the Wade's Charity continued, but with a new scheme. This scheme with some amendment is still in operation today. The essential objects of the Charity were changed to the following: "providing and maintaining, or providing or maintaining, open spaces in the borough of Leeds, for the benefit and recreation or health of the inhabitants".

Between 1893 and 1939 the bulk of the Charity's existing open spaces were acquired. This included the purchase in 1928 of Gott's Park together with Armley House from the Gott family. It was immediately leased back to Leeds City Council for maintenance. Then in the early 1930s a municipal golf course was constructed in the

Park, providing work for unemployed people in the locality.

In April 2015, members of Gott's Park Golf Club formed a Community Interest Company to take over running the course following Leeds City Council's decision to close it as a municipal course. Armley House, a Grade 2 listed building, is partially occupied by the Golf Clubhouse. Wade's Charity Trustees have concerns about the condition of this important historic building, and are encouraging its tenants, Leeds City Council, to find a long term sustainable future for a fully restored house.

Wade's Charity is currently providing funding in partnership with the Council's Parks & Countryside Service for a part-time Ranger for Gott's Park. Using Armley House, now also known as Gott's Park Mansion as her base, Claire Rogers is working with the Friends Group and Golf Club to run a range of events and encouraging practical volunteering activities in Armley and Gott's parks.

There is more information on the Wade's Charity website: www.wadescharity.org

History of Gott's Park

Nick described how Gott's Park is now reached from Armley Ridge Road. It sits in a prominent position above the Aire Valley with views along Kirkstall Vale to the Abbey and in the other direction to Leeds City Centre. The Park takes its name from Benjamin Gott a wealthy Leeds merchant, woollen manufacturer and civic leader. He bought Armley House and its parkland at the turn of the 19th century.

From here he could look down on one of his factories, Armley Mills, which was then the largest factory in Europe. It was powered by water and was the first to be lit by gas which allowed 24 hour working. He built it on the ashes of a mill that had previously burned down. It is designed using wrought and cast iron which were being pioneered by Robert Smirke to make it as near fireproof as possible. It now houses Leeds Industrial Museum.

Benjamin Gott employed the eminent landscape designer Humphry Repton to advise him on enhancing the park and house. The remodelling of the house in the then new Greek Revival style was actually completed around 1820 under the guidance of architect Sir Robert Smirke. This was the first house in England in the Palladian style and predates Belsay in Northumberland by a year. It also uses cast and wrought iron for a structural frame, some doors and window shutters. The frame is visible in the basement.

Repton's original Red Book for Armley House is now at the Oak Spring Garden Foundation library in the USA.

Repton Exhibition:

The Original Landscape Gardener

Peter Goodchild told us about the Repton exhibition, *The Original Landscape Gardener*, which ran throughout March and April in Armley House. It was hosted by Gott's Park Golf Club Community Interest Company, in association with Wade's Charity and Leeds City Council Parks & Countryside Service, with support from the North of England Horticultural Society (Harrogate Flower Shows), The Garden Museum, London, The Leeds Industrial Museum at Armley Mills, The Yorkshire Gardens Trust, GARLAND (The Garden & Heritage Trust, York) and the Friends of Armley & Gott's Park. A specially commissioned digital animation of the Armley Red Book narrated by Jeremy Irons allows visitors to step inside and experience the magic of Repton's designs.

As a legacy of the Armley exhibition and the Repton bicentenary there will be three permanent display panels at Armley and the film will continue to be shown. The Repton trail leaflet will also be available to collect from the house.

On the Spot:

the Yorkshire Red Books of Humphry Repton

Next was the talk by Patrick Eyres, co-author with Karen Lynch, of the book *On The Spot: The Yorkshire Red Books of Humphry Repton*. It is a mine of information - everyone should have a copy!

The talk centered on Repton's commissions around Leeds: Armley, Harewood and Oulton. Their Tory Anglican owners were the landed and industrial elite who were on good terms socially. All three Red Books are reproduced in the book. Patrick clearly has a very thorough and practical knowledge of Armley House, the Park and its origins. This was enhanced further by the knowledge of those present, in particular the manager Clive Walton, who has known the site all his life. The basic arrangement of the house with two flanking pavilions was proposed by Repton but the final appearance was very different. The pavilions have now been demolished. Repton recognized that Leeds was even then expanding towards Armley House and proposed much tree planting which closely followed his proposals whilst the carriage approach was left very open. The terrace was built, but with a fence not a balustrade. More details with the water colours and reveals are in the Red Book.

There was much discussion of the two storey bay window over which the portico has been built. Reference was made to Gott's son who died on the Grand Tour and was buried in the Temple of Theseus in Athens. The bay seems incongruous but references can be made to the Temple of Theseus. Gott was a cultured man and there are sensitive monuments to him sculpted by his relative Joseph Gott showing him both as a local wool man and in the Greek style.

Tours of the Park

At lunchtime tours of the basement led by Clive proved very popular and provided a fascinating insight into the past. This was followed by a showing of the digital animation of the Armley Red Book before we ventured outside.

It had brightened but it was still raining and the wind blowing so we kept to the high ground to explore nearer the mansion. We could see the

foundations of the two demolished wings, the service yard and the substantial conservatory on the south side all of which were identified by Clive. We learned that the blackened columns of the portico were deliberate. Gott had gone to some expense to have the stonework carbonized so that the house blended better with the landscape when seen from across the valley. There are still extensive views over the parkland as envisaged by Repton although the city of Leeds has continued its advance. From the portico front beyond the terrace the lawns sweep down towards Armley Mills and way beyond. The Red Book describes it vividly. As the trees have grown only a chimney of the mill can be seen. The iron railings that edged the terrace and framed the view are currently away being refurbished back to their original design. In the other direction to the north Kirkstall Abbey can be seen further up the Aire Valley.

Our final stop was the Walled Garden. Recently this has been the Rose Garden but it is now being transformed into a Community Garden. We admired the heated brick walls and south facing slope.

With thanks to our speakers and guides, this completed an excellent day which provided lots of insightful information and the incentive to return in better weather to get a fuller impression of the parkland and follow the trails shown on the comprehensive Gott's Park Guide Leaflet.

Michael Horsley



Preparing for a post prandial walk in Gott's Park.
(Photo credit: Michael Horsley)

YGT Small Grants Scheme—Here For You

The YGT Small Grants Scheme aims to support parks' and gardens' projects throughout Yorkshire; the annual fund of £2,000 is currently under utilised. Grants constitute a maximum of £1,000 or 50% of the total cost of a project, whichever is smaller. Areas of funding include surveys or assessments; preparation of plans; restoration or conservation works; creation of new gardens or the restoration of old ones; and preservation of archives relating to any of the above or to a key person in Yorkshire's designed heritage.

Education is especially encouraged, for example with new interpretation projects in a park or garden; or any project which satisfies the educational objectives of the Trust. Applications for other special cases are also welcomed.

Any site involved should be in Yorkshire and be important, whether that's in its locality or on the national/international stage; applications for historic horticultural, built or scenic assets are given equal weight.

Do you know of a public park or historic landscape which could benefit?

Please contact Chris Mayes or share his address with the potential recipients:

smallgrants@yorkshiregardenstrust.org.uk

“Inspiration and Planning: what future for our historic parks and gardens?”

The Gardens Trust, Bramham Park near Wetherby

Tuesday 12 March 2019



Bramham Park west elevation.
(Photo: Gail Falkingham)

Introduction

On Tuesday 12 March, The Gardens Trust held an Historic Landscape Project training day in partnership with Yorkshire Gardens Trust, in the beautiful surroundings of Bramham Park, West Yorkshire (www.bramhampark.co.uk), courtesy of Nick Lane Fox, a Vice President of YGT.

As the first of a two-part training programme, the theme of the day was an introduction to the conservation of historic designed landscapes and the role of the Gardens Trusts. With economic cuts having an impact on the availability of skilled staff in the conservation sector, the input of The Gardens Trust (TGT) and the network of the 36 County Gardens Trusts (CGT) are becoming ever more important to help protect historic sites from inappropriate development.

