



YORKSHIRE GARDENS TRUST NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 46

Spring 2020

YGT Volunteers Help with National Trust Events.



Crocus planting at Nunnington Hall
(Photo credit: Vicky Price)

YGT volunteers and then everyone set off to do some real gardening.

Over the weeks this included weeding, deadheading, digging up potatoes, picking broad beans and courgettes, and watering using adult sized, shiny, old-fashioned metal watering cans as well as helping to lay new bark paths. Quite a struggle when you're only four! The children loved all the activities. No bad behaviour at all, just paying attention and trying to do what they were asked as best as they could. The gardening team had told us that they would only ask the children to do real jobs, not children's jobs. Before the children left they were each given a "Garden Apprentice" certificate with our logo and "in partnership with YGT" written on it, which they were thrilled to receive to take home. The event was a great success and enjoyed not only by the garden apprentices but by all of us, parents and volunteers.

Nunnington Hall

During the Autumn half-term holiday we sponsored an event at Nunnington Hall. The head gardener there, Nick Fraser, had bought 12,000 crocus corms with the intention of a mass

Earlier this year we agreed to fund two events at National Trust sites in North Yorkshire, arranged by David Morgan, who is the NT York area General Manager and until recently was a YGT trustee. Our aim was that the events should engage children in having fun by doing some gardening.

Beningbrough Hall

The first event was called "Apprentice Gardener" and took place at Beningbrough Hall on four Mondays in August. The Gardening Team, led by Head Gardener Sam Shipman, had used the money we gave them to buy sturdy child-sized gardening tools and wheelbarrows, rakes and forks that would last several years. There were three 50 minute sessions each day, starting at eleven, one and three o'clock, which gave the gardeners a well-earned break before the next group of children.

The children, accompanied by their parents, were introduced to all the tools, the gardeners and the

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planting of the corms along the lawn by the River Rye to create a dramatic spring show of colour. I went on the first day along with other several YGT volunteers and helped visitors and children to plant the bulbs. It proved quite a hard task to make holes deep enough in the turf, one young man's jumping with both feet onto his long-handled bulb planter was definitely one way to do it. A simpler task for smaller children with little hands was to plant the corms – three to each hole and then to pat back the plug turf. Lots of corms were planted on the Tuesday and the Friday, but unfortunately there weren't as many people and not such good weather on the Sunday. Some families who came to help were fortunate enough to see the resident otters swimming by.

Nick has written, "It was particularly wonderful to welcome a team of members from the Yorkshire Gardens Trust, and great to see them get stuck in with visitors of all ages. The Nunnington garden team wishes to express our thanks to the Trust for the donation and help in all aspects of the project. We'd also like to say a big thank you to all the visitors who helped. Many hands make light work,

but more laughter and fun make for a better day. We look forward to seeing you all again early next year to enjoy the crocuses in bloom."

Conclusion

It seems that our £1,000 donation created two projects which were both really successful and engaged children and their families in trying their hands at a bit of gardening. Hopefully the enthusiasm won't wear off too quickly and they will continue to think that gardening is fun.

Unfortunately, it was quite difficult to engage with parents and tell them a bit about what the YGT does, though at both events our volunteers were introduced by the NT gardeners. Next year I hope that we might be able to fund more similar events for children, not necessarily at National Trust gardens but perhaps at other venues and parks.

If you belong to the Friends group at a local park or know of a suitable venue, please contact Vicky Price dvickyprice@waitrose.com.

Vicky Price

Trustee and Events Team

YGT Membership Renewals and GDPR

YGT annual memberships are due for renewal on 1 April each year. Due to the new data protection (GDPR) regulations, we are unable to contact lapsed members and therefore **no reminders will be sent**. We are most grateful for members' support which enables us to achieve so much together, and we hope you will wish to renew.

Gift Aid and standing orders: Where possible, these are encouraged; a combined form can be found at <https://bit.ly/3bW2U2H> or by requesting one via membership@yorkshiregardenstrust.org.uk.

Payment by cheque: Please post your renewal cheque, made payable to Yorkshire Gardens Trust (in full), to 14 Huntington Road, York YO31 8RB. Thank you.

Yorkshire Gardens Trust

President
Vice Presidents
Chairman
Treasurer
Other Trustees

The Countess of Harewood
Caroline Legard, Peter Goodchild, Nick Lane Fox
Chris Webb
Nigel Tooze
Malcolm Barnett, Penelope Dawson Brown, Gail Falkingham,
Val Hepworth, Madalyn Hughes, Vicky Price, Pat Gore.

Sub Groups

Conservation
Small Grants
Education
Research and Recording
Membership/engagement
Events
Newsletter/e-Bulletin

Val Hepworth
Vacant; offers of help welcome
Nicola Harrison
Louise Wickham
Louise Amende, Vicky Price
Vicky Price, Madalyn Hughes and the Events' Team
Christine Miskin.

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Notes from the Editor

I hope that you have all safely received your first e-Bulletin and found it useful. I am grateful to those of you who have provided me with feedback and would be very pleased to hear from any other members who may have suggestions for alterations, additions and improvements. The e-Bulletin will doubtless develop and change over time as new ideas for content emerge.

This Spring Newsletter is due to be published by Easter and I apologise that it is slightly late in appearing. This is due to my being struck down with a virulent bout of pneumonia in January, followed by the arrival of the Coronavirus pandemic. I hope that this issue finds you and yours well, and that it provides a small relief from the developing turmoil around us.

The ongoing lockdown has meant that this year's programme of visits has been postponed indefinitely. We have therefore decided that the reports of garden visits made late last Summer will be held over until the Autumn 2020 issue so that they will offer some seasonally appropriate reading irrespective of whether the 2020 programme has resumed by then. We hope then to return to our regular pattern of e-bulletins and

newsletters with more typical content by the end of this year.

In addition to the normal reports of visits, conference and committee reports and YGT domestic matters, this issue contains an article, specially commissioned by Val, on the high profile and important disputes over the felling of street trees in Sheffield. It has been written by Jill Sinclair, one of our members, who was until recently Chair of the Friends of Sheffield Botanic Gardens, and we are very grateful to her.

We are most grateful to those who have written articles and reports for this issue.

In closing, if any of you would like to write an article about a related topic which you think would be of interest to our membership, I would be delighted to hear from you, as we would welcome a wide range of articles for you all to enjoy. Thank you.

We look forward to the fruits of your thoughts in a future edition and meanwhile I hope that you enjoy this Newsletter.

Christine Miskin

Newsletter and e-Bulletin Editor

YGT Small Grants Scheme

Last year we gave a £500 grant to sponsor the **Harrogate Valley Gardens Souvenir Guide** produced by volunteers and organised by Jane Blayney, former Chairman of the Friends of Valley Gardens, and her colleague Anne Smith.

Chris Mayes attended the official launch by the Chairman of NYCC, Councillor Jim Clark on Sunday 13th October.

www.valleygardensharrogate.org

We also gave a similar sum for the new guidebook, **A Guide to the History of Wortley Hall and its Gardens**, produced by Wortley Hall Walled Garden Heritage Project:

www.wortleyorganic.org and heeleyfarm.org.uk

Do look up the websites and buy the guidebooks, which of course include our YGT logo.

We have had some enquiries for grants as follows: York Theatre Royal for a redesigned garden area, Centre Vale Park, Todmorden, a Percy Cane garden behind Broomhill Library in Sheffield, and

Wydale Hall and await applications.

The trustees have decided to alter the funding of the scheme, hopefully to make it more attractive. For any one application we can give a maximum grant of £2,000 with only 25% match funding required.

Chris Mayes is standing down from running the scheme and what we really need is someone to promote and lead it; it is a small but enjoyable task and you do meet lots of nice folk in interesting parts of the county. We are particularly keen to help "Friends" groups, civic societies and public parks.

If you are interested in helping with the grant scheme or finding out more then please contact me:

Val Hepworth

Tel: 01748 822617

or e-mail: val@hepworthskeeby.co.uk

Update from the YGT Council of Management

Council of Management meetings are held four times a year in York. As well as trustees, vice-presidents and representatives from the various sub committees are invited to attend. Since the last update, meetings were held on 23 July 2019 (chaired by Nigel Tooze) and 22 October 2019 and 4 February 2020 (both chaired by Vicky Price). The following issues were discussed:

Managing the Trust

At every meeting there was a discussion about identifying new trustees to ensure there would be enough people to manage the Trust and to enable succession planning. A number of new people have been proposed for election at the AGM in April but, at the time of writing, the role of Chairman remains vacant.

Membership and engagement

Following discussions, Council decided to increase the frequency of newsletters with an additional half-yearly email Bulletin (posted to those who are not on email).

Vicky Price and Christine Miskin are looking at YGT's overall branding and how it presents itself, to ensure we engage with new younger members. This will ensure that better use is made of the website, including being able to join and book events online, and social media.

We are always considering ways in which to raise awareness of YGT through events such as the recently sponsored National Trust family days at Beningbrough Hall and Nunnington Hall. Consideration is currently being given to involvement in York Bloom!, the 2022 York Makers and Shapers Festival and the Yorkshire Spring Flower Show.

There were discussions at each meeting on how to mark the Trust's 25th Anniversary in 2021. Ideas from members are welcome; please send them to secretary@yorkshiregardenstrust.org.uk.

Education and Training

Council members always welcome the report from the Schools' Group. Council has encouraged a recent initiative to make it easier for new schools to become members and to cancel the joining fee.

Maddy Hughes and Pat Gore have put in a considerable amount of work setting up and promoting the Student Bursary. Members are encouraged to identify potential recipients; further information about this can be found on p. 23 and 27 of the last Newsletter (Issue 45).

Several trustees, together with Vice-President Peter Goodchild, are developing an Introduction to Garden History course to be delivered during the 25th Anniversary year.

Conservation Committee

As always, Council was updated on significant planning casework such as the proposed plans at Studley Royal. A full report of the Committee's recent, very heavy workload begins on p. 20.

Small Grants Scheme

Council would also like to raise awareness of the Small Grants Scheme and, following Chris Mayes' resignation as the organiser, invite a new person to promote it. If there are any members who would like to take on this discrete task please let us know and please see further information about what is involved on p. 3.

There were also updates on **Finance** and from **Research and Recording**. The latter held a very successful volunteer training day in November 2019, has gained some new members and is taking on a significant amount of additional work which is described in their detailed report which begins on p. 16.

The next YGT Council of Management meetings are on 21 April and 21 July 2020.

Nigel Tooze
Treasurer

YGT: Ways to Keep in Touch

For general and membership queries: visit our website www.yorkshiregardenstrust.org.uk and click the 'Contact' tab or simply email secretary@yorkshiregardenstrust.org.uk.

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 events: as usually listed on the back page of this newsletter; please see p. 31.

Grimston Park, near Tadcaster

Saturday 18 May 2019

Introduction

Our afternoon visit to Grimston Park was preceded by my talk in the Methodist Chapel in Tadcaster. This venue is used by the Tadcaster Historical Society for their monthly meetings and is where, in 2015, I made a plea for help with the research into Grimston Park, which was one of sixteen sites in the Selby District project, undertaken by the YGT Research and Recording team. Gil Firth and Chris Fenge came forward and are co-authors of the report:

www.yorkshiregardenstrust.org.uk/grimston-park and also helped to organise the visit. My talk was an opportunity to revisit the history of the estate and reveal some aspects of the stunning landscape we would be treated to in the afternoon, courtesy of the estate owners John and Thomas Fielden. Richard, Lord Best and his wife Lindy had also invited us to view part of the gardens and interior of the house: it was designed by Decimus Burton and the parterre gardens were laid out by William Andrews Nesfield. The gardens are an important example of the Italianate style of architecture and landscape design that was popular in the mid-19th century.

History of the estate

The manors of Grimston and Kirkby Wharfe passed through various owners after Domesday, when in 1086 Ilbert de Lacy owned the land. From c.1587 to 1739 five generations of the Stanhope family held the manors and in 1603 King James I of England visited Sir Edward Stanhope's house. Samuel Buck's *Yorkshire Sketchbook* of c.1720 shows a large house, owned at that time by Langdale Stanhope Esq, with a tree lined approach and gated frontage. Warburton's 1720 map depicts Grimstone Hall and shows evidence of the wider landscape with trees along the River Wharfe, which runs through the estate.

The Garforth family, who were wealthy bankers and merchants, owned the estate for three generations until 1790. They had a close association with John Carr, who designed Garforth House in York for them and made alterations to their two other properties, Askham Hall and Wiganthorpe Hall. The 1815 sale catalogue described Grimston House as built by John Carr and he was probably commissioned by the Garforths. By this time the 212 acre estate had lawns, pleasure grounds, kitchen garden, plantations and woodland.