Through a series of presentations and a guided walk around Bramham's historic designed landscape, the day took participants through the conservation issues facing historic parks and gardens and the tools which might be used to tackle potential threats. Clearly a subject of concern to CGT members and staff of local authorities and other heritage organisations, the event was a sell-out, attended by 60 people.

Welcome and role of TGT

We began with a welcome from Tamsin McMillan, Historic Landscape Project (HLP) Officer of TGT, and Nick Lane Fox of Bramham Park. Tamsin outlined the role of TGT, a charity

dedicated to supporting the conservation of historic parks and gardens. The capacity-building Historic Landscape Project of TGT supports the 36 CGTs by running training and networking days and providing one to one support, especially to help them with their conservation and planning work. The day aimed to train and inspire CGT volunteers and get them enthused about planning issues and realise that it is something that anyone can get involved with; having an interest in historic landscapes and a passion to want to conserve them is a really good starting point. Also, TGT is keen to raise the profile of the CGTs and get them working more closely with local planning authorities, so the day was a really good opportunity for networking amongst those who attended.

A really useful folder of handouts was provided by TGT to each delegate, containing a wealth of information. This included HLP guidance on responding to planning applications affecting historic designed landscapes, the key national designations affecting the historic environment, working with local planning authorities, information about historic environment records, the setting of historic designed landscapes, conserving significance and identifying values. All of these materials are available online via the Resource Hub on the TGT website, and are free to download so that anyone can access them: thegardenstrust.org/conservation/hlp-hub/.

Threats to historic parks and gardens

The morning session comprised three talks. David Lambert, historic landscape consultant, Trustee and Conservation Committee member of TGT, provided an introduction to the wide variety of planning and management threats affecting historic designed landscapes. He took us on a visual journey through planning cases involving historic parks and gardens, going back as far as the earliest, Marble Hill in London in 1901, when development was stopped because of the public interest in the view from Richmond Hill, in response to which an Act of Parliament was passed to protect it.

We heard about a huge campaign in the 1970s against a proposed bypass between the house at Petworth, West Sussex and the lake, and about great success at Painshill, Surrey where, in the 1980s, Painshill Park Trust was formed to restore the 18th century landscape garden to its original state. A large area of mineral extraction threatened Panshanger House in Hertfordshire, a Grade II* Capability Brown and Repton landscape. David's observation was that the battle is only over when you've lost, and that even if you win, there will always be another proposal in the future.

Questioning our remit, and why we are concerned to protect historic landscapes, he quoted William Wordsworth who, in his 1810 *Guide to the Lakes* wrote, "*persons of pure taste...deem the district a sort of national property in which every man has a right and an interest who has an eye to perceive and a heart to enjoy*".

Development pressure for residential housing is ever increasing, leisure and recreation developments are often very intensive and, in the wake of recent floods, the review of reservoirs could result in drastic interventions in the landscape. David also discussed setting, and how problematic this can be when dealing with historic landscapes; cases are still being determined in the courts and at planning inquiries. He suggested that walking the boundaries of an historic park or garden, looking back in and then driving around the perimeter is very helpful in determining setting. It is not necessarily true that if you can't see it, it is not setting. A case in point is a lodge building, at some distance from the main house, yet it is still part of the designed landscape because conceptually it was part of the planned design, so too are viewpoints from which to look out, and eyecatchers, incidents in the landscape to be looked at from elsewhere.

Our attention was drawn to the plight of green spaces and public parks, which have been suffering budget cuts in recent years, and the

'eventification' of these places, which have seen an intensification of use for events for profit, often during the best months of the year and causing lasting damage. On a more positive note, David concluded with examples of key successes, notably the Capability Brown celebrations in 2017, and those for Repton in 2018. He noted the battalions of volunteers who are of huge support to planners and Conservation Officers who are in a minority, and the CGT research and recording groups who have knowledge and expertise that local authorities often do not. He sees the CGTs as the cavalry who can help!

Higher Level Stewardship at Bramham Park

Margaret Nieke, Historic Environment Specialist at Natural England then told us about Higher Level Stewardship at Bramham and how Environmental Stewardship can help to address threats to landscape. This provided useful background information to set the scene for later presentations and the walk around the Bramham landscape. Over the past 20 years, DEFRA has been involved with various iterations of schemes. Around 2000, many historic landscapes entered the old Countryside Stewardship scheme and migrated in 2010 to a new Higher Level Stewardship (HLS), which will expire in 2020. The current scheme, also called Countryside Stewardship, is open until 2024. There is uncertainty as to what will come thereafter due to Brexit and European funding.

Environmental stewardship schemes often extend beyond the historic park and garden because the



Bramham Park - approaching the early C18th Four Faces at the intersection of avenues
(Photo credit: Gail Falkingham)

landholding is more extensive. The historic environment has always been one of Natural England's (NE) priorities and payments can help with items such as trees, fences and capital repair and restoration projects. Parkland does not have to be registered to be of interest to NE; other features such as archaeological sites, built historic structures and lakes/water features can also be included. There is multi-objective benefit to schemes to merge the historic and natural environment interests as parkland is crucial for ecological resources, islands of survival in a sea of 20th century agriculture and other development; important for woodland, veteran trees and invertebrate species. The Ancient Tree Forum has useful resources about this online:

www.ancienttreeforum.co.uk/resources/ancient-tree-guides/. We also heard how historic designed landscapes are important for species-rich grassland, well-managed hay meadows and provide habitats for protected species, such as bats, great-crested newts, red kites and farmland birds.

Margaret explained about the preparation of Conservation Management Plans by external consultants when new estates are brought into stewardship schemes, to guide NE and the owners as to priorities when putting schemes together. Those for Bramham were prepared in 2000 by The Landscape Agency, and updated for HLS in 2012 by LUC.

As we have heard about in previous editions of the Newsletter, large-scale events, such as those at Burton Constable, can pose threats to historic parks and gardens if these are not handled sensitively. So too, there are issues of the silting of lakes and the potential to lose early designed landscape features, and threats from flooding, such as at Studley Royal water gardens.

Conserving Historic Parks and Gardens

Chris Mayes, Landscape Architect for the North of England at Historic England, then gave us examples of using policy to protect historic parks and gardens, and the importance of understanding significance. He outlined the first aim of Historic England's Corporate Plan, to champion England's heritage, and told us about the heritage cycle, a virtuous cycle which begins with understanding:

*By understanding the historic environment,
people value it;*

By valuing it, they want to care for it;

By caring for it, they will enjoy it more;

*From enjoying the historic environment comes
a thirst to understand more.*

Although the c.1,650 sites on the Register of

Historic Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in England, which is managed by Historic England, have no statutory protection, Chris reminded us that this is a legal designation under the provisions of the National Heritage Act 1983. These sites are a finite number as we rarely create new landscapes on this scale, although new sites may be added to the Register. Around 9% of sites are considered exceptional and Registered Grade I (compared to c.2% of Listed Buildings which are Grade I), 27% are Grade II* of more than special interest, and the remainder are Grade II of special interest.

We were taken through the evaluation criteria which lead to designation: date and rarity, documentation, group value, authenticity, condition and archaeological interest. Selection guides for a range of designed landscapes can be found on the Historic England website: historicengland.org.uk/listing/selection-criteria/pag-selection/. Then we heard about the consultation regimes; Historic England is consulted on Grade I and II* HPGs, whereas TGT (and thus CGTs) are consulted on all Registered HPGs, including Grade II. There is no specific consultation on undesignated assets, such as those of local interest, and those not on the Historic Environment Record.

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, last updated February 2019) is the most powerful tool, paragraph 194 of which covers significance: 'substantial harm should be exceptional'. Chris explained that we first need to think about significance, then the level of harm and then the impact of development. Significance is based upon understanding, and is the sum of the following values: evidential, historical, aesthetic and communal. These heritage values are set out in Historic England's 'Conservation Principles' guidance: historicengland.org.uk/advice/constructive-conservation/conservation-principles/

Chris explained each of these values using examples of sites from the North. Evidential value, such as at Gibside (Grade I), derives from the potential of a place to yield evidence of past human activity. Here, the impact of the early 18th-century owner on the landscape can clearly be seen, the monumental engineering effort made in such a way that we are still investigating it. Historical value, as at Seaton Delaval (Grade II*), the ways in which past people, events and aspects of life can be connected to the present through a place, the historical association between a site and its landscape, such as the house and its views of Starlight Castle and the harbour, links to the import/export activity of Lord Hastings and the source of their wealth.

Aesthetic value, eg Queen's Park, Pudsey, the ways in which people draw sensory and intellectual stimulation from a place, such as a public park where they may walk their dog, or jog. Communal value, such as Anfield Cemetery, Liverpool, the meaning of a place for the people who relate to it, or for whom it figured in their collective experience or memory – this is closely bound with historical and evidential values. This cemetery has 900,000 interments of people from all over the world, open since the 1860s and is still in use.

Chris discussed the question of when harm becomes substantial, using a recent case of a proposal for a new fence in a Grade I registered park and garden. Here, both Historic England and YGT have raised objections, believing the harm to be substantial. In an intentionally open view from the stables to the house, designed and planned to use the natural topography to best effect, the proposals would create a visual intrusion, adding to the unfortunate clutter in the landscape which would erode people's understanding of it.

We were taken through a case study of how harm can be justified, citing the example of a Grade II* landscape of the late 18th century. Here, a children's play area was created outside the principal garden using equipment designed to be sensitive to the site and drawing upon historical evidence. The previous landscape has been interpreted by introducing sightlines and walkways into a 1970s plantation.

The talk concluded with an overview of how to approach the challenge of proposals which cause harm. The options (in order of preference) are: avoid, minimise, reduce and finally, as a last resort, mitigate, looking to find things that can be done to offset the harm.

Tour of Bramham Park

Before lunch, Nick Lane Fox gave us a brief history of Bramham Park and outlined the challenges of protection, conservation and planning as an owner of an historic designed landscape. This was followed by a tour of parts of the park and gardens, with a discussion of actual and theoretical planning issues, led by Nick Lane Fox, with HLP staff and Susan Kellerman of YGT. Our guide to the designed landscape was a copy of an historic plan of Bramham Park by John Wood, dating to c. 1728 as there have been very few changes to the gardens of today, and a handout listing key dates in a rough history of Bramham Park. The designed landscape is Registered Grade I and the principal house is also Listed Grade I, all constructed in the early 1700s for Robert Benson, first Lord Bingley. In total, there are eleven Grade I listed buildings on the

estate, 27% of all the Grade I listed buildings in Leeds District! The house was damaged by fire in 1828 and, after lying empty, was restored 1906-14 by Detmar Blow for George Lane Fox. The principal elements of the designed landscape are described in the Register entry which can be found online at : historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/



Bramham 'Museum', a Gothic summerhouse with a date stone of 1845; used as a changing room for former tennis court in front in C20th
(Photo credit: Gail Falkingham)

list-entry/1000546 (NHLE No: 1000546).

Nick outlined some of the key changes in recent years, including the replanting by his grandparents of c.400 mature trees which were lost in gales. His parents investigated the lost cascade, which was excavated archaeologically and found to have been four metres wide. We could see the restored water feature through the windows of the room in which we sat, surrounded by a new parterre which has been recently planted. Stage 2 may be to restore the steps above the cascade.

Farming, events and property support the Estate, although there are operational conflicts. We heard how 25% of the estate's annual turnover is brought in by hosting the Leeds Festival at Bramham Park, an event which has taken place here for the past 16 years. We were shown images of the swathes of litter left behind by the festival goers, and taken to see some of the damage caused, but told how this income has enabled the restoration to grass of much of the parkland which was ploughed up in the Second World War, as well as restoration of the main rides. Higher Level Stewardship has funded the restoration of the 'T' pond, bringing in 3,000 tons of puddled clay to do so. Nick also explained the challenges of planning, citing the example of an unsuccessful application for planning permission by the Estate for residential development of two fields at the perimeter of the estate near Bardsey. Despite the offer of permissive access to the designed landscape, the proposals were turned down.



Bramham Ionic temple, probably by James Paine, mid C18th, built at the intersection of 6 avenues leading to other features in the designed landscape
(Photo credit: Gail Falkingham)

Role of The Gardens Trust and County Garden Trusts as Statutory Consultees

After lunch, and the opportunity to explore the grounds further, Margie Hoffnung, Conservation Officer of The Gardens Trust introduced us to the crucial role of The Gardens Trust as a statutory consultee, and the vital input of County Gardens Trust volunteers. Margie explained that TGT was formed by the merger of the Garden History Society and the Association of Gardens Trusts. There is a TGT Conservation Committee which meets four times a year, and is also attended by the two TGT part-time casework staff, Margie and Alison. They are consulted on all three grades of designated historic landscapes, receive c.1700 consultations per year, and have maintained a casework log since 2002. The database holds 24,724 entries to date, and is continually expanding.

TGT has produced a wealth of useful guidance in recent years to help the conservation of these landscapes, all of which can be downloaded free from TGT's website. This includes *The Planning System in England and the Protection of Historic Parks and Gardens: Guidance for Local Planning Authorities, 2016*; *Uncertain Prospects: Public parks in the new age of austerity, 2016* and *Vulnerability Brown: Capability Brown Landscapes at Risk, 2017*.

Yorkshire Gardens Trust: how we work with volunteers on our Conservation Committee

As the final presentation, Val Hepworth, Chair of Yorkshire Gardens Trust and Chair of the YGT Conservation Committee outlined how YGT manages planning cases and, through a series of case studies, discussed which developments we think are acceptable and which not. Suitably attired as an historic landscape detective, with deerstalker and magnifying glass, Val reminded us

that the most important thing about volunteering and helping with planning casework is that you need be good at networking, building a team and keeping an eye on what is going on. Knowledge and information about a site is key and we have to be very careful about the wording and clear in what we say. YGT has been advising on planning matters affecting the County's historic parks and gardens since 1996/7. This includes not only registered sites, but also undesignated ones, such as Ripon Workhouse Museum and Gardens, Grinkle Park in the North York Moors National Park, and sites in the Yorkshire Dales National Park. Most consultation sites are Grade II and thus not within the current remit of Historic England, so it is very important for YGT to look at those applications. The Conservation and Planning Committee report on p.16 records recent work.

Conclusion

After a short break for tea and homemade cake, there were final questions and discussion, including topics such as the availability of consultation responses on local authority online planning portals, and whether TGT is being consulted on all the applications they should be which affect Registered historic parks and gardens.

Overall, the event was a fantastic success and shows just how much concern there is for the conservation of our historic parks and gardens. Feedback highlighted the appreciation for sharing experiences and ideas with other people in the heritage sector, and guidance on assessing significance. There was new appreciation for the work of TGT and CGTs. People especially valued the opportunity to walk around Bramham Park and to hear about the real challenges that a land owner faces, one delegate described it as 'complete inspiration'.

Huge thanks to all involved in organising the day, all the speakers, and especially Nick Lane Fox and Kelvin, the house manager at Bramham, for hosting and making us all feel so welcome.

I am sure that part two of this training, scheduled for 27 June 2019 in Ripon, taking volunteers step by step through the process of writing an effective planning letter, will be equally successful and look forward to it very much.

YGT is always on the lookout for conservation and planning volunteers, so do get in touch if you are interested in getting involved.

Gail Falkingham
YGT Trustee and
Conservation Committee member

Conservation and Planning

Introduction

YGT's conservation and planning work continues to be wide reaching with an enthusiastic team who have met twice since Christmas using the National Trust's meeting space on the top floor of Treasurer's House. We are very grateful for this free facility where we can catch-up, debate, plan, brew coffee and tea and eat considerable amounts of home-made cake. Our team has been joined by retired architect, Roger Lambert, adding a further dimension to our professional expertise which covers archaeology, conservation, garden design, horticulture, landscape architecture, research and most importantly a passion for and in-depth knowledge of parks and gardens. Although the work that we do may sometimes be seen as difficult it actually can be quite fun as we tackle issues and learn together and it is a very important contribution that YGT can make to the future of our parks and gardens. What we do runs alongside our national body, the Gardens Trust.