Grimston Park observatory tower
(Photo Credit: Yvonne Boutwood)

John Hobart Caradoc, 2nd Baron Howden, who married Princess Catherine Bagration, a relation of the Tsar of Russia, from 1840-43 developed the house and gardens into much of what remains today. The house was rebuilt in an Italianate style by Decimus Burton, who also designed the coach house, stable block, summerhouse, riding school (manège), observatory tower and lodges with ornamental gates and walls; all survive today and are listed buildings.

William Andrews Nesfield was commissioned to redesign the gardens, creating a sunken rose garden and parterre surrounded by extensive pleasure grounds, intersected by walks and embellished with marble statuary. He created Emperors' Walk, a long path lined with marble busts of the twelve Caesars on pedestals, leading to a temple where there was a bust of Napoleon.

Albert Denison, Baron Londesborough, bought the Grimston estate in 1850 and made it his home, despite having many other Yorkshire properties. He made changes to the parkland, extending it southwards and adding perimeter plantations. He was a horse-racing enthusiast and developed the model Kirkby Farm into the Stockwell Stud. The famous racehorse, Stockwell, was acquired for the stud in 1855 and sired many famous winners.

By 1872 the Grimston Park estate extended to 2,785 acres and was bought by John Fielden. Part of a dynasty of wealthy cotton manufacturers, he owned eight cotton spinning, weaving and printing mills employing 2,500 people in the Todmorden area. The estate, now much reduced in size, still belongs to the Fielden family and is a thriving enterprise, but the house and some of the service buildings have been sold and divided up into residential accommodation.

Landscape Park

Driving from Tadcaster to Kirkby Wharfe village we passed the substantial western entrance gates to the park. We continued to drive along the southern boundary where big gaps in the shelterbelts give glimpses into the parkland. The broad village green at Kirkby Wharfe provided ample parking and we gathered inside the southern gate by the lodge and St John's Church. The surrounding trees sheltering the church mask the lie of the land, as the fertile floodplain retaining earthworks of medieval ridge and furrow ploughing, stretches northwards to the River Wharfe.

Our walk turned south along the narrow lane following the eastern perimeter shelterbelts, passing the lychgate of a small cemetery containing the graves of twenty-three airmen of the Second World War from RAF Fighter Sector Station at Church Fenton. On reaching the former model farm, still a stud and livery stables, we climbed the steep slope and paused to get our bearings. Here expansive views southwards across the parkland are dotted with tree clumps. Looking east, the shelterbelts were clearly positioned to screen the village from within the parkland. The slight ridge extending westwards and dotted with large mature trees, hides any views of the house and pleasure grounds.

Our next stop was the observatory tower, sitting at the highest point in the parkland, from which we enjoyed extensive views across the landscape. Designed as an eye-catcher by Decimus Burton, its ornate Egyptian style doorway and upper balcony are very similar to Burton's two onshore lighthouses at Fleetwood, Lancashire. Sitting within a small stand of coniferous trees, also hidden is a small reservoir, an essential water source on this limestone geology. Our route dropped down to reach the drive, lined with trees, with views northwards across parkland where more mature trees survive.

House and formal gardens

The entrance on the north side of the house is through ornate gates with paired lodges, guarded by two kneeling statues of kings bearing shields

and swords, with an inscription "Traditus Non Victus" (yielded but not conquered). Research by Edward Waterson and Roger Carr-Whitworth indicate these are replacements for originals carved by George Milburn in 1892/3 and that Walter Brierley, York Arts and Crafts architect, refurbished some of the estate buildings at about this time too. Much of the garden statuary was sold by the Fieldens in the 1960s but the northern garden, with sweeping lawns framed by large specimen trees, also has replica statues of Bacchus and Genius.

Our host, Richard, Lord Best, greeted us and explained the architecture of the building. The symmetrical Ionic porticoed north front contrasts with the Italianate style rear, where a three story tower and clock tower flank a central loggia and veranda designed by Decimus Burton to complement the views to Nesfield's south parterre and west rose garden. At their height these Italian style formal gardens contained 450 roses. Currently, lawns dominate with neat topiary shrubs but towering copper beeches and a majestic cedar are still impressive remnants of earlier planting. The former sunken rose garden still retains its fountain, an impressive replica, replaced when the original was shattered by frosts.

Richard and Lindy welcomed us into their home, the west wing of the building, entered through the former palm house and conservatory.

Although it has lost its curved glass dome and windows, the parts incorporated into the kitchen retain cast iron palm frond pillars, an innovative construction for 1840, which was later employed in Kew Gardens' glasshouses. We were guided through the yellow drawing room, where the ornate painted ceilings and walls are carefully restored, and entertained by Richard's anecdotes of characters associated with Grimston Park, whose portraits hang on the walls. The blue



North walled garden lawns and topiary
(Photo credit: John Firth)

drawing room, now a dining room, was no less impressive, with the bonus of displayed copies of Country Life showing the original interiors.

Stable block and walled garden

John Fielden and his son Thomas greeted us at the stable courtyard, where the former coach house, stables and gardener's house, designed by Decimus Burton, still provide accommodation. On the north side is the former riding school, a large handsome building with Diocletian windows, built for Princess Bagration by Lord Howden.

John explained it was requisitioned by the RAF in 1940 and modified to form an Operations Centre for Church Fenton and other Yorkshire airfields during the Second World War. Part is now used as the estate office, but the rest is unused.

Leaving through the courtyard southern gates, a route that riders would have taken, there are views out to the parkland. Here, the long walk along the south parterre originally ran to meet the walled garden, and ornate gates take us through into the south walled garden. Originally an orchard it now has young espaliers on the north wall and the somewhat gnarled fruit trees in the interior were planted post war. The north walled garden, now a private space, is laid to lawn with paths and neat clipped trees. From 1965 it was used by Grimston

Park Nurseries and had extensive ranges of glasshouses, but these were demolished following its closure in 2008.

St John the Baptist Church

We continued along the former carriage drive back to St John the Baptist Church (Listed Grade II*), stopping to take in the parkland views and note an old mulberry tree, marking the site of a former orchard and earlier house, Bella Hall. In the church, as we sat with refreshments and cake, John Fielden explained its history and restoration, particularly of some fine stained glass windows; its Norman style nave and inner door show its early history but some 10th century Anglo-Saxon stone crosses suggest an even earlier foundation. The church was altered in the 14th century and restored in 1861 by the 2nd Lord Londesborough, whose family burial vault lies in the grounds.

We are grateful to our hosts John and Thomas Fielden, also Richard, Lord Best and Lindy, for allowing us to visit them and we admire their dedication as custodians of the buildings and landscape. Thanks also to the helpers, Gil and John Firth, Chris and Jerry Fenge and, of course, the support of the YGT Events team too.

Yvonne Boutwood



Sunken rose garden with restored fountain
(Photo credit: John Firth)

Slack Top Alpine Nursery and Land Farm Visit

Sunday 2 June 2019

Slack Top Alpine Nursery

We were feeling slightly anxious as we approached Slack Top. The drive up onto the moor had been delightful, coming north steeply out of Hebden Bridge and through Heptonstall, leaving Hardcastle Craggs to our right, and turning towards Colden and Blackshawhead, but grey clouds, banked up and moving fast, filled the sky, puddles lay along the road sides and occasional drops spattered the windscreen. We were wearing warm clothing and had brought umbrellas and waterproofs. Would anyone turn up, we wondered? Would the event be a wash-out?

We arrived at Slack Top Nursery, owned by Alison and Michael Mitchell, and Alison came out and helped us to park and unload. Pat (Gore) had brought coffee and hot water for tea, various biscuits and a folding table and she had gone to some trouble to obtain good quality recyclable paper cups, not wanting to add to the plastics problem. Our hosts provided a generous tray of home-made flapjack. Geoff (Hughes), as ever, did sterling work helping everyone park and eventually, with hot drinks in hands, we were officially welcomed to Slack Top Alpine Nursery



Slack Top Alpine Nursery

which sits at an altitude of 975 feet above sea level. It is a wet and windy site, as the day proved, but some shelter is provided for more tender alpine plants. All the plants in the garden and the nursery were in excellent condition. We were there in time to see some beautiful trilliums, primula and species paeonies.

Michael gave us an interesting talk about the prevailing weather conditions, wind strengths, and winter temperatures at Slack Top, which affected the plants that can be grown there. He mentioned how many alpine plants survive happily under a blanket of dry snow but hate to be soaked for long periods.

He then proceeded with a useful demonstration of how to plant up alpine plants in a stone or 'tufa' trough, making sure there are holes in the bottom, providing broken pot for drainage and mixing his own blend of potting compost, using a soil-based John Innes rather than peat, which of course soaks up water in wet weather and remains soggy, but which also dries out in summer, and then resists wetting, and coarse grit, in roughly 50/50 proportions, in order to ensure the good drainage which is so essential to alpine plants. He added pleasing aesthetic effects with well-placed stones of various kinds, suggesting the natural environment of these plants and reminding me of the Japanese tradition of balancing plants with natural stone features. It is worth mentioning that many plants enjoy having their roots closely associated with rocks and stones, from which they may draw additional minerals, and which help to retain moisture in dry weather.

We were then invited to wander freely around the garden and nursery, where we enjoyed seeing many beautiful and fascinating alpine plants in a range of planting positions, from raised beds and large stone, ceramic, and tufa troughs, to dry-stone walls. Larger trees and shrubs provided shade for those plants which preferred less exposure to light and the arrangement of paths and planting was varied and very pleasing. Alison and Michael have worked hard to make the garden and nursery interesting and attractive, with winding paths of well-laid bricks and tiles.

Further down the garden and nursery, which are set on a fairly steep slope but remain negotiable for most people, we came to the nursery proper, where plants for sale were set out on benches. Many of us were pleased to buy examples of good quality plants, though I regretted that a particularly beautiful cream and purple species iris setosa



Land Farm Garden

which I had spotted growing in a clump in the garden was not available for sale. I did treat myself to one of the nursery's own cultivars saxifraga 'Slack Top Vesuvius' which had a dramatic 30cm plume of red and white flowers and lots of offsets so I am hoping for a whole forest of them next year.

After our morning at Slack Top, we spent a couple of hours in Heptonstall having lunch and exploring its fascinating streets and history – its two churches, the octagonal Methodist Chapel, the old Grammar School (now a museum) and the essential visit to Sylvia Plath's grave before the next visit of the day to Land Farm Garden.

Dave James



John Williams

Land Farm Garden

'Nothing since the Garden of Eden could be more pleasant than Calder Vale'

(John Wesley, 1770)

From the micro, alpine in troughs we moved to the macro, curvilinear green sweeps. Gloating over our purchases from Slack Top Nursery (I speak for myself) we bridged our garden experience with lunch in Heptonstall, exploring this former textile community with its characteristic large church and graveyard and handloom weavers' houses with distinctive upper-storey windows; nowadays it caters for the tourist and walker, while the world behind the picturesque face may be revealed in the museum.

A scenic route, which meant including a single-track lane and with views liable to distract the driver, took us through the hamlet of Colden and across the eponymous stream to Land Farm, home of John and Liz Williams. The garden is John's creation from open farmland, about six acres on a gentle slope lying about the former seventeenth-century farmhouse. John's tour will be memorable to all of us for his individual approach to the cultivated landscape. It was the peak period for blooming rhododendrons and azaleas, but we were encouraged to focus on varied shades of green and on the precise location of feature shrubs within their respective settings. The vigorous implementation of his vision threatened any misplaced plant, such as a charming but impetuous red maple.

Whilst this abundance was only made possible by an initial extensive tree planting for shelter, the smaller groundcover is an important part of the whole. Tall pinky-red primulas, persicaria, bracken, occasional clumps of herbaceous

perennials such as *campanula lactiflora* and *cardiocrinum* lilies, resist uniformity and weed growth. I was especially interested in the use of textured mounds of mosses.

How is all this managed? The origin – so far as John admitted – was a job lot of reject rhododendrons from Bodnant, so that one wonders what rare varieties may now be preserved in their Pennine home. Regular maintenance is provided by three very part-time gardeners. Underfoot, paths are either mown grass or bark chippings with understated kerbstone edgings: a considerable initial outlay of labour in acquiring and carrying stone, duly positioned according to John's design.

The views are, with one exception where trees are kept back beside the stream, within discreet areas,

the visitor drawn along curves to delight any Garden City planner, with an additional three-dimensional slope and tilt. Sculptures in various materials, commissioned by John, inhabit their chosen spaces as traditional talking points, but on these I make no comment.