The Gardens Trust

The Gardens Trust (GT) is the statutory consultee regarding proposed development affecting a site on the Historic England Register of Parks and Gardens and as a member organisation of the GT, YGT works in partnership with it in respect of the protection and conservation of registered sites and is authorised by the GT to respond on the GT's behalf in respect of such consultations. This we do most weeks via a national weekly list that the GT sends to County Gardens Trusts. If YGT cannot respond for whatever reason, then Margie Hoffnung, Conservation Officer of the GT (which covers the whole of England and Wales), will write to the planning authority in our stead. We progress the consultations as a team, using our members' particular knowledge relative to the site and issues. I then write and sign the letters and e-mail them to the relevant local authority planner, copying the Gardens Trust and Historic England. With some planning applications, particularly Grade I or II* registered sites or where there are similarly listed buildings, we liaise with officers at Historic England's York office. Neil Redfern who is Principal Inspector of Ancient Monuments is the Development Advice Team Leader, North East and Yorkshire for Historic England and his team's officers normally respond to applications where there are Grade I and II* buildings and parks and gardens but not to the vast majority which in fact are Grade II, so here our advice is particularly important. Overall, we get an interesting picture of development in Yorkshire

and in the time-span between early December 2018 and mid- May 2019 we have been consulted on forty-five planning applications and responded to them all. This is an increasing number and a reflection of the current pressures on our historic environment. Fortunately, a fair number of these are for minor changes, often to properties on the boundary of the park or garden but within the 'setting' and about which we have few or no concerns. As your Conservation and Planning sub-committee – the 'Team' - we are very grateful for the expert support and advice that we get from Chris Mayes who is Historic England's landscape architect covering the whole of the North of England and Yorkshire.

Planning training days

This year we thought that we should develop our planning knowledge and skills so we asked The Gardens Trust to run two training days in Yorkshire. The first at Bramham Park, by kind permission of Nick Lane Fox, was an excellent introduction to planning in a wonderful historic park and garden. See Gail Falkingham's report on page 11. The follow-up session will be devoted to writing planning responses and is being held at the Ripon Workhouse Museum on 27th June. This should give us additional skills to assess the impact of a proposed development or change on a historic park or garden, to develop a recommendation to the local planning authority, and to frame this in an authoritative and persuasive planning comment letter.

Recent applications

Major applications

In the last Newsletter I wrote about two major planning applications involving large 4/5 storey apartment blocks; one on the boundary of Sheffield General Cemetery and the other extending The Mount, a Victorian villa, on the boundary of Peel Park, Bradford.



The Mount from Peel Park. (Photo credit: Anne Tupholme)

Both sites are Grade II* on the Register and deserve a more sympathetic setting. It is particularly galling when the area for the proposal, which had always been included within Sheffield General Cemetery's registered boundary (former stone-mason's yard), was removed as a 'minor change' last autumn. We have not heard the outcome of these applications but it seems likely that there will be more proposals for large apartment blocks on the boundaries of our historic parks and gardens as developers see the potential and large financial gain of demolishing or extending an older single dwelling and building a massive unsympathetic structure.

Heathcote, Ilkley

As I write in May we have just responded to another demolition and large apartment block proposal. This time in Ilkley, where the proposal is to demolish Limegarth, 27 Kings Road, in the Ilkley Conservation Area and immediately to the east of one of Sir Edwin Lutyens' finest house and garden designs, Grade I listed Heathcote, its several Grade I and II* listed features and its garden registered Grade II. It is one of only two Lutyens designs in Yorkshire.



Heathcote, south front. The apartment block would be visible on the right, above the hedge.

(Photo credit: Anne Tupholme)

Heathcote is especially important and of arguably international significance as a complete unity of design of buildings and garden (1906-9) where Lutyens worked entirely in a classical manner (with references to the Italian architect Michele Sanmicheli, 1484-1559), following his earlier designs in the vernacular and Tudor mode. The quality of the design and execution of the hard landscaping within the gardens is outstanding and far superior to that of other well-known and most respected landscape designers of the period. He is famous for his collaboration with the important late 19th/early 20th century garden designer Gertrude Jekyll who was responsible for the planting scheme at Heathcote, which can be considered a precursor to Lutyens' later civic work e.g. in New Delhi and the Cenotaph,

Whitehall. Working with his client J. T. Hemingway, Lutyens designed Heathcote to command its plot, with its situation on somewhat elevated ground.

Although we agreed that Limegarth is of no architectural merit, it is of only two storeys with a relatively small footprint within its plot bounded by trees and it has no impact on Heathcote, its neighbour. The proposed ten apartment building will be four storeys and the massing will impact on the views both from within Heathcote itself and its setting, particularly from the north and east.

We think that the evidence points to the proposed development causing harm to Grade I and II* listed buildings and a Grade II registered park and garden; such a significant site that it should be given the best protection. We have objected and have asked Bradford Council to consider a more sympathetic proposal.

Other applications

North Yorkshire

We have been pleased to support some applications including for the new Tree Health Centre at The Arboretum, Castle Howard. This was a particularly well-documented application and a pleasure to read. In January we were delighted that the National Heritage Lottery Fund bid had been successful for South Cliff Gardens at Scarborough. South Cliff is a designed seaside landscape of national importance within the Scarborough Conservation Area and its condition has been of much concern for some time. Scarborough South Bay was probably the country's first seaside holiday resort.

Castle Howard and Nunnington Hall: children's play areas

Perhaps as a foretaste of summer we have had two applications for children's play facilities: one at Castle Howard and the other at Nunnington Hall. Although we feel that it's very important to encourage and engage children with our beautiful parks and gardens, we did have some reservations about the location and also, in the case of Castle Howard, the height of the equipment but these have now been resolved. Castle Howard wants to extend the children's adventure play area and erect a boardwalk and rope bridge over the Great Lake. In the end Jane Furse represented YGT at a site meeting where she also raised concerns about the only surviving specimens from the original woodland for Henderskelfe Castle before the early 18th century bastion wall was built. Since the rest of the woodland (Ray Wood) was substantially felled during the mid 20th century, we were concerned that no reference had been made to this important group in the documents submitted,

particularly since the proposed playground is specifically intended to result in much greater footfall through this vulnerable area. This concern was also raised by Chris Mayes and we asked for amelioration measures.

Harewood House

At another Grade I registered park and garden at Harewood House we were very concerned that a proposed new timber fence and another secondary fence to the eastern perimeter of the bird garden/zoo would cause harm. The site is immediately to the south of the House (listed Grade I). We wrote that nationally important landscape designers have been engaged by the Lascelles family from the 18th century designers, Richard Woods, Thomas White and Lancelot ‘Capability’ Brown, followed by alterations and additions c.1800 by Humphry Repton and then in the mid-19th century, Charles Barry and William Andrews Nesfield. The designs by Brown which developed and formed the landscape to the south of the house are of particular significance, as they intentionally complement the other highly graded heritage assets. The landscape was composed with trees located to create uninterrupted, framed views of the stables, lake and parkland as seen from the house and is very significant. It was painted many times by JMW Turner and others and is shown in many views of Harewood from the south and south east. Similar concerns were expressed by Historic England prior to a site visit and the application was withdrawn.

Ripon Workhouse

Following our planning letter to Harrogate DC last summer we wrote again in February to support Ripon Workhouse Museum’s objection to an outline application for the development of nine residential dwellings on land immediately to the north of the Workhouse garden. The new Ripon City Plan identifies the field which was the subject of the outline application, and the Workhouse garden, as protected green spaces. We noted that the proposed development would harm the significance of Ripon Workhouse Museum and would be contrary to the National Planning Policy Framework and the Ripon City Plan.

Allerton Park

Jane Winter, a landscape architect with extensive experience of historic designed landscapes, came to our planning day at Bramham and suggested that we made a site visit to Allerton Park where she manages the repair and restoration work. This was particularly useful as I had never been and we have been responding to a number of planning applications on the edges of the designed landscape and also for the North Yorkshire County Council landfill site. David Rhodes, Malcolm Barnett and

myself had a most interesting day and I was very struck by the quality and topography of the park and the associated lakes and eye-catchers, although dismayed to see the impact of the landfill site and incinerator.



View to the incinerator and landfill from northern area of Allerton Park.
(Photo credit: Val Hepworth)

South Yorkshire

Wentworth Castle

We have also responded to planning applications submitted by the National Trust for Wentworth Castle and Stainborough Park, another Grade I registered park and garden, this time in South Yorkshire. We are very supportive of the National Trust’s bid to reopen the park and gardens to the visiting public and look forward to that event in the summer.

Cusworth Hall and Park

We much appreciate being consulted for advice prior to any works at our historic parks and gardens, so it was a pleasure for Jane Furse and I to visit Cusworth Hall and Park in Doncaster MBC at the invitation of Pete Lamb, Principal Planner (Design and Conservation) to discuss new path proposals with



View to the south east front of Cusworth Hall from near Middle Fish Pond
(Photo credit: Val Hepworth)

Cusworth Estate Manager David Shore, Nick Stopforth, Head of Doncaster Museums and Libraries and Emma Sharpe from Historic England.

The grounds are an important example of Richard Wood's work and his three plans and accompanying memoranda survive. We suggested that the production of a landscape management plan would greatly assist in the long-term development of the site to build on its use by the public without impacting negatively on the landscape. It is an important first step in planning future proposals.

East Yorkshire

Sledmere House

In the East Riding of Yorkshire, we have commented upon two applications. The first, where we had no real concerns, is to make changes to the stable block at Sledmere House, developing the café, making a function room and a self-contained flat. The pleasure grounds and park of Sledmere House, another Grade I site, were laid out by Sir Christopher Sykes 1771-1800 with advice from Thomas White (1736-1811) and Lancelot 'Capability' Brown (1716-83). Sykes was improving the 'wastes' of the East Riding with model agriculture and farms acting as eye catchers. The stable block, listed Grade II*, is within the registered area, and was built by Richard Sykes after he inherited the estate in 1748. Sir Christopher Sykes undertook major building works to the stables in 1775 and 1777. The main façade, with pairs of coach houses flanking the impressive pedimented entrance with its Tuscan columns and cupola, was an addition to the original building around 1818. The entrance front is now attributed to the York architects, Watson and Pritchett.

Thwaite Hall

The second application is for Thwaite Hall. Thwaite Hall (formerly Thwaite House) is important as a rare survival of an impressive 19th century villa garden in an urban setting at Cottingham, near Hull and is recognised as such by its inclusion on the Historic England Register of Historic Parks and Gardens (NHLE: 1000137). In the mid-20th century (c.1948), the hall was extended and the gardens developed as botanic and experimental gardens by the University of Hull and the house into a hall of residence for girls. This application is for a total of ninety-five dwellings, the conversion of the existing building into flats and town houses and further flats and town houses in the grounds following demolition of some buildings. In March we conferred with the Friends of Thwaite Gardens and wrote that we

welcome the retention and re-use of Thwaite Hall and its later sympathetic extensions. However, we have serious concerns regarding the impact of the proposed new buildings and the associated hard landscaping and car parking on the registered park and garden, and on the Cottingham Conservation Area and we think that the proposal is over-development of the historic site. Historic England wrote in a similar vein and there are to be further discussions in June.

Conclusion

You may have read in the media, *National Scandal at the National Lottery Heritage Fund* describing the destruction of countless, probably in the region of 2,000, Conservation Management Plans and associated project documents relating to that number of grants given for the restoration of public parks since 1996. The archive cost the lottery-buying public fifty million pounds to create and is a complete and unique record of the parks, their history and design, the trees that are growing in them, their ecology and the way that they are used by the public today. This completely thoughtless and wanton destruction was raised by John Phibbs in *The Times* and follows his and David Jacques enquiries over recent years as to what was happening to the archive. Several members of YGT signed the letter to *The Times* and I signed it as YGT Chairman. Since then the issue has been raised in the House of Lords and there have been questions in the Commons. It also seems that Historic England has 'lost' Conservation Management Plans. Let us hope that ground rules can be established for retaining such important documents as remain.

Finally, ending on a nice positive note, YGT is working with officers of Leeds CC to hold a special event at Lotherton Hall next year. In outline this will look at Lotherton's Edwardian gardens; the wider world context of the late nineteenth century in terms of plant introductions; leading figures in garden design and the challenges and successes of restoration using the Edwardian garden at Dyffryn near Cardiff as a case study. We have invited Chris Flynn, Head Gardener for the National Trust at Dyffryn to be a guest speaker.

Val Hepworth

Trustee and

Chair of Conservation and Planning Committee

Research and Recording

Whilst plants would seem to have had a secondary role when it came to designing landscapes, the arrival of a new or horticulturally challenging plant would create a lot of interest. Although features in the landscape can often survive through time, what was planted is often found just in historic records. While it is unlikely that these plants would be grown again on the site, they provide an interesting insight into how the landowner viewed their designed landscape. For some it was merely a fashionable adjunct to their house, so individual specimens were less important than the overall effect of the planting. For others it was the delight of single species given prominence either for their sheer beauty or the kudos of being able to grow them. The supply of trees and shrubs from around the world gave variety to the gardens outside and exotics requiring specialist conditions, usually inside, represented a challenge for the head gardener.

Exotic trees at Busby

Ruth Mayes has been looking at Busby Hall, near Stokesley. In 1764, William Marwood (né Metcalfe) inherited the estate from Jane Turner, a distant relative. He quickly set about remodelling the landscape, commissioning two plans by Thomas White senior and Anthony Sparrow (copies of which survive in the Marwood archive in the County Record Office in Northallerton). Neither are dated but the White plan includes old field boundaries that match a survey commissioned between 1757 and 1764. It would appear that this was earlier than the Sparrow plan as the kitchen garden from the latter was implemented. The Sparrow plan is also much more modest, so perhaps White's proposals were too expensive.

We are helped in our research by a notebook belonging to William Marwood where he details the 'Fruit and Forest Trees planted at Busby' (Ref: ZDU/165) from January 1765. Amongst the more usual specimens are many interesting shrubs particularly from the Telford nursery of York such as 'five leaved Bladder Nuts' [*Staphylea pinnata?*], 'Myrtle Leaved Sumach' [*Coriaria myrtifolia*] and 'Pennsylvanian Spirea' [*Spiraea virginiana*]. It would seem that Marwood's interest in plants extended to unusual trees: in the notebook there is also a 'Catalogue of Canadian seeds' with names and their use by 'the Natives'. Some of these he records being planted at Busby in 1773: 'Black American Pine' [*Picea mariana*], 'Balsam Fir' [*Abies balsamea*] and 'Black Larch' [*Larix laricina*].

Marwood's horticultural pursuits also included receiving seeds from his contacts. At the start of the notebook is 'An Account of Flower Seeds received and given me by Captain Cornelius Smelt, November 13 1790'. The list of thirty three includes those he records growing at Busby the following year: 'Cassia planisiliqua' [*Senna occidentalis*], 'Canna Glauca' [*Canna indica*], 'Salvia urticifolia or Nettle leaved Sage', 'Salvia coccinea or Red Sage' [*Salvia coccinea*] and 'Cassia viminea' [*Senna viminea*].



Figure 1 – Drawing of 'Victoria Regia' from Curtis's *Botanical Magazine* Volume 3, 1847

Victoria Regis seen at Thirsk and war horses trained at Myton

Margaret Mathews is currently researching Thirkleby Park in the Hambleton district. Margaret was intrigued by an account of the 'Grand Floral and Horticultural Exhibition at Thirsk' in the York Herald (10 August 1850) which stated 'on one of the stands was a splendid flower of Victoria Regia [*Victoria amazonica*], which was contributed by Lady Frankland Russell, of Thirkleby Park'. The first successful blooming of this flower (Figure 1) was at Chatsworth in November 1849, followed by Syon Park the following April. Kew had some of the first plants in this country, though they did not flower until June 1850. Lady Frankland Russell's flower is quite early, so the question is where did she get it from? Margaret thinks that it is unlikely to have been raised at Thirkleby, as a large glasshouse with heated pond was required. The family did own Chequers at that time so it may have been grown there. Alternatively she acquired the flower from either Chatsworth or Kew, both of whom had been distributing seeds and young plants.