Perhaps this description may be an incentive to the reader to explore further by visiting on one of the Yellow Book open days. Our visit, in true Pennine weather, was completed by tea and delicious cakes made by Liz. This day showed some of the diverse delights of the westernmost part of the county: a reminder of the extent of gardening and enthusiasm of gardeners throughout Yorkshire.

Helen Caffrey

Photo credits: Christine Miskin and Roger Lambert

Second Planning Workshop at Ripon Workhouse Museum

27 June 2019

Following the 12 March Planning Training Day at Bramham, The Gardens Trust, supported by YGT, ran a follow-on workshop on Thursday 27 June, this time in the fascinating surroundings of Ripon's Workhouse Museum. The Gardens Trust is a statutory consultee for planning applications regarding historic parks and gardens and has produced a document "The Planning System in England and the Protection of Historic Parks and Gardens", this including referencing relevant topics in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). The YGT's Conservation Committee is the group that addresses conservation and planning matters in Yorkshire. Whereas the Bramham day had examined several issues regarding the future of historic parks and gardens, this day concentrated on the mechanics of how to produce a response to a planning application affecting such an historic landscape.

The approach is to first do your homework. Is there an entry on the heritage register? If yes, what does it say, including the significance of surroundings and any sightlines? Is there a conservation management plan for the site? What does the local council's plan state? What can be gleaned from maps – anything from archive site plans to recent Google Earth views? Does an archive or internet search reveal relevant research on the history of the site that should be worthy of preservation? Much more can be researched online including anything from a famous garden designer's description to a historic painting of a

view across the landscape.

Exercises undertaken at the workshop on a real planning application highlighted ascertaining what the planning application does not state and the significance of evaluating the impact on historic views and sightlines, even when these have been ignored in the applicant's submission.

If we wish to comment, the next step is to decide whether to support the application, request refusal or object, but with suggestions of points to be addressed before we would be happy for consent to be given. We may wish first to contact the named Council planning officer, Historic England or other relevant specialist. We then need to comment specifically from a garden/landscape point of view, although there is obviously nothing wrong in suggesting issues for others to consider, for example: "Highways may wish to comment on the proposed large increase in traffic on the narrow access road". Then draft a clear summary with text to support the submission, highlighting the impact of proposed changes to the significance of the park/garden, including relevant findings from your research and referencing applicable NPPF points. YGT has agreed text to describe our position as respondent on behalf of The Gardens Trust and we need to copy it on our response.

Done. YGT now has some additional volunteers for planning work!

Geoff Hughes

Member of Conservation and Planning Group

Gisborough Priory and Tudor Croft

Thursday 13 June 2019



The group gathered at Gisborough Priory, East end
(Photo credit: Roger Lambert)

Introduction

A day of highs and lows. The low can be summed up in one word: weather. Gusts of rain, 9 degrees, truly horrible; but the highs outweighed the weather in spades. We met, frustratingly, on market day so parking was tricky at Gisborough Priory – no hardening ‘u’ in its historic orthography. We were welcomed by Pat Robertson in the site’s ‘visitor centre’, or shed, with coffee and biscuits. The Priory is managed for English Heritage by volunteers from the Gisborough Priory Project, which was registered as a charity in 2005, to restore and maintain the historic gardens associated with the Priory. We then gathered in the neighbouring church of St Nicholas, where Judith Arber took us through the history of the priory, established exactly 900 years ago this year by Robert de Brus. For the lugubrious, or those interested in architectural tomb-ology, an impressive early 16th-century family cenotaph rises in reassembled carved splendour from the south-west floor of the church. For four centuries Augustinian priors and canons – never any monks, for this was a mendicant order – spread the word throughout the extensive lands of the de Brus family across northern England and up into Scotland. It was a de Brus, now known as Robert the Bruce, who broke ties with his English

and, of course, Norman origins to become king of Scotland.

We were shown various ancient(ish) plans and engravings, including a fine Knyff and Kip example, a bird’s eye view of the whole estate when it still contained the grand 17th century mansion, now no longer in existence, of the Chaloner family. These engravings are renowned amongst experts to be more decorative than precise apparently. When Henry VIII dissolved the priory, it was Thomas Chaloner who bought it, lock stock and barrel. I wondered how much he paid, back in 1550, for the 90 plus acres with a ruined priory thrown in.

Tour of Priory Grounds

Pat Robertson opened the tour by showing us her herb garden, a valiant attempt-in-miniature to illustrate the many herbs cultivated and harvested in the priory for the culinary, medicinal and spiritual welfare of the Augustinians. She expatiated, for those of us who could catch her voice above the rain drumming on our umbrellas, on how the herbs were variously combined to achieve specific results. We all wished the elements had been kinder to the imparting of her extensive knowledge. We were then taken to the oldest surviving part of the original priory, the Norman archway and its garderobe. Clearly, the

Augustinians were not fussy about a fragrant entry to their grandeur.

The Chaloners saw the priory ruins, and especially the grand east wall, as a neat folly to be incorporated into their garden. To enhance the view through to the distance, they demolished the section of wall below the massive east window. A carriage could then drive through it. They also laid out the formal garden in distinct areas, as Christine Clarke so ably explained to us, competing all the while with the rain, wind and near-constant chiming of the bells in the adjacent church. We passed a 'masonry graveyard' of carved stone recovered from the ground and laid out by age, not of the stone itself, but of its use in the priory through the three successive churches erected on the site. Two massive and intricately moulded roof bosses caught my attention, their detail now obscured by moss. Mossy bosses, I thought, and smiled to myself! We entered the Monks Walk, curiously named as there had never been a monk in sight, and curious too in its design of a diamond lozenge, with slender avenues of limes joining the four compass points. The older limes had forked, after pollarding; the newer trees were spared that fate as arboricultural fashions changed. As we progressed around the extensive site, we were shown borders newly created by volunteers to illustrate what might have been there in centuries past: a 17th/18th century border, entirely green with box hedging, a Victorian border including a rhododendron patch, an Edwardian border outlined in old bricks, and a more modern garden. Tremendous and impressive work has been done by Christine and her fellow volunteers. Where would we be without such selfless endeavours? But there's plenty more to do, she assured us!

Tudor Croft

After lunch, we made our way to Mike Heagney's amazing garden, Tudor Croft, at the western end of Guisborough. The house has been Mike's family home all his life and the original garden was made by his father. Many members had already visited it and so knew they were in for a treat; the rest of us were eagerly anticipating this visit and were not disappointed. Poor Mike had to contend with not only the pouring rain, but also the after-effects of a serious accident on the nearby dual carriageway, so his normally quiet road had become a grid-locked thoroughfare, making parking difficult. He coped cheerfully, ushering many vehicles onto his capacious driveway. "Never mind, the garden's lovely" Mike assured us, and it was indeed a delight, as always. Five acres of planted beds, hedged

enclosures, wooded expanses and a bustling beck in full flood made us constantly catch our breath with wonder. We would have much welcomed a better day to investigate and admire the multifarious planting, and thereby allow for a fuller account here of what Mike has achieved. If you have the talent and the eye, and put in over forty years of hard work, this is what can be done. As an example of this, Mike showed us a copper beech hedge, planted by him some forty years ago and kept neatly trimmed to five feet in height. Nearby was a spare hedge-plant, allowed to grow. It's now a massive tree.

However wonderful the garden was, and is, due to the unkind climatic conditions it was difficult not to look forward to the splendid tea, strawberry tarts and various cakes laid on by Mike's sister Gel, and held in his fascinating (and delightfully warm) Robert 'Mouseman' Thompson drawing-room. Panelled and beamed and dotted with Mouseman furniture, it's a museum piece. I was told his family have altered the Latin inscription above the huge inglenook. It now reads in translation "May God give us his peace", but the centre shield of St Joseph, patron saint of craftsmen, stays in place. Dried, warmed and replete, we took our grateful leave.

Mark Anderson



Tudor Croft in its setting
(Photo credit: Roger Lambert)

Copt Hewick Hall

Wednesday 3 July 2019



Copt Hewick Hall (Photo credit: Jim Godfrey)

In early July on a warm, sunny evening, fifty-seven YGT members met at Copt Hewick Hall for a fund-raising drinks reception to raise money towards establishing horticultural bursaries for students. We were welcomed by the owner, Mrs Valeria Sykes, who had kindly agreed to open her recently restored gardens for our event. The reception, with drinks and delicious canapés served on the terrace of the converted stables of the Hall, raised £1,345 towards the bursary fund. We were then free to explore the stunning gardens which, inspired as well by curiosity to see the controversially renovated house, was probably the main reason why most of us had come.

History of the Hall

Copt Hewick Hall, Grade II listed, was built in 1775 for Thomas Curren, a former Mayor of Ripon when it was then known as Copt Hewick Lodge. It passed through several changes of ownership in the 19th century. In the sale-particulars of 1867 it was described as having delightful views, an exquisite flower garden, conservatories, an extensive and well stocked kitchen and fruit gardens, beautiful pleasure grounds, park and ornamental planting which, even allowing for estate agents hyperbole, suggests the gardens were well maintained.

From at least 1871 when he appeared on the census returns to 1913 when he died, the Hall was owned by Joseph Stancliffe Hurst, who seems from the evidence of Kelly's Directory of 1881, to have continued the high horticultural standards. At that time the property was described as "a handsome house situated in a beautiful lawn adorned with a tastefully laid-out flower garden and shrubberies, with a conservatory and vinery attached. The surrounding park of about 300 acres

is ornamented with finely grown timber."

During the 20th century the house had mixed fortunes, being put on the market with 41 acres for a bargain sale price of £3,500 in 1935. The garden was sufficiently well regarded to be opened under the National Gardens Scheme for its show of daffodils in April 1955.

In the 1980s the Hall was owned by the Zetland family and was lived in by Lord Ronaldshay, now the Marquis of Zetland. He had the large conservatory erected in 1984 and opened the gardens from then on under the NGS and many of us may remember visiting them. In 2008 it was put on the market for offers over £7 million by owners who, having bought it only 3 years earlier, were described by Country Life as having completely transformed the property, adding two extensions to the rear, rewiring and reroofing and



YGT members were welcomed by Ms Valeria Sykes (facing).
(Photo credit: Jim Godfrey)

installing state-of-the art plumbing and heating. Surprisingly, when it was bought by the present owner in 2011, it was once more completely renovated.

The New Garden

Alistair Baldwin, the award-winning landscape architect and garden designer, was commissioned by Mrs Sykes in 2011 to create a garden which would complement her restored house. Alistair kindly sent me some notes on what inspired and influenced his design. Apparently by 2011, there were virtually no gardens to speak of and, apart from a network of garden walls and some notable trees, he was faced with a blank canvas. The grounds needed a lot of major earth-moving work before planting could begin, while redundant buildings were demolished, and the sloping walled garden was levelled. Alistair's aim was to create gardens of differing character, by making use of existing historic brick walls and adding some new ones to divide the garden into a series of rooms. The newly levelled walled garden was designed to create a garden of two distinct halves, one part was set aside for fruit and vegetables in raised beds, while the other half was planned to contain a croquet lawn, an herbaceous border and a substantial greenhouse. Mature pleached trees were brought from the owner's previous house to create a backdrop across one end. Outside the walled garden, where there had been an abandoned swimming pool, an enclosed, axial space was created. Four magnificent existing *pyrus salicifolia* trees were retained to complement a newly- installed rill and two circular ponds. Beyond this enclosure and nearer the house, a new orangery was built on the footprint of the 1984 conservatory. This was surrounded by soft planting to create a foreground for views over the parkland. The terrace beside the front elevation of the house, which faces the newly enlarged lake,



The new garden at Copt Hewick Hall.
(Photo credit: Jim Godfrey)

was planted with traditional topiary. The gardens were completed by May 2013 in time for a party to celebrate the 75th birthday of Valeria Sykes.

On the evening of our visit the gardens looked superb, with all the plants and shrubs in pristine condition. The walled garden and greenhouse with its luxuriant vine were particularly impressive, while the enclosure with the silver pear trees and gently flowing rill provided an elegant contrast. Having explored the garden and the terrace around the house, many of us were then tempted to cross the drive and walk over the curved wooden causeway across the newly enlarged lake to the Tuscan temple. This building, designed by the owner, serves both as a boathouse and an eyecatcher. Reflecting in the lake in the evening sunshine it looked particularly striking. Members so enjoyed wandering around the gardens and catching up with old friends that many lingered on, only leaving after 9.00 pm, feeling very fortunate to have seen such beautifully designed gardens at their peak of perfection.