Marie-Anne Hintze and Liz Barker have been researching the Stapylton family who owned Myton Hall and manor for 300 years (1630s - 1946). In 1864 on the death of his father, Major Henry Miles Stapylton (1831-1896) inherited and

embarked on an extensive programme of improvements to the estate. The Home Farm was rebuilt as a model farm. Other projects in the village included a new lodge, cottages, a fresh water supply in the form of a water fountain (now Grade II listed) and water trough bearing his initials (Figure 2).



Figure 2 – Water Fountain at Myton.
(Photo credit: Marie-Anne Hintze/Liz Barker)

A major undertaking was the construction of the bridge over the Swale to replace a former ferry. This cast iron and brick bridge, now Grade II listed, was commissioned by him in 1868. It was designed by G. Gordon Page (who also designed Westminster Bridge) and overseen by his father Thomas. It was restored in 2002.

Major Stapylton, whose military career had been with the 2nd Dragoon Guards, had a keen interest in racing. He built a stud farm at Myton to accommodate the breeding of Morgan trotting horses (imported from America), which was a model of its kind. Such was the extent of his building endeavours that the brickyard on the estate could not satisfy his needs and he had to order large quantities from commercial suppliers, all bearing his initials H.M.S. (Figure 3).



Figure 3 – Brick from Myton.
(Photo credit: Marie-Anne Hintze/Liz Barker)

The Stud Farm could house 30 horses and incorporated a water tower that could also supply the Hall as well as the Farm. During WWI horses that were requisitioned to supply the army were housed at the stud farm, given some training and sent to the Front. It is estimated that 9,000 passed through Myton.

There is some evidence that during Major Stapylton's ownership the walled gardens of Myton Hall were expanded slightly, as was the parkland, but no evidence so far that any noteworthy garden designer was involved. There is however an interesting snippet from an earlier period. An anonymous correspondent wrote to the York Herald on 18 July 1812: *A question for the naturalists: There is now in the garden of Sir Martin Stapylton Bart [1751-1817] of Myton Hall a peach tree which has both Peaches and Nectarines upon the same branch; and what adds to the above singular circumstance is, that the above branch has neither been inoculated or engrafted, as Mr Daghish, the gardener can attest.*

New resources, new knowledge:

Kiplin Hall, Kirkby Fleetham and Hooton Pagnell

Gail Falkingham has been researching Kiplin Hall and Kirkby Fleetham which have previously been documented by other researchers. Here she has been able to add to the knowledge of the sites by using two previously unknown archive sources. For Kiplin, she came across some field books at the North Yorkshire County Record Office which, despite quite a bit of previous research on Kiplin, had not been mentioned elsewhere and were unknown to Kiplin Hall staff. Unfortunately, they are undated but provide some delightful plans of the grounds, as well as lists of field names which refer to the various elements of the gardens (Figure 4).

At Kirkby Fleetham, the owner had acquired a survey book of 1782 that shows the landscape just after William Aislabie's death. He has kindly agreed to deposit it on indefinite loan with NYCRO, so it may now be viewed by others with an interest in the work of the Aislabie family.

Jim Godfrey and new recruit, John Sharp, are looking at the Hooton Pagnell estate in the Doncaster district. It has been recorded since the time of the Norman Conquest and possibly earlier. Until the 18th century it went through a fairly random succession of owners until it was purchased by the Warde family and has continued in one form or another in their ownership ever since. The first hints of gardening or landscape come in the 17th century, possibly with some

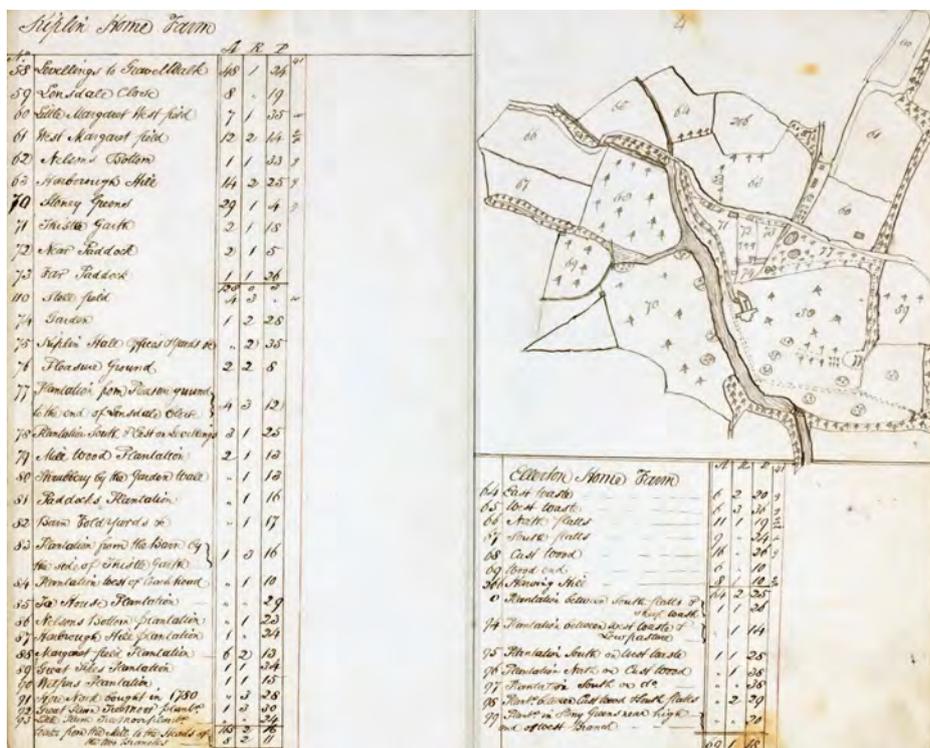


Figure 4 - Survey book, containing schedules and neat sketch plans for High Kiplin, Kiplin Home Farm, Kiplin, Ellerton, Bolton, Scorton and Catterick farms. n.d. (c. 1818-1839) ref: PR/BOL 4/2. Source: North Yorkshire County Record Office.

modest gardens near the hall. It may be that the present walled garden dates from that time as, at about 1 hectare, it was of a sufficient size to support 30 or so people. With the arrival of Patience Warde in 1704, a considerable building programme commenced. There already existed a 14th century gatehouse and later buildings to which additions or replacements were added. About 1794 the front of the house was considerably remodelled by William Lindley in a style similar to that of work he had done at Owston Hall. At that time the land to the west of the hall, on the other side of Watchley Road, was converted from a variety of ‘closes’ or fields to a park. This was called ‘The Mapple’ or ‘Mappleyard’ and was an approximately rectangular space of about 27 ha. Shelter belts were planted on most sides and planting extended from the southeast corner south along Watchley roadside providing access to Watchley Crag and possibly a Wilderness.

The development of land to the east of the Hall is not well documented but, from available farm plans, it appears that the layout of the area changed at the same time as Mappleyard was being developed. The farm wall lines shown for 1794 seem to be the same as those shown in 19th century OS maps. There are three distinct spaces: the east space, nearest the Hall, has plantations on the southern boundaries; the central space has boundary planting and perhaps a central tree lined avenue; the eastern space has planting on the north, west and south boundaries. There is also

central planting and the whole is encircled with a boundary path or ride.

The walled garden, also shown on 19th century OS maps, shows planting, paths and greenhouses. The entrance, from the north, appears to be via a greenhouse. There are details of the garden space to the north of the walled garden and to the south of the south front of the 18th century façade. This shows indications of planted areas with pathways



Figure 5 – Display stands in-situ at Northallerton Library. (Photo credit: Gail Falkingham)

and an almost central lawn. In the 20th century a garden house was built on the east boundary of the walled garden. For the first time, thus far, there is evidence in the Hall journals of garden purchases from well-known suppliers including Backhouse and Sutton. The records Jim has consulted have very little information regarding planning for garden or landscape. The most extensive archives for Hooton Pagnell are still held at the Hall and the researchers hope to be able to view these and extend the understanding described above.

Conclusion

Finally, our volunteers have been spreading the word about our research work. Margaret Mathews

created three display panels for the Northallerton Library local history month 'Then and Now' exhibition between 1 and 31 May this year; they focused on the historic designed landscapes at East Rounton, Wood End and Kirkby Hall, Kirkby Fleetham (Figure 5). They will be reused at the North Yorkshire County Record Office Garden History Day on 20 July where Louise Wickham, Val Hepworth, Margaret Mathews, Gail Falkingham and Karen Lynch will talk about researching Yorkshire's historic parks and gardens.

Louise Wickham, Chair

Council of Management Update

I thought that members might appreciate a report on what is discussed at meetings of the Council of Management. These are held four times a year in York and as well as Trustees, the Vice-Presidents and representatives from the various sub-committees are invited to attend. The most recent meeting was held on 30 April 2019, with Nigel Tooze (Treasurer) in the Chair and the following issues were discussed.

Managing the Trust

Maddy Hughes and Gail Falkingham were welcomed as Trustees. Malcolm Barnett kindly agreed to take on the role of Company Secretary. The role of Chair of the Trust remains unfilled after Val Hepworth stood down at the AGM and this will be discussed further at the next Council Meeting. Trustees were pleased that a number of people had volunteered for a range of activities following the appeal in the previous Newsletter and at the AGM and they had all been contacted.

Membership and Engagement

The frequency and format of the Newsletter were discussed. Christine Miskin, as the new newsletter editor, will give consideration to a more frequent e-newsletter with, say, a hard copy annual review. The views of members are welcome.

It was agreed that better use could be made of the website, including being able to join and book events online, but that this needed to form part of a review of our overall branding. Until this was done, it was decided, following the meeting, that the Trust would not take up the invitation to be represented at BLOOM this year. Christine Miskin and Vicky Price agreed to start the review by meeting together in order to produce a preliminary report for the next meeting in July.

It was agreed that the Trust should be at the Harrogate Spring Show, given the opportunity it provides for marketing, and that we should be

there for our 25th Anniversary in 2021. This anniversary year will be a standing agenda item for future Council meetings.

Education and Training

As always, Council welcomed the report from the Schools group as printed on page 1 of this edition.

The Horticultural Bursary stood at £1,408, and would receive a substantial boost from the Summer Party at Copt Hewick. Maddy Hughes and Pat Gore agreed to look at how the bursary should be administered and allocated. Council agreed that a grant of £200 should be given to a volunteer student gardener at York Museum Gardens who was unable to afford his travel costs from Leeds.

Conservation

On this occasion no report was submitted, due to illness. A full report on the Committee's recent activities appears on page 16 of this Newsletter.

Council took the opportunity to discuss how the workload of the Conservation Committee and, in particular, that of the Chair could be made less onerous. Gail Falkingham agreed to raise this and succession planning at the next Conservation Committee meeting.

Finance

There were also updates on Finance. Council agreed that the archive of the late Daphne Hamilton which was left to the Trust should remain in its ownership but be deposited with the Borthwick Institute.

A report on the Research and Recording Group's recent activities can be found on page 20.

The next meetings of the Council of Management are on 23 July and 22 October 2019.

Nigel Tooze
Treasurer

Yorkshire Gardens Trust AGM

Newton-le-Willows and Constable Burton, Saturday 23 March 2019

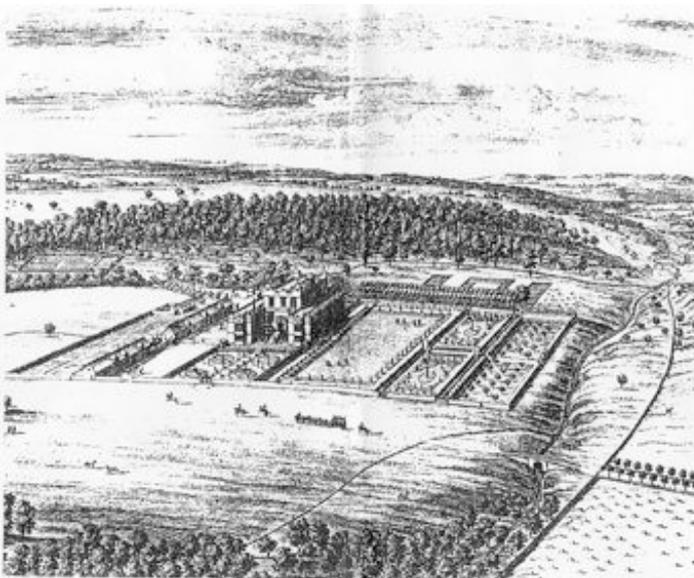
Annual General Meeting

About sixty members of the Yorkshire Gardens Trust assembled for the AGM in the Newton-le-Willows Village Hall. Nick Lane Fox briskly took us through the formal business with good-humoured efficiency. The overall message is that the Trust is in very good shape, financially and otherwise. Reports followed on activities of the year. Most of us are aware of the more high profile activities including visits, talks, research and planning and conservation. It was good, though, to be reminded that the Trust also puts a great deal of energy and enthusiasm into promoting educational activities, from horticultural bursaries to school projects, with butterfly hatching kits, carnivorous plants, cornflower seeds and mushrooms spreading far and wide across Yorkshire. To muddle a metaphor, YGT is truly scattering the seeds and fertilising the soil to ensure the flourishing growth of future garden enthusiasts.

The meeting concluded with a presentation and warm thanks to Val Hepworth for her role in the creation of the Yorkshire Gardens Trust, and for her many years as Chairman; members were queuing up to express their appreciation and gratitude!

The Wyvills

After the AGM, we were introduced to the present incumbent of Constable Burton, D'Arcy Wyvill, to tell us about his family, and how they came to acquire their magnificent house and estates.



Engraving of Constable Burton, 1700. by Johannes Kip after Leendert Knijff. Engraving no 69 from a book. (Image credit: Simon Harris/National Trust)



Constable Burton Hall (Photo credit: Peter Hogarth)

Sir Humphrey de Wyvill came over with the Conqueror. It took the Wyvills several centuries to reach Constable Burton, by way of Leicester, Northampton and Salisbury (where Bishop Robert de Wyvill may have been responsible for the magnificent 14th century spire). Constable Burton was acquired, by marriage, in the time of Edward VI. Since then, the family, and estate, have survived the hazards of recusancy, involvement in a plot to free Mary Queen of Scots, and of being Royalists in the Civil War: subsequently various members of the family took up the causes of anti-slavery and electoral reform, besides proposing marriage to Florence Nightingale. Modern time must seem tranquil, in comparison.

The first known building on the site appeared not long after Christopher Wyvill acquired the Constable Burton estate in the 1540s.

Knyff and Kip's engraving of 1700 shows it as a splendid Elizabethan manor on an 'H' plan with extensive formal gardens. Some time around 1760, Sir Marmaduke Asty Wyvill, 7th baronet, the first Sir Marmaduke having been created baronet by James I & VI in 1611 – commissioned the celebrated John Carr of York to carry out

some restoration work on the house. Sir Marmaduke was somewhat surprised to discover, on returning to Constable Burton one day, that the fine Elizabethan house had been virtually demolished. Supposedly the builder had misunderstood Carr's instructions, or Carr had misunderstood Sir Marmaduke! Whichever, a fine Palladian house soon rose as, indeed, did Carr's bill, by about £9,000. This is, of course, the present building, aptly described by Pevsner as "a very perfect mid-Georgian house".

Between 1936 and 1977, the house was occupied by Vida Burdon, who was responsible for much of the terracing and steps in the garden, and the planting, but seems to have had little influence on the house itself. In both World Wars, as with many other country houses, it came into use as a convalescent home for soldiers.

The house must have been in a sorry state when it was inherited by Charles Wyvill, D'Arcy's father (whom we were shortly to meet). Charles – then eighteen – resolved to restore the house to its former glory which, manifestly, he did. Three years ago, Charles handed the reins to D'Arcy, who now, with his family, lives in the house.

After our introduction to the family, we enjoyed an excellent lunch, conjured up from the minuscule kitchen of the Newton-le-Willows Village Hall (our collective compliments to the chef!), before setting off for the short drive to Constable Burton.

Constable Burton

On arrival, we were greeted by Charles Wyvill, former incumbent of Constable Burton. From what must be the finest podium in Yorkshire, the double stairs leading up to the Ionic portico, Charles treated us to an account of the challenges that faced him on inheriting the house, and how he had succeeded in restoring it. The Library, for instance, had to be sacrificed, with the books sold off in the interests of a new roof (a house without a library being a better prospect than a library without a roof). As a result, the "very perfect mid-Georgian house" survived and now looks, well, very perfect. The gardens and grounds similarly required considerable effort to put into their present impressive state.