Moirra Fulton



The newly installed rill. (Photo credit: Jim Godfrey)

YGT Schools' Group News

Grounds Development Award for Ingleby Greenhow School

Ingleby Greenhow C of E Primary School won a Grounds Development Award in 2019, which was funded by the Rakusen bequest. In applying, the schools have to answer a series of questions about their plans, which the Schools Group scrutinises thoroughly. The intention is that we award the money to schools which have realistic plans, show involvement of the children in the designing, making and using of the project and which have a clear idea of how to maintain it. Ingleby Greenhow received £250 towards their project and part of their application is reproduced below:

"At the moment we have a scraggy piece of land where we grow rhubarb and sometimes potatoes and other vegetables; it needs a tremendous amount of weeding each time Spring comes round before we can start to plant any vegetables in it".

What will be the main aims, uses and benefits of the space when it has been developed?

"We are hoping to have some raised beds built on the piece of land. We can maintain the rhubarb at the end and then plant vegetables in the raised beds. The main benefits are that we will not have to clear the site each spring of the huge amount of weeds that like to grow there! We will be able to teach the children about growing vegetables and also get the cook to use them in our meals at school. You can't get fresher than that! Due to the raised beds this will hopefully ensure that our produce will be free from slugs and snails as much as possible. The whole project will be fantastic for teaching science but also the life skills of looking after something.

Hopefully it will inspire our families to grow their own fruit and vegetables at home too. We are all very passionate about being outside and feeling healthy and this will be a great opportunity for the whole school to be involved in a worthwhile project."

The photos show just how successful their project has been – thanks to our award!

Sue Lindley



The finished raised beds ready for planting; a harvested cauliflower, cooked and enjoyed at lunchtime.

(Image credits: Ingleby Greenhow C of E Primary School.)

Research and Recording



Figure 1: Hackness Hall and park, c. 1850-70.
(Photo credit: Francis Frith, ©Victoria and Albert Museum, London)

New sites and new volunteers

One of the participants at our training day in November last year was Dianne Ford. She had come to the series of talks on researching historic gardens at the County Record Office in Northallerton earlier in the year and thought she might like to volunteer. She and an experienced YGT researcher, Moira Fulton, will be starting work on Hackness Hall park and garden in March.

Hackness Hall

Situated just outside Scarborough, it is in the North York Moors National Park (Figure 1). Although the current Hall dates from the late 18th century, the site has a long history of occupation, with part of the land owned by Whitby Abbey. Following the Dissolution of the Monasteries, it changed hands several times until it was acquired by Arthur Dakins.

Dakins' daughter, Lady Margaret Hoby, is now known for her diary written between 1599 and 1605, which is the earliest known by an Englishwoman. She lived at Hackness "Old Hall" and it seems she was a keen gardener as she makes frequent mentions of the garden at Hackness:

"30 January 1600 - I walked in my garden

13 August 1600 - Afternoon busy in my garden, working and preserving

30 October 1601 - I have set some trees which Mr Stillington has sent me

5 October 1603 - This day in our gardens we had a

second summer...white roses, red roses and we have set a musk rose the winter before it bears flowers now. I think the like has been seldom seen: it is a great fruit year over [seems they had mild autumns too...]

1 November 1603 - At this time, we had in our gardens raspberries fair set again and every herb and flower bear 'twisse' [twigs?]"

Upsall Castle

A record of an even earlier designed landscape is being researched at Upsall Castle near Thirsk. Upsall Park was once the site of a large (c.600 acre) medieval deer park that was adjacent to a 14th century castle. Created between 1244 and 1255 by Geoffrey de Upsall, its boundaries can still be identified today and parts of its pale dike remain. It was acquired by Geoffrey le Scrope in 1327 and his son, Henry, is believed to have built the castle on its northern edge sometime after 1350. Parks of this size were mainly owned by high status individuals and so would have been prized by the Scrope family.

The park's long decline started in the 16th century when the estate was sold to the Constable family of Burton Constable. By 1600, it had been "disparked" and turned into farmland, but its boundaries remained intact as the land inside it was subject to a nominal tithe of two deer and the right of grazing on the land for one horse. These were clearly shown on the tithe map of 1846 (Figure 2) with field names giving an indication of former park features.

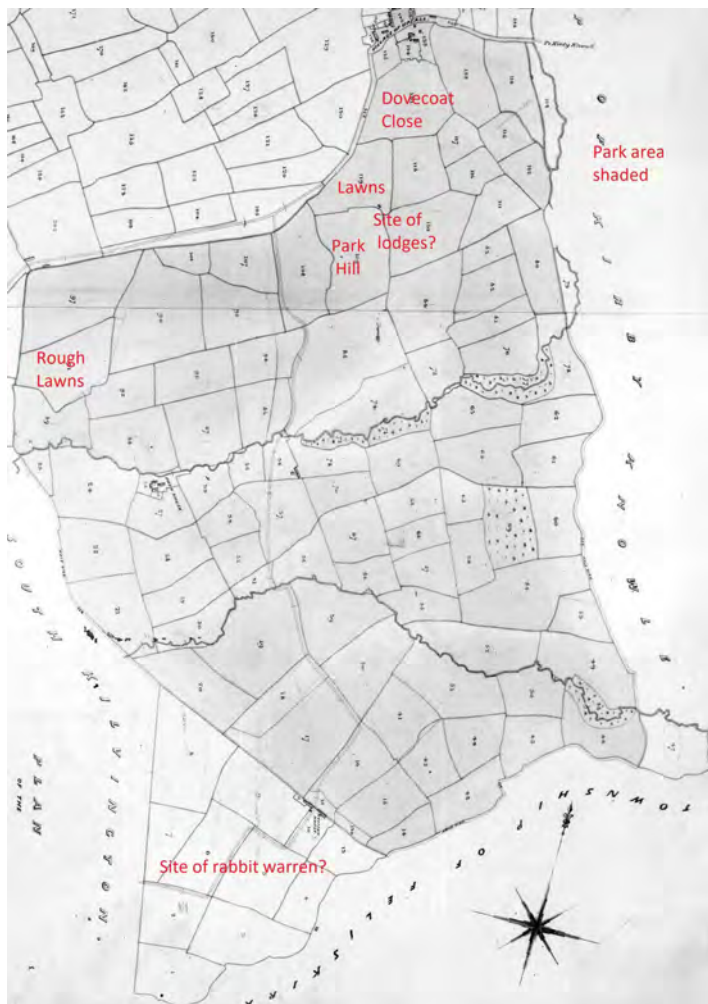


Figure 2 – Upsall Park from the tithe map of Upsall township 1846.
(Map © The National Archives)

Ingleby Manor

Work is due to start on Ingleby Manor park and garden. It is being led by Lizzie Johnston, a new volunteer from the local history group. Located near Stokesley on the edge of the North York Moors, Ingleby too has a long history. When it was sold to Sir David Foulis in 1609, it had a substantial manor house and two deer parks (one for fallow and the other for red deer). By the start of the 18th century, it had an extensive designed landscape as depicted by Johannes Kip (Figure 3). There will be more information on these sites as the work progresses. We hope these new volunteers enjoy the research and we are very grateful for all the work which volunteers currently readily undertake.

Hooton Pagnell

Jim Godfrey writes: “Marlene and I have visited the Hooton Pagnell Hall site twice with the helpful hospitality of the owner, Mark Warde-Norbury. On our second visit we were joined by Jane Furse whose observations were very helpful in interpreting the present garden. It has been very frustrating to read the extensive reports of the

Campsall projects when compared with our minimal archive finds. Even worse the Doncaster archives, where most of the available Hooton Pagnell material is held, are closed indefinitely pending removal to a different site. On the other hand, it is a great pleasure to be able to see so much of the garden past and present “on the ground”. It has also been very interesting to see something of the house.

Following our report in the Autumn Newsletter it is possible to say more of the garden. First related records are of the purchase of “Compleat Gardener” by Patience Warde in 1703 followed much later by “12 mats for hothouse” by Patientius Warde in 1746. It appears that the hothouse survived well into the 20th century. The major development of garden and landscape was in the late 18th century when the existing garden walls were constructed of stone and with brick lining on the inner north south walls. There is also a slip garden on the outer east side of the walled garden. The ground plan of 1794 remains to the present time. In the house we were shown sketches of it in the mid-18th century.

There are several surviving early 20th century features suggesting very considerable work at that time. The building work, garden house and entrance gates with belvedere are of high quality in an arts and crafts style. Another item, a loggia, is almost amateurish and appears to be made of redundant items from the house. The very substantial gate posts at entry to the walled garden appear to be reused items, possibly following the erection of the elaborate arts and crafts gateway. There are two 20th century glasshouses, one simple and one elaborate, both by Foster and Pearson. The elaborate glasshouse is quite large but is in poor condition. The small glasshouse is still in use and adjoins a subterranean boiler house for an earlier pair of glasshouses. There is a viewing mound in the south west corner of the walled garden, well positioned to give views back to the house over the walled garden and of the park, Mapple, to the west. There are other interesting minor 20th century features.

We plan to make a further visit in better weather to check some of the garden details and to visit the Wilderness. We will be having a meeting with Jane to go through photos taken on our last visit in order to clarify the 20th century features. We have begun writing up the project but have some items of interest to check in Bradford archives”.

Thomas White

While not as well-known as Lancelot Brown or Humphry Repton, Thomas White senior was an important landscape designer in Yorkshire.

He is known to have worked on at least 23 sites here with two, Campsall Park and Busby Hall, recent discoveries. Deborah Turnbull completed her PhD research on White in 1990 and has long wanted it to be published.

Prompted by our recent research into Carlton Towers (yorkshiregardenstrust.org.uk/carlton-towers), where both White and Richard Woods prepared plans, Campsall Park (yorkshiregardenstrust.org.uk/campsall-park), and Busby Hall, we have been discussing with Deborah the possibility of publishing her research together with new material gathered over the last 30 years.

In addition to those in Yorkshire, there are a further 13 sites in nearby counties. We have

proposed that the YGT R&R team could co-ordinate with fellow researchers in these County Trusts - Cumbria, Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire, Northumbria (for Durham and Northumberland) and Staffordshire, in order to look at these sites and gather the latest information. There are about 65 sites in Scotland, so we would work with the newly formed Scotland's Gardens and Landscape Heritage (formerly Garden History Society of Scotland).

If this is something you would like to help with, then please get in touch.

Louise Wickham

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

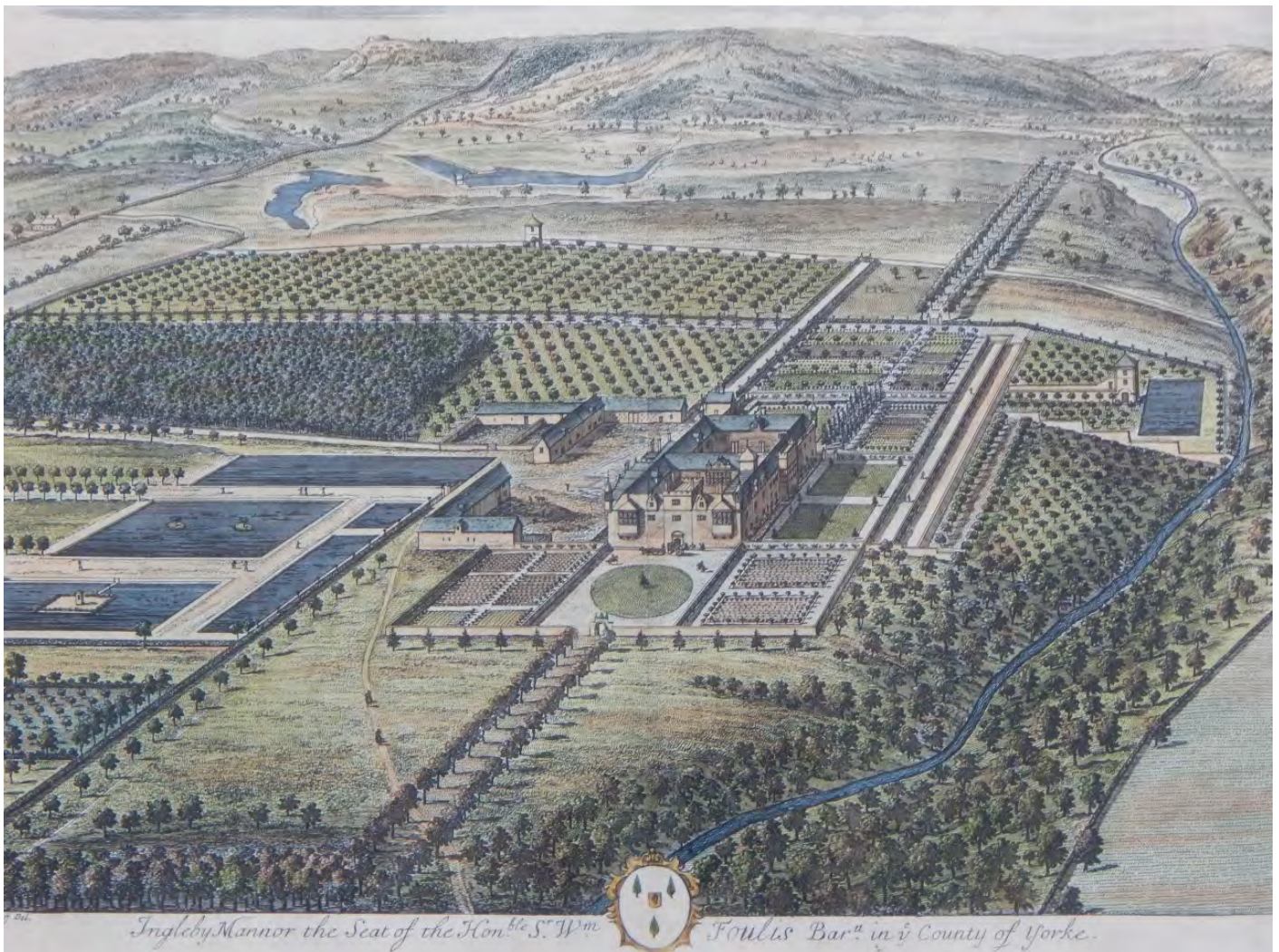


Figure 3 – Ingleby Manor and park by Johannes Kip from *Britannia Illustrata*, published by Joseph Smith, 1724.

Lotherton Hall - Yorkshire Day 2019



The YGT stall at Lotherton Hall for Yorkshire Day 2019 (Photo credit: Win Derbyshire)

Lotherton Hall was the setting for Yorkshire Day (1st August) celebrations, with many stalls and events attracting a large crowd. Yorkshire Gardens Trust was allocated a good spot on the main path, but it appears we were only given it after a donkey charity pulled out!

Jane Furse arrived with gazebos and everything necessary to set up our stall and was ably assisted by Susan Kellerman, Val Hepworth and later, Malcolm Barnett. There was little for me to do when I finally arrived although I was able to justify my existence when it came to dismantling the stall, again under Jane's very competent instructions. She also provided giant campanulas which proved to be a star attraction.

The purpose of the stall was twofold: to make people aware of the importance of Lotherton as an Edwardian garden, and to raise YGT's profile. The first purpose was assisted by Adam Toole, the curator of Lotherton Hall, who has been involved with Jane's research and is working with us to have a study session about the garden in June*. He provided photos which Jane made up into a display. The estate officer, Tom Harrison also provided useful information.

Lotherton Hall is now owned by City of Leeds Museums but has a history in private ownership. An old house existed nearby but the only relic is a lovely 12th century Norman chapel. The present house originated as an 18th century villa but little is known about it until it was bought in 1825 by Richard Gascoigne of neighbouring Parlington. His daughter passed the estate on to her nephew, Colonel Frederick Gascoigne and his wife, Laura Gwendoline, who extended the house to the east, with further extensions south and west in the 20th

century. Laura was largely responsible for the layout of the garden although the terrace, with balustrade and piers, was by William Golding and the famous gardener, Ellen Willmott, is known to have been a visitor and may have advised.

A gravelled area with a central bed and fountain leads to a path running east to a summerhouse (once the old entrance porch to the house) and parallel paths also have herbaceous borders and yews, but Japanese urns have unfortunately disappeared. A shrubbery to the south-east shows on the 1893 OS map and it leads into the Dell rock garden designed by Laura, which still exists, as does the brick paving, which was once a tennis court but now has a planting bed in the middle. To the east of the house is the William and Mary garden with paving, rectangular pond and clipped yews. The old walled garden now houses Wildlife World, featuring birds, reptiles and small mammals.

The photo exhibition in our marquee was of interest to several local people with memories of the estate who were pleased to chat to the YGT members and they were informed of the forthcoming study event. Others showed interest in the work of YGT, including giving grants to suitable schemes, and particularly our work with schools, so overall it was a worthwhile day. It also enabled some of us to take the opportunity to come face to face with alpacas, admire the dog training routines, and watch amazed at the industry of the candy floss maker who attracted a lot more people than we did!

Win Derbyshire

** The study day planned for June 2020 will now take place on Wednesday 7 July 2021.*

Conservation and Planning...and Beauty

Building Better, Building Beautiful Commission, Final Report

The YGT's work on planning matters in Yorkshire is continuous and it's easy at times to become disillusioned as we battle to get finer planning solutions that deliver change without destroying the qualities that make life enjoyable, happy and hopefully beautiful. So, when I read that on January 30th Robert Jenrick, MP, Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government was at the Garden Museum to launch the report, *Living with Beauty*, the final report from the *Building Better, Building Beautiful Commission*, I was uplifted. Mr Jenrick noted that the Garden Museum is in many respects a fittingly beautiful venue which speaks of the themes in the report: a historic building that has been put to new uses and which champions trees and gardens. So far so good.

If new housing developments are more attractive, the Commission argued, they can pass through planning more easily as people who already own homes nearby will be less afraid it will devalue their property. A goal of planting two million trees on streets should be set. Developers should also be encouraged to plant a fruit tree in an urban community orchard for every house they build, to improve community well-being. (We'll need lots of volunteers to look after them I thought, but no matter, it's a good idea. Please tell Sheffield CC.)

Developers who demonstrate a "commitment to quality" and a sensitivity to the local context should have their projects green lit sooner as part of a "fast track for beauty". "In this way, developers should be incentivised to deliver, indeed actively promote, beauty through their schemes". Overall the report places an emphasis on developing brownfield sites and focusing on beauty no matter where building takes place. Renovating a derelict building should incur no VAT or, at minimum, a tax of five per cent. This is potentially great news for our historic buildings. Beauty may be difficult to define in planning terms but it can be done and, as we know, beauty is as much to do with spaces as individual buildings, so I'm hopeful that there will be a place for well-designed green spaces and streetscapes in the future. I applaud the thinking ... and just hope that I'm still around to see it delivered.

Since mid-July last year, working with the Gardens Trust, we have responded to fifty-four planning applications: some major but quite a number for minor changes, or where there are internal alterations proposed for listed buildings.

Here we do not comment as we are a gardens trust and generally don't have relevant expertise. I mentioned last time that often applications can be minor changes to properties on the boundary of a park or garden but within the setting and present few concerns. However, we are sometimes brought up short with an application that may look innocuous but then when the documents are looked at, it is far from the case.

Recent applications

Major applications

Wentworth Castle

One such example came to our attention recently through our contacts with Historic England (HE). Although Wentworth Castle is Grade I on the HE Register of Historic Parks and Gardens, for some inexplicable reason Barnsley MBC never contacted the Gardens Trust (GT), despite the fact that the GT is the statutory consultee for any proposed development affecting a site on the Register. We are grateful for our good links with HE and have written to the planning authority. The planning application was for the demolition of an existing bungalow immediately within the south west boundary of the park. It is clear from the maps that there had long been a small building close to the site of the bungalow, possibly an animal house and paddock within the historic parkland. It was screened from view by the associated avenue running up to Archer's Hill Gate from the "Old Cold Baths" opposite Cold Bath Farm. Although the baths were destroyed during open cast mining after the Second World War, the farm survives and its central courtyard was the focal point of the rotunda steps. Therefore, it is clear this was not an insignificant area of the park. The existing bungalow on the site does not make any contribution to the character of the parkland and so we have no objection to its demolition. A new dwelling could be accommodated but the proposal was not sensitively designed to fit comfortably into the surrounding parkland and views, so we objected strongly to this application. We were not the only relevant organisation not to be notified as the National Trust were not informed until they were contacted by HE and ourselves.

Bretton Hall and Yorkshire Sculpture Park

Geoff Hughes, who lives in Huddersfield, came to the planning training last year and we're delighted that he's become a member of the Conservation and Planning Team. We're very fortunate as we now have members living in a wide area of Yorkshire who, with their local knowledge, make

our responses easier to frame. Geoff's long-term visits to Bretton Hall and Yorkshire Sculpture Park with his wife Maddy (YGT Trustee) became very helpful in February, when we were consulted on an application for Listed Building Consent for works of restoration, conversion and development to the Mansion House, stables and coach house, Camellia House, curtilage and associated buildings within the Bretton Hall Estate.

Bretton Hall is a unique heritage asset combining a number of listed buildings including the mansion, pleasure grounds of the late 18th and early 19th century, parkland of the 18th century with earlier origins and links with two notable landscape designers/gardeners, Richard Woods (1716-93) and Robert Marnock (1800-99); and the Yorkshire Sculpture Park laid out on part of the pleasure grounds and parkland. The declining state of the historic buildings and surrounding area at the core of the Bretton Hall estate has inevitably given considerable concern, and we are generally supportive of the proposed new use for the Grade II* listed mansion (a hotel) and the proposals for the Camellia House and changes to the car parking nearby. However, when we went through the documentation, we had reservations about the impact of some proposals on the wider setting ie the Grade II registered parkland, which is significant in its own right. Geoff and Maddy were able to make a site visit and particularly advise me on the trees and changes to other car parking arrangements and access roads. The proposal to site a large marquee on the south terrace we opposed as it will have a major impact on views from the south, from the lake and beyond. Susan Kellerman, with Karen Lynch, has much experience and historical knowledge about Bretton Hall and so was an invaluable help with this application. Susan's breadth of knowledge in the greater Leeds area and specialist knowledge of other historic designed landscapes often comes into its own with planning!

Marske Hall

Before Christmas Chris Mayes, HE's landscape architect contacted me about Marske Hall in Swaledale as he had been asked to look at a major planning application for the Hall and associated buildings and garden. In the mid 1990's, during the English Heritage Register Review, a number of historic designed landscapes and gardens in North Yorkshire including Marske Hall were put forward as likely to be suitable for registration, but they were never taken any further due to lack of resource. This was a golden opportunity for me to do some more research; something for which I never seem to have time. I had great help from the North Yorkshire County Record Office (NYCRO)



Photo 1: The Lime Avenue at Cat Bank Marske Hall, Swaledale.
(Photo credit: Val Hepworth)

which holds the Hutton of Marske archive.

Marske Hall park and garden is a multi-layered landscape with its origins likely to be in a medieval deer park. There are indications that there was a house with hall close meadow, orchard, garth and water mill prior to the estate's purchase by Sir Timothy Hutton (1569-1629) in 1597. Amongst the papers of Archbishop Matthew Hutton (1524/5-1605/6) and his son Sir Timothy Hutton, there are extensive records relating to the buildings and alterations at Marske Hall between 1609-1634 and an agreement for laying out the garden dated June 27, 1625. The Hutton family of Marske included two Archbishops of York: Matthew (1524/5-1605/6) and a later Matthew (1692/3-1758) who was Archbishop of York 1747 and Archbishop of Canterbury 1757. The Huttons brought about a series of landscape changes and developments at Marske Hall from the period of the Elizabethan hall, the formal avenue of lime trees on Cat Bank, (almost certainly *Tilia x europaea* 'Pallida', contemporary with the avenues at Castle Howard and a remarkable survival), **Photo 1** and into the 18th century, when the entrance court was removed and the house and stables remodelled or rebuilt (the former c.1730, latter c.1750) and the land modified to form a smooth grass approach with a drive from the east, **Photo 2** in something of the English Landscape style typical of gentry

estates from mid-century and later a picturesque landscape around Marske Beck as shown in paintings by George Cuit the Elder (1743-1818).

The 1718 Buck sketch (Samuel Buck's Yorkshire Sketchbook) and the 1732 survey **Photo 3** indicate possible gardens south of the beck with a small, pitched roof building with ball finial, maybe a gazebo/banqueting house. The Hutton family carried out further interesting work in the mid-19th century.

I wrote up the research for HE and this informed both their planning response and ours. Marske Hall is in a beautiful location but it has been partially empty and left for several years, so we support finding a viable future for it. We do have concerns about the parking proposal and its impact on the designed landscape as this is a critical part of the setting of the Grade II* listed hall and makes an important contribution to the significance of the hall and the assemblage of listed buildings (stables, kennels and sawmill).

At HE's request we have put Marske Hall forward to the listing team for consideration for registration.



Photo 2: East front of Marske Hall, Swaledale.
(Photo credit: Val Hepworth)

Roger Lambert, who joined the Conservation and Planning team earlier last year, battled through the on-line application for registration using my report, so we await their decision.



Photo 3: A Survey of the lordship or manor of Marske in the county of York, the estate of John Hutton taken in the year 1732 by Francis Gainford Scale 6 chains to 1 inch [ZAZ M2].
(By permission of North Yorkshire County Record Office)



Photo 4: Garden Front Gledstone Hall.
(Photo credit: Val Hepworth, 2006)

Gledstone Hall

Anne Tupholme, a long-standing member of the Conservation and Planning team, gives advice for sites in the greater Bradford area and in the southern part of the Yorkshire Dales National Park and Craven. In Craven we responded to two applications for Gledstone Hall (Grade II*), usually recognised as one of Lutyens best classical houses, where he consulted Gertrude Jekyll for the planting plans, (HE Register of Parks and Gardens Grade II). One application was retrospective for a summer house in the rear garden of West Lodge. Lutyens' concept for the approach to Gledstone

was to produce a balanced design incorporating the hall, forecourt and lodge pavilions. Unfortunately, the roof of the summerhouse protruded above the line of the western edge of the forecourt and was visible when viewed from the front door of the Hall, the forecourt and the approach and affected the balance of the design. Additionally, the roof of the summerhouse was not of a material and coursing which reflected the roofs of the hall and most of the other buildings, so we objected. The applicant lowered the roof which was a good solution and we withdrew our objection. The other retrospective application was for East Lodge for paving and a new wall which again we felt totally inappropriate for Lutyens' concept and we objected. **Photo 4** shows the garden front of Gledstone Hall in June 2006 when we had our midsummer picnic.

Other applications

Public parks

We have had several planning applications for works in public parks. Those for **Roundhay Park**, Leeds CC we felt comfortable about, as we did for an exemplary application from Yorkshire Water for the part demolition of an existing reservoir and construction of another reservoir at **Boston Park**, Rotherham.

In Scarborough, following contact from our friends in Scarborough Civic Society, we were dismayed to find that the Council had radically changed one of only three park shelters in **Peasholm Park** without planning permission. As we also understood that modifications were being made for disabled access at shelters in **South Cliff Gardens**, we contacted Simon Green of Southern Green, landscape architects, and were very pleased to find that Simon had made careful changes for disabled access without radically altering the historic shelter structure.

In May 2018 we gave advice to the planning authority in Huddersfield about the proposal for a Sikh painted statue to be erected in **Greenhead Park** as a war memorial; **Photo 5**. We were concerned about the design and painted nature of the proposal and so we are very pleased that a bronze statue to commemorate more than 83,000 Sikhs who were killed and many more wounded during the two World Wars, was unveiled last November.

North Yorkshire

In Spring 2019 we had applications for children's play areas but have now moved on to cooking, with two applications for outdoor kitchens. One at **Buckden House** Outdoor Education Centre and the other at **Ingleborough Hall** Outdoor Centre.



Photo 5: Sikh Statue, Greenhead Park.
(Photo credit: Geoff Hughes)



Photo 6: Studley Royal: Side View from Pavilion towards current café area.
(Photo credit: Gail Falkingham)

Whilst we support youngsters learning how to prepare and cook food, we did wonder why they couldn't learn how to do it in the great outdoors instead of under a roof with a fully-functioning kitchen complete with pizza oven. Still, it will be fun and if youngsters can then take the skills into adulthood it will be time and money well-spent. Also, in the Yorkshire Dales National Park, Anne Tupholme and Jane Furse continue to advise at

Parcevall Hall regarding a replacement glasshouse in the walled garden.

Studley Royal

Since finding out about the National Trust's pre-application plans for the café building at Canal Gates, Studley Royal, we have expressed our concern that further development will in our view, add to the harm at this location – "John Aislabie's Vision". We understand about the visitor pressure, need for more café space, better site interpretation and better lavatories but we consider that the proposal for Studley Lodge will have a very damaging effect on this very sensitive area of what is not only a Grade I Historic Park and Garden but also a World Heritage Site (WHS): the only WHS in the UK that has been designated because it is an historic park and garden. The outdoor café area will reach much further towards the pavilions flanking the dam and stepped cascade and the whole built area will be considerably larger; **Photo 6**. This area represents the point of transition between the wilder character of the deer park and the more manicured gardens/pleasure grounds. The Canal Gates were and still are a main gateway between the park and the pleasure grounds. In relation to this, it is not just the water gardens that are important but the entire site. We felt that the National Trust had allowed local thinking with a local budget, to undermine the search for long-term strategic

development. When we asked staff about alternative sites within the WHS we were told that they had absolutely no other options. Currently the National Trust is carrying out a Heritage Impact Assessment with a view to submitting a planning application in April.

South Yorkshire

Boston Park

Boston Park was the first public park in Rotherham and was laid out in the 1870's over a former sandstone quarry, associated with Boston Castle, (Grade II), a shooting lodge which occupies a prominent position on an escarpment overlooking the Don and Rother valleys. Recent research indicates that Thomas, third Earl of Effingham and ninth Baron Howard began building 'Boston Castle' on 2nd December 1773 as a shooting box and for much of the first half of 1774 'Boston Castle' is referred to as 'the House upon the Common.' The earliest definitive use of 'Boston Castle' as the permanent name of the building is on a receipt dated 29 July 1774, clearly displaying the Earl's sentiments towards the situation in America - very much opposed to the War. Boston Park is formed of three terraces and includes specimen trees, a formal garden, a sunken garden or dell, quarry garden, an arch or doorway (Grade II) set into the rock face relocated in 1879 from the demolition of the former College of Jesus in Rotherham, a crown bowling green and land for informal recreation. A further significant feature of Boston Park are the fine views. From the Castle and car park panoramic views extend north towards Wentworth Woodhouse and Barnsley (across Moorgate Cemetery), west towards Sheffield and the moors of the Peak District, and south towards north-east Derbyshire. At the request of the Friends of Boston Park who are

concerned about the on-going maintenance and condition of the park, we wrote to Rotherham Green Spaces.

Sheffield General Cemetery

In Sheffield, along with HE, we removed our objection to plans for the demolition of a warehouse and erection of dwellings near the north west entrance to Sheffield General Cemetery, as the dwellings had been reduced in number from 10 to 9 with the plot at the junction of Stalker Lees Road and Cemetery Avenue becoming garden ground. However, we remain anxious about the proposed erection of 11 apartments and 3 duplex apartments in a 4- storey block at the south west boundary of the Cemetery. After more than a year of amended plans, the proposal remains essentially four storeys and will still dominate the cemetery and listed former Cemetery Office. HE also objected.

We have recently been sorry to learn that **Kenwood**, now a hotel but built in the 19th century by the cutler George Wolstenholme, who commissioned Robert Marnock to design the garden at Kenwood, and also the layout of the surrounding residential development carried out by Wolstenholme, has had approval for new apartment buildings in parts of the garden.

West Yorkshire

In October we were contacted by members of the community in Todmorden and the Friends of **Centre Vale Park** who were very dismayed about the condition and future of their **Art Deco bandstand** (1914) in Centre Vale Park. This had been vandalised again and Calderdale Council was considering its demolition. **Photo 7**, taken in 2014, shows this, now unique, structure. With help from various interested people and organisations, HE assessed the bandstand for

special architectural or historic interest and we learned in December that it had been listed at Grade II. However, there is still a long way to go to secure the bandstand's future. So, if you have any spare funds then I'm sure the Friends would like to hear from you. Centre Vale Park includes the site of the Fielden family's Centre Vale Mansion, the coachyard, and the Todmorden War Memorial which is a very special place, and where we gave a grant in 2014. The bandstand figures prominently in the layout of the Park.

On a happier note we were very pleased to see the well thought through plans for **Ledston Hall** which is registered Grade II* and owned by the Wheler family, descendants of Lady Elizabeth Hastings. The area now called The Grove was originally designed by Charles Bridgeman for Lady Betty Hastings c. 1731. (The payments to Bridgeman by Lady Betty are in C. Hoare and Co., Bankers, London, Ledger K, 27 March 1731.)

Conclusion

I would like to record our thanks to a new YGT member, archaeologist Peter Cardwell who, after attending the Bramham Planning Workshop last year, has put together a file on Yorkshire's planning authorities and local plan policies which has been very useful. In addition to members already mentioned, I'm also grateful to Malcolm Barnett, Win Derbyshire, Jane Furse and Peter Goodchild, who give advice, and to David Rhodes, who although not a member of the conservation and planning team, often helps me with Harrogate planning applications. My thanks to Heather Garnett who takes our minutes and all the members of the team.

Val Hepworth

Trustee

Chairman, Conservation and Planning



Photo 7: Bandstand, Centre Vale Park, Todmorden. (Image: Val Hepworth, 2014)

Sheffield Street Trees

Introduction

Sheffield prides itself on being one of the greenest cities in Europe. Yet its city council became embroiled in a tree-felling controversy that saw national and international criticism of its actions, opposition across the political spectrum, and scores of local residents arrested in daily stand-offs with contractors and the police. Landscape historian **Jill Sinclair** explores how the story unfolded and explains the current state of play, while **Camilla Allen**, co-editor of the forthcoming book *The Politics of Street Trees*, ponders on wider lessons to be learnt from the Sheffield street tree saga.

The Story So Far

For me, it started in 2017 with rumours that Sheffield City Council planned to fell six specimens in the century-old avenue of lime trees along Thompson Road, the southern approach to the Botanical Gardens. As Chair of the Friends of the Gardens, I knew the significance of these trees: their historical and spatial relationship with the Grade II registered site and their contribution to the character of my part of the city. Bemused and alarmed, I found myself on the streets, joining other protestors trying to stop the chainsaws. The Yorkshire Gardens Trust and the Historic Gardens



Treehuggers on Meersbrook Park Road, one of the worst flashpoints of the campaign.

(Photo credit/copyright Luis Arroyo Photography.)

Foundation threw their weight behind the campaign to save the Thompson Road trees.

Others were similarly drawn to the protests by specific trees: campaigner Paul Selby remembers the “great shock” of discovering a Council felling notice on a much-loved 120-year-old elm tree close to his home on Chelsea Road. Through his efforts, this largely unknown tree was placed second in the Woodland Trust's “English Tree of the Year” competition. Others started to protest over plans to remove sycamores and London plane trees planted as WW1 memorials along Western Road.

Some had wider concerns: Chris Rust, who was to become co-chair of the main campaigning group, came to the protests as a result of his academic background, which gave him an understanding of the health and well-being value of street trees, and a belief in the rights of communities to access nature. Christine King became involved after “it started to become clear that it wasn't isolated streets, but a huge felling programme, regardless of the outcome, I didn't want to think that I'd done nothing”.

The trees were being felled as part of the Council's 25-year PFI contract with the infrastructure company Amey. Signed in 2012 and known as “Streets Ahead”, the £2.2bn contract was to improve and manage the city's highways, which were in such a poor state of repair that Sheffield had become known as Pothole City. The street trees were an unexpected casualty of the contract. Hundreds were quietly removed on the basis that they were dead, dying or diseased, or that they were damaging the city's roads.



Jane Furse from the YGT (third left) in Thompson Road, talking to Cllr Dagnall during his ‘listening tour.’

(Photo credit/copyright Paul Hemmings.)

Formation of Sheffield Tree Action Group (STAG) 2015

While some residents supported the fellings and wanted to see them continue, protests began when it seemed that mature, healthy trees were being targeted. Local groups formed to protest about planned fellings in their area and, in 2015, several of these came together to form the city-wide Sheffield Tree Action Group (STAG), which brought a greater co-ordination and higher profile to the campaign. In an effort to quell protests, the Council created an Independent Tree Panel to review felling decisions, but overruled its advice to retain trees in more than 75% of cases. Protests became increasingly acrimonious, with confrontational scenes between police and protestors at one pre-dawn felling in 2016 condemned by local MP Nick Clegg as something “you’d expect in Putin’s Russia”.

Use of legal action intended for flying pickets.

Protestors remember a particularly low point in early 2017 when an iconic horse chestnut was felled after a week of resistance. Repeated arrests were made under legislation originally designed to prevent flying pickets. Chris describes the pressure during the week as “relentless... a big push to make us lose heart”. But STAG was then put in touch with Paul Powlesland, a young, radical barrister, who immediately provided advice that the arrests were unlawful, and who continues to offer counsel and representation to the campaign.

With police involvement curtailed, the Council instead obtained a civil injunction to prevent protesters’ presence close to felling work and pursued campaigners, including one of its own councillors, through the courts for alleged breaches.

Pause in felling in March 2018

Things came to a head in early 2018. Christine remembers it as “a brutal time. We’d slowed felling to a crawl, due to the numbers of crew, barrier men, security guards and police needed to fell a single tree, but they were taking them, one by one”. Photographs of mass stand-offs and violent scuffles in suburban Sheffield made front-page news. The city was becoming known nationally, and internationally, as the place where thousands of mature trees were being ripped out in the face of furious confrontations. Freedom of Information requests by Paul Selby and other STAG members were producing damaging stories, especially that, despite claims that felling was only ever a last resort, Amey were contractually engaged to fell 17,500 street trees, half of the total number. Eventually in March 2018, the Council announced a pause in the felling.



Two of the threatened lime trees on Thompson Road.
(Photo credit/copyright Jill Sinclair.)

Around 5,400 of the city’s 36,000 street trees had been removed. In other numbers, over £400,000 had been spent by the Council on legal proceedings associated with the Streets Ahead contract. The largely abortive Independent Tree Panel process had cost £133,000 in running costs and £700,000 in penalties to Amey for the resultant delays. Scores of people had been arrested, including one woman for tooting on a plastic toy trumpet; few were charged and almost none convicted of any offence.

Any plans by the Council to restart the work were stymied by news in April 2018 of an investigation by the Forestry Commission into the legality of the felling and advice that the Council and Amey should suspend work until further notice. Instead, the Council’s new cabinet member for the Streets Ahead contract engaged in a listening tour, talking with residents about street trees, which was followed by mediated talks between STAG and the Council. A process was agreed to reinspect the 309 trees that had been earmarked for felling but not yet removed.

The reinspection showed that pavement humps and dislodged slabs were often caused, not by tree roots at all, but by poor previous repairs, with layers of tarmac in one instance 25cm thick. Where roots were an issue, solutions previously discounted as unavailable or too expensive were deployed, including thin or chamfered kerbs,

flagstones shaved to fit around the roots, new tree pits with mulch or flexipave, a porous, flexible form of concrete, and small patch repairs to tarmac. Over 250 threatened trees have been re-inspected so far and almost all will now definitely be retained.

Partnership Street Tree Strategy between Council and STAG

Two years on from the pause, some bitterness and distrust remains on both sides but protestors describe the mood as calm. Christine explains that the Amey crews sent out on the streets “were initially and understandably nervous, but we’ve developed a good relationship with them, and they’ve been inventive and skillful in working round our trees”. In addition, the Council is about to publish a Partnership Street Tree Strategy developed jointly with STAG members and the local Wildlife Trust, which Paul says “includes 99% of campaigners’ demands”.

Sheffield has become a role model for those mobilising against the destruction of mature trees elsewhere in the country and many groups have approached STAG for advice on effective protest and resistance. The campaign had a nimbleness that kept it always just ahead of the lumbering bureaucracy of the Council. Chris thinks it was so successful because it was essentially anarchic: people just used their skills in whatever way they could, to try and protect the trees. As he explains it, “everyone’s talents were in play, and no permission was needed”. Paul stresses that the campaign had a simple goal that captured public attention and, when the Council refused to change course, “many individuals were prepared to risk their freedom and their financial security by direct action, to prevent felling”. Both agree the use of social media was key, as people rapidly shared information on possible felling sites and so flying squads of protestors seemed able to turn up wherever contractors’ vans were heading. As Christine explains, “the saving of the trees was always going to be a political solution, but the activists on the street ensured that there was something to save”. In the end, the sheer weight of the campaign and the ever-increasing resources and resilience required to defeat it, proved too much.

The protests became about more than trees. They reflected dissatisfaction over the Council’s accountability and transparency, when some of its key services were being delivered by a private company under the terms of a largely secret contract. Local governance arrangements, in which a strong leader model with a small cabinet made all the decisions, also provoked frustrations, leaving citizens, and most elected councilors,

unable to influence policy on trees, or indeed much else. In August 2019 the lobby group It’s Our City successfully petitioned for a referendum under the Localism Act on moving to a committee-based Council system and a city-wide referendum is to be held on 7th May this year.



One of the war memorial trees on Western Road.
(Photo credit/copyright David Martin / Geograph 5836254 available under a CC licence).

The Politics of Street Trees

Camilla Allen writes: The wheels of academia turn more slowly than most and so five years after the effects of the Streets Ahead programme were first felt in Sheffield, the Department of Landscape Architecture held a two-day conference at the University of Sheffield to address the issue, entitled Street Trees and Politics. Over the preceding years staff and students across the university had become involved in the protest in various ways, and one intention of the conference was to bring together academics, campaigners and others to debate the political context of Sheffield’s street tree crisis. Nature is often seen as apolitical, but anyone involved in the design or management of street trees knows that they exist in a highly politicised landscape and the events of Sheffield deserved a full and comprehensive contextualisation and analysis. A significant intention was that the event would be open to all interested parties and we were joined by people from both the Council and the campaign, which was, I hope, reflective of a constructive future for Sheffield’s trees as we look towards decades defined by, in part, ash dieback, and a challenging urban environment in which trees will be very necessary allies. The conference brought an interdisciplinary and international scope to the issue, with contributions from arboriculturalists, historians, journalists, ecologists, and more. The event posited some central questions, including asking how have street trees been used to support political narratives, who plants and owns them, and what



Under the Elm event on Chelsea Road in July 2017.
(Photo credit/copyright Fran Halsall fran-halsall.co.uk)

are the debates and narratives on responsibility, both historically and at present.

My own paper looked at the furore surrounding the felling of trees on Western Road in 2018. It was one of the flash points of the campaign, in which the cost of conserving the trees was weighed against the Council's social care responsibilities. This was made all the more troubling, because the trees had been planted in the spirit of commemoration at the end of the First World War and became an emotive focus of the centenary in 2018. My findings suggest that the circumstances in which the trees were planted, and the story of the intervening years, brings the

international and social politics of the war into focus, and has drawn upon the particular industrial and regional context of the 'Pals Brigades' and the sacrifices made across society during the war.

This was one of fifteen papers and, following the conference, Routledge commissioned *The Politics of Street Trees*, a volume which will include contributions from the presenters at the conference, plus international chapters from Portugal, Latin America and South Africa. The book is unusual, being the first on the market to take a distinctly interdisciplinary approach, as often trees are hived off into certain areas of professional or academic expertise, whereas in fact they transcend and enrich many more. Trees grow slowly, academic collections maybe as slowly. We hope the collection will be published in 2021. The intention is that it will form a point of reference for others facing the same challenge as Sheffield faced and that it will help shift practice and policy towards the most mutually beneficial relationship with city trees.

Jill Sinclair

Camilla Allen

Jill Sinclair is a Harvard-trained landscape historian and a director of the Historic Gardens Foundation. She is a part-time tutor in English garden history for Oxford University and a former Chair of the Friends of the Botanical Gardens, Sheffield.

*Camilla Allen is a PhD candidate in the Department of Landscape Architecture at Sheffield University, supervised by Dr Jan Woudstra and Professor Martin Conboy. Jan and Camilla are co-editing *The Politics of Street Trees*, due for publication in 2021. The authors would like to thank Paul Hemmings, Helen Kemp, Christine King, Chris Rust and Paul Selby for their help with this article.*

The Gardens Trust Members' Meet Up

Chester, Wednesday 6 November 2019



Meet-ups are always interesting and enjoyable occasions and I was organised to arrive in Chester at 10.30am, in plenty of time for the first session on Planning and Conservation. Unfortunately, owing to the vagaries of Network Rail, I arrived at the end of the session so did not contribute. Tamsin McMillan offered me a quick slot later for Yorkshire Gardens Trust news, but I felt the timetable was rather tight and was better kept as planned.

Planning and Conservation

The impression I got from the first session was that many other Garden Trusts (seven were represented, plus other interested individuals) have the same problems that we have when commenting on planning applications, particularly the need to protect the landscape whilst at the same time needing to respect the right for large historic estates to make enough money to preserve that landscape.

At Bodnant (NT North Wales), this meant accepting an extravagant new gardener's shed, but at Dorfold Hall (Nantwich), a Jacobean mansion, described by Pevsner as one of the two best in the county and now a wedding venue, after discussions with all the interested parties and advice from the Gardens Trust, a marquee was replaced by using buildings in the courtyard. Other Cheshire schemes did not have such a happy conclusion. A lovely lodge, possibly by Carr of York, on the edge of the Tabley estate (Knutsford) was a bit of a disaster when it was sold off for conversion to a house. It was converted with no permission for a new drive and inappropriate gates. A retrospective application was refused, but 18 months later nothing has happened. This illustrates the lack of public awareness and the fact that the original application did not show the landscape. Also, an under-resourced local authority and Historic England were relatively helpless.

At Arley Hall (Northwich), Lord Ashbrook (a patron of Cheshire GT!) put in an application for a columbarium (for ashes), which was felt to be too large in scale, as it included four gardens. After advice it was amended, being reduced and slightly sunken which ameliorated its effect without stymying the whole scheme.

The Welsh Historic Gardens Trust reported another problem where an early Sequoia tree near Swansea was felled illegally, the owner and tree surgeon being fined £400,000 but the way was then clear for new houses nearby.

There was then discussion about the need for Garden Trust training courses, like the Yorkshire GT ones, to help local authorities and others deal with planning applications involving gardens and designed landscapes.

Outreach

We then moved on to the **Outreach Session**.

Discussion took place on valuation systems and the need for public involvement, using Twitter and Facebook. There is a lack of specialist training, although Myerscough College now has a three-year landscape course and, thanks to a legacy, Cheshire GT can give a bursary, most effective at the end of the first year. Other trusts, including Yorkshire, can also give bursaries, although Shropshire GT find it difficult to find suitable subjects. Cheshire offered a travel bursary but local colleges were not interested.

The Welsh HGT offers free membership to under 25's to try and get younger members. Yorkshire GT aims even younger, helping an apprentice gardener's scheme at Beningborough Hall involving 5-12 year olds using scaled down tools and undertaking real gardening tasks including picking vegetables for the café.

Tamsin reported increased interest after the Repton events. A world culture day near Norwich attracted 500 people and introduced some of them to the importance of parks and gardens. Linden is producing a package for events of this kind. Perhaps YouTube films could be used to reach the public.

Research and Recording

After lunch (good buffet) we moved on to a discussion about our Research and recording activities. Staffordshire GT have tried to form links with the Arts Society, but it seems their

research is rather different to ours. Yorkshire GT has also gone down this route but with little success. Cheshire GT is affected by HS2 and is researching the woodland on its route so they can record the trees. They are also investigating the work of William Eames and his assistant, John Webb, their work in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, and the influence of early canal builders, such as Brindley, who was basically a hydraulic engineer. Yorkshire GT has a well-established research team cataloguing unregistered gardens as well as obvious ones. Lancashire GT is researching war memorials.

The Historic Environment Record (Historic England) can be a helpful tool in research. The archaeological OASIS (Online Access to the index of archaeological investigations) oasis.ac.uk system of recording could possibly be adapted for parks and gardens recording.

Welsh Historic Gardens Trust

The last session was a talk by Glynis Shaw of the Welsh Historic Gardens Trust on *Challenges and*

Successes in their 30th Year. Many examples were illustrated such as places like Gwydir Castle, where volunteers have built a flood wall to protect the garden, following devastating flooding in late 2018. The importance of a conservation management plan was emphasised at Bodnant, where some areas need restricted access. All National Trust properties should now have a CMP according to a representative.

Among other examples, a Brenda Colvin garden in the middle of the redundant Shotton Steel Works is under threat but may be restored. Bedwelly is a Dutch garden. An exhibition in Bangor had shown the work of Elizabeth Morgan, an early lady gardener.

This then concluded the formal sessions, but there was to be general discussion over tea. At this point, after my travel experience in the morning, I decided to catch an earlier train. However, even with my curtailed attendance, it was a worthy occasion to participate in.

Win Derbyshire

The Gardens Trust Annual Conference and AGM 2021

The details below had been planned for the Gardens Trust's 2020 AGM and Conference. We are pleased to share the news that TGT's hard work in shaping this fascinating programme will still be enjoyed, but a year later than expected. Please check The Gardens Trust website for further updates as the new dates and plans are confirmed.

The Gardens Trust's Annual Conference and AGM, which is usually an annual highlight, will now be held in North Yorkshire from Friday 3rd until Sunday 5th September 2021; still based at the Holiday Inn at Scotch Corner, we hope that the original, full programme of visits will go ahead as far as possible. The planned outings will be to Temple Grounds in Richmond, or a tour of Richmond's Georgian Theatre and Millgate House Garden; Aske Hall, Constable Burton, Bolton Castle and Bolton Hall. Between visits there will be plenty of opportunities to meet fellow GT members from around the country over a drink or meal. The weekend will also include a talk by YGT's Louise Wickham on the designed landscapes of North Yorkshire, the New Research Symposium, the AGM followed by the conference reception and dinner at The Station in Richmond.

Do think about coming along in 2021; we would love to have a strong contingent of YGT members, among them those who would also be able to help with "shepherding" and passing on our local knowledge. If this aspect would interest you, please email dvickyprice@waitrose.com

Providing that restrictions on travel and public gatherings have eased, TGT expects to open booking in Spring 2021, with those who had booked for this year receiving priority booking.

Meanwhile, new ways of holding the AGM and New Research Symposium are being explored, the latter possibly as an open, virtual event. Please watch out for further announcements or visit the website below:

thegardenstrust.org

YGT Events' Team News

The 2020 programme of events is suspended due to the outbreak of Covid-19

We look forward to a time when this year's events can recommence; we are also exploring the possibility that some Spring visits might be rearranged for a later date. Those who have already booked for events later in the year will be contacted directly by Madalyn Hughes, Events' Bookings' Coordinator; Madalyn has already been in touch with those who had hoped to attend events planned for the next few months.

The Gardening Life of Sir Thomas Frankland at Thirkleby

Introduction

The 6th Baronet, Sir Thomas Frankland, came into his inheritance at Thirkleby in 1784. He was a botanist with a particular interest in algae (*Fucus*) and, during the course of his life, gained fellowship of the Royal Society as well as the newly formed Linnean and Horticultural Societies. He also had a plant genus *Franklandia* named after him. Earlier in his life he served as MP for Thirsk on two separate occasions and, from around 1785, had overseen the building of a mansion on a new site in the park which was redesigned by “the late Mr Meikle”¹. He had also suffered the death of his three daughters and eldest son but, from the early 1800s with parliamentary duties, family tragedies and building works behind him, Sir Thomas’ letters reveal more interest in his garden at Thirkleby. During his life he corresponded with Sir Joseph Banks, the Sowerby family and James Smith, President of the Linnean Society, and it is his letters to the latter that give us the glimpse into his gardening described here².

Mushroom house

As befits a man of the Enlightenment he was always ready to try new things and to “improve”. “Of all the luxuries of horticulture a Mushroom house is the best worth purchasing” he enthused in October 1817 having just built one, inspired by the design of Isaac Oldacre, though improved by himself “mine has the advantage for the flue is above ground”. He may have heard Oldacre’s presentation on the topic to the Horticultural Society of London earlier in the year³ or he may have had earlier contact with him at Spring Grove, the home of Sir Joseph Banks who had employed Oldacre as a gardener from 1814⁴. The same year he built a peach house “the only security for fruit in all seasons” again adopting “the improved plan of detaching the flue from the ground - but Oldacres sunk to the level of the floor - by which the heat must be less and the spaces liable to be clogged”. He illustrated this, as he often did, with a sketch.



Franklandia fucifolia named by Scottish botanist Robert Brown in his 1810 paper for the Linnean Society *On the Proteaceae of Jussieu* “in honour of Sir Thomas Frankland, Baronet, to whom English botany is much indebted, and whose valuable observations and excellent figures of sub-marine plants it is hoped he may be induced to communicate to the public”.
(Photo credit: Tim Hammer @TaxonomyTim)

Grafting

He experimented with various forms of grafting “We have just whip grafted ‘in the root’ some *Ilex* on the common oak, having been unsuccessful of late in the common way - but have one plant about 14’ high, cleft grafted on common oak, which is of uncommon health”.

Protecting his outdoor fruit trees was a constant concern. He speaks highly of “Copper plate printers canvas, which I procured last spring, + which Sir Jos B, A Knight + Dickson, pronounced superior to Buntine has been apparently of great advantage in covering apricot trees, on which we have a great show for fruit”. He also recommends oiled paper frames to protect the fruit grown in the open borders “We have 2 peach trees just now showing their habitual excitability - having been planted out to open borders from having been till this season under glass but we have protected them, just in time, by oiled paper frames”.

The transactions of the newly formed Horticultural Society were also a source of ideas. “We have been successful in kale for forcing of

Footnotes

1. J C Loudon, 1825 *An encyclopaedia of gardening* p1079
2. http://linnean-online.org/smith_correspondence.html
3. Transactions of the Horticultural Society 1818 Vol2, p336-7
4. Joseph Banks, Neil Chambers 2000 *The Letters of Sir Joseph Banks: A Selection, 1768-1820* p332-3 note 1

which I got pots made with coversas proposed by a note in Hort trans. The convenience in examining the plants is very great". Sir Thomas made contributions of his own to the Society and in 1819 offered a note on the use of powdered charcoal by which he restored a dying *Groot Vorst* hyacinth bulb growing in a glass on his chimney-piece⁵.

Some failures

In common with all gardeners he had his setbacks and failures. He had "*pease*" from Mr Knight (probably T.A. Knight, second President of the Horticultural Society) though reckoned them "*not worth cultivation*" and was similarly dismissive of Knight's method of raising large onions. Figs were grown in the vinery though he judged that "*Figs in pots are not worth their room in the vinery + I am going to try mulberries from Mr Knight's experience*". The mulberries did not prove a success as a couple of years later he "*tried to procure some mulberries for pots last spring from Lee but they were not sent. I had 2 on a south wall but they bore nothing and have long since been ousted*". Alpine and Pine strawberries suffered from problems with slugs and nor was growing Hautboy strawberries crowned with success "*tho' I raised them from seed of very fine fruit*". Hares and rabbits were also a pest. He planted *Pyrus japonica* (Japanese quince) to be visible from the house "*but cradled as I cannot trust the vermin hares + rabbits*".

Pests

A particular problem with wasps resulted in another letter to the Horticultural Society in 1820⁶. Red chili strawberries, cherries and early grapes were "*devoured*" in turn before bags of "*foundation muslin*", which he considered more efficacious than Scotch gauze, were used to protect the remaining bunches. To deal with the wasps he devised a "*small landing netwith a wire hoop six inches in diameter, a purse of scotch gauze sixteen inches deep, and a two feet handle*". This was held under the fruit and "*gently shook, the wasps came thundering down into the funnel*" to be crushed by "*any flat wood, -such as a blank butter print*". His gardener, who seems to have been the one to shake the wasps into the nets, recorded 220 on one "*haul*". "*Scarcely a wasp could escape us*" he writes and this saves his Moor Park apricots, peaches and nectarines.

Apples

A great many varieties of apple were grown as espaliers on walls and in open borders and Sir Thomas had apple trees sent from Hereford including Downton Pippin, Golden Harvey, Grange and Foxley. Newtown Pippins were grown on a south wall but in 1812 were starting to suffer from what he calls canker but may be some other pest which laid eggs. Ever ready to try a remedy he treats it with oil of turpentine – "*observing with a lens how they kicked up their heels*". Forsyth, he notes, "*mentions train oil being used in Kent, tho he prefers his soapsuds, with urine*" This would be William Forsyth, gardener at Syon House and the Apothecaries Garden in Chelsea. Sir Thomas had earlier tried out Forsyth's "*ointment*" on damaged trees. This may be the same as Forsyth's controversial "*plaister*" which it was claimed restored wounded trees but proved to be of little use. In 1816 there is a cry from the heart - "*Apples all destroyed by caterpillars. Even Siberian crabs + the new Herefordshire kinds*"

Sir Thomas is also credited with bringing a local fruit, the Rymer Apple, to the notice of Horticultural Society members. This apple was named after "*a gentleman at Thirsk, who raised the tree several years ago*" and was "*a handsome apple of middle size.....the skin is bright green, deepening to yellow, with good deal of red striping, freckled with russet; the flesh is soft, melting and juicy, with a fine brisk flavour, which becomes very rich when the fruit is baked*".

Although the original tree was grubbed up, Sir Thomas presented several young plants raised by grafts⁷ to the Society.

Often he was rewarded with good crops as he records one September – "*We have had a profusion of peaches + nectarines so as to give away 4 or 5 dozen per day for many days together..*" and "*more grapes daily than we can eat*" on another occasion. He grew a variety of vines, including Frontinac, Black Prince, Frankendale and Verdillo (Verdelho), ordered from James Lee of Hammersmith. He also enjoyed the fruits of his, or his gardener's, labours. "*I have trained Siberian crabs on espaliers on which they look beautifully*". He has them "*made into tarts + find delicious. Carlisle codlings we have had in pies throughout the*

5. Transactions of the Horticultural Society Vol 4 1822, p130

6. Transactions of the Horticultural Society Vol 4 1822, p107-8

7. Transactions of the Horticultural Society Vol 3 1820, p329

8. Transactions of the Horticultural Society Vol 4 1822, p514

season.....no better baking apple + it is raised from cuttings” (25 February 1815).

Melons

There were successes and he was particularly proud of his “*green fleshed Egyptian*” melon grown from seed received originally from the Archbishop of York. Though not impressed by it at first, compared to his orange Cantaloupe, it quickly became his favourite. He put his success down to “*having adopted Mr Knight’s form of frames*”. In 1820 the Horticultural Society awarded him the Banksian medal for the melon, describing it as “*perfectly melting, rich, sweet and high flavoured*”⁸. He also tried the Great Mogul melon, Smith having sent seeds from Shuckburgh, the seat of Lord Anson in Staffordshire. However despite giving it 5 “*lights*” was not impressed by the fruit - “*a worse kind I never saw...*”.

Asparagus

He raised asparagus “*in one of the pigeon holed frames invented by Mc Phail - it seems that as no vapour of manure can affect the bed what is raised in it must be materially sweeter than by the common process*”. This method proved so successful that one December he “*desired a friend to ask Dickson the price of Asparagus cut Nov 3rd + the answer was almost a doubt of having it so early - but the fact is that we cut 2 hundred + 1/4 this morning, in addition to regular supply ever since we began.*”

Conclusion

New plants were arriving from around the world at this period and Sir Thomas was at the front of the queue to try them. In 1819 he received seeds, from his vicar, who had a sister in Bombay - *Poinciana pulcherrima* (Gul Mohr), *Ipomoea quamoclit* (Chinese creeper), *Annona squamosa* (custard apple). Later *Adenanthra pavonina* which he calls Circassian beads arrived “*in the last parcel*”. Air plants, *Epidendrum cochleatum* and a *Tillandsia*, arrived in London from his nephew overseas but some died due to delay in collecting them.

His wife died in 1820 when he turned 70 and, until his death in 1831, his health starts to decline. He writes of his son and daughter-in-law becoming more involved in the garden. “*My son + daughter have been amusing themselves for some weeks in placing single trees + shrubs on the lawns - + so zealously that the Lady carries various articles + even digs*”. Even in his seventies, his enthusiasm is still undimmed as we can see from this letter of 1822, “*My son has just sent me seeds of Bergamot mint from Peru. In such cases little time is lost for on coming down in the morning I always find my letters with the already ironed newspaper + when seeds are received they are sown before breakfast*”.

Margaret Mathews



Thirkleby Hall c. 1800. (Image credit: in the public domain)

YGT report on the history of the park and gardens at Aldby Park, Buttercrambe, North Yorkshire



An extract from the 1633 plan of Aldby Park by George Osborne; reference NYCRO ZDA MP 1.
(Map credit: North Yorkshire County Records Office)

As a result of the YGT's visit to Aldby Park on Thursday 2 May 2019, its owners, George and Sara Winn-Darley, asked YGT if it could prepare a report on the history of the gardens and park there, bringing together the information that had been found by YGT members when preparing for the visit, as well as other available information.

Aldby Park sits above the River Derwent at Buttercrambe, North Yorkshire, and is a short distance up-stream from Stamford Bridge. Both the mansion and the park and garden are Heritage Category Grade II* (of outstanding interest) on the National Heritage List for England, where they are described, and their histories are briefly outlined.

As is often the case when the occasion and opportunity arise to look more closely into the history of a property, there is more information to be found and further questions to be asked. This is the case with Aldby Park. The small YGT working group that I am leading will not be able to undertake an exhaustive study such as might be made for a university higher degree, but it will be able to advance usefully the appreciation and understanding of Aldby Park as a garden, park, local landscape, and historical environment, by gathering and reviewing the information that

members of the working group are able to find, given the limitations of the time they are able to contribute.

The kind of questions that have already arisen about Aldby Park as a result of gathering information for the visit in May, include the following:

- (1) What is the actual history of the castle-like earthworks in the garden?
- (2) Legend associates Aldby, and presumably the earthworks