After Charles' talk the Trust, in thanks, presented our own small contribution to the continuing story of Constable Burton, in the shape of an Antarctic beech, *Nothofagus antarctica*, whose specific name suggests that it should have little trouble in flourishing in the North Yorkshire climate for years to come.

Tour of the Gardens with Phil Robinson

"Gardens" scarcely does justice to the combination of terraces, gardens, arboretum and lake that surround Constable Burton, not forgetting the (Grade II listed) ice house. The present grounds owe little to their Elizabethan origins, something to the passage of time, much to Vida Burdon, more to the activities of Charles Wyvill: and much, too, to their recent overseer, Phil Robinson.



Phil Robinson guides the group in the gardens.
(Photo credit: Peter Hogarth)

Phil Robinson introduced himself and described his previous experience working with Jim Russell at Castle Howard, in particular developing Ray Wood, and then at Thorpe Perrow where the emphasis was on promoting the Arboretum. Phil described the challenges at Constable Burton where Mrs Burdon had developed a series of flower bed terraces at the side and back of the house on the incline down to a beck. Her particular interest was alpinists. Much of the rest of the garden was overgrown.

With limited staff and resources a change of direction was necessary. The current garden has evolved with an emphasis on clearing overgrown areas, replacing high maintenance alpinists with ground cover, opening up the tree canopy in the terraced area to provide a terraced wood with a diversity of light shade, dappled shade and full shade. This is necessary to promote a variety of plants at ground level. The larger trees in the terraced area also provide protection for a collection of Acers built up by Charles Wyvill, along with a few magnolias. On our way out of the terraced area, Phil paused by a splendid Cedar of Lebanon, and reminisced about the time a visitor had asked for advice on planting such a tree in her own garden, which measured approximately 3m x 3m. This is, apparently, not altogether to be recommended.

Further up the slope, adjacent to the lime avenue, we encountered the daffodil meadow, one of the star attractions of Constable Burton: many varieties, with 1,000 or so bulbs added each year. Daffodils, of course, bring Wordsworth to mind, but in this case Wordsworth's "jocund company" applies more to the assembled Yorkshire Gardens Trust members than to the flowers themselves.

We were too early in the year to enjoy the tulips, stars of the annual Constable Burton Tulip Festival, in May. This involves planting around 6,500 fresh tulip bulbs each autumn, and removing them after flowering, to prevent Botrytis blight: an impressive feat of logistics.

This area is being developed as a small arboretum, and includes a Chinese Red Birch (*Betula albosinensis* var. *septentrionalis*) with a very attractive peeling bark. It may well be joined in the near future by a certain young *Nothofagus antarctica*.

Beyond this area an interesting stream bog garden is being established with clumps of bamboo, and ferns. Later in the year this will come into its own. Bright yellow Skunk cabbage (*Lysichiton americanus*) were already making their presence felt, and Gunnera will no doubt soon be attempting to dominate.

The stream leads to an attractive Reflection Pond. This is something of a work in progress (aren't all gardens, always?). The aim is to use as far as possible only a palette of variants of green, rather than introducing anything showy. An interesting 'take' on Alexander Pope's observation that "all gardening is landscape-painting".



The daffodil meadow
(Photo credit: Peter Hogarth)

Our tour was enormously enhanced by Phil's knowledge, expertise, vision, and enthusiasm. Following our tour, we were kindly given the opportunity to visit the house itself, with many beautiful and interesting contents and features. All in all a very fine day with interest, beauty, good company and sunny weather.

Peter and Sylvia Hogarth

YGT Horticultural Bursary's First Recipient

As mentioned in the Council of Management update on page 23, at the last meeting a decision was taken to assist a young volunteer student gardener, Zac who had been on placement at York Museum Gardens; unfortunately his daily commute from Leeds had become unaffordable, leaving him in danger of being unable to complete his placement.

YGT Council of Management agreed to a YGT Horticultural Bursary to cover the travel costs for the remainder of Zac's placement; these amounted to £156.00. Zac successfully completed his placement in mid June and Steve Williams, Gardens Manager has since written to YGT with this update.

Zac was absolutely surprised and delighted that YGT was able to assist him in enabling him to attend his work experience placement at York Museum Gardens, and whilst a young man of few words, his grin spoke volumes.

Zac, an Askham Bryan horticulture student, needed to undertake 100 hours' work experience to successfully complete his year and I was happy to accommodate him at Museum Gardens as I am seeking to build an ongoing relationship with Askham where I can offer to provide a few dedicated, enthusiastic students with some valuable experience on an annual basis.

When I made my initial approach to Askham it was late in the Spring Term there and most students had already completed their work experience requirements, however, Sam Tordoff, Work Placement Coordinator told me they had a student who had already undertaken work

experience elsewhere and completed approx. 70 of his hours but they were unable to sign them off as it turned out that the host didn't have the necessary paperwork in place to validate the placement. This was Zac and he needed to start all over again.

Zac was committed to developing a career in horticulture which, as you all will know, is not an easy path to pursue and you need some help along the way. He was great to have working with us and the team took to him and he helped to make a difference in York Museum Gardens. After completing a number of days with us travelling in from Leeds to start work at 8:30 am, he 'phoned to say that he didn't have the rail fare and that attending was going to be a struggle. On the same day, I met Maddy quite by chance when she was visiting the Gardens to attend York Philosophical Society; we had a conversation about the work required to maintain the Gardens, volunteer help more generally and Zac and his situation. This led to the very kind offer of support from Yorkshire Gardens Trust that meant that Zac was able to resume his work experience with us. Serendipity is a wonderful thing!

Zac completed his term with us and we would both like to thank Yorkshire Gardens Trust for helping him to achieve his goal.

Best wishes

Steve

Steve Williams

Gardens Manager, York Museum Gardens



Spring in York Museum Gardens. (Photo credit: Louise Amende)

Events' Team News

Coming up: the last YGT event for this year and many more treats ahead in 2020.

**Wednesday 11 September:
all day visit to Greenhead Park and
Clem's Garden, Briarcourt, Huddersfield.**

There are still remaining places for this event, the last of the year and sure to be very special. We will have the opportunity to learn about the history of Greenhead Park from local historian David Griffiths, and to visit Edgar Wood's Arts and Crafts designed Briarcourt, where we can visit community initiative, Clem's Garden. Tickets are £15 and available in the usual way, by contacting Maddy Hughes, 2 East Avenue, Huddersfield HD3 3LW, with a cheque payable to YGT and a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

Looking ahead to 2020

Meanwhile the Events' Team has been busy planning next year's events, for which a wide selection of locations across Yorkshire has been booked.

Full details for 2020 will be available later, with visits expected to include:

- * Snowdrops at Kiplin Hall
- * YGT/Yorkshire Philosophical Lecture by Professor Michael Charlesworth, author of a book on plant collector Reginald Farrer to mark the anniversary of his death.
- * Summer Evening Drinks at Sion Hill Hall and visits to Cusworth Hall, Norton Conyers, Boynton Hall, Clapham, Yorkshire Museum Gardens, Stillingfleet Nursery, the world's first nature reserve at Walton Hall, plus a joint visit with friends from Northumbria Gardens Trust to the gardens of Durham City.

AGM at Bramham Park

For now, please make a note in your diaries of next year's YGT AGM which will take place on Saturday 4 April in the stunning surroundings of Bramham Park by kind permission of Nick Lane Fox, a Vice President of YGT.

More generally, we hope to circulate key events' information before Christmas, with the full programme to follow early in 2020.

Madalyn Hughes for the Events' Team



Bramham Park from the north west. (Photo credit: Louise Amende)

Future Newsletters

During 2020 a regular e-newsletter will be introduced, to complement the twice yearly print version.

The next print version will be published in March; please send articles or suggestions to the Editor, Christine Miskin: c.miskin@btinternet.com to arrive by 31 January 2020.

Events Programme 2020: this will be launched in early January so do watch out for it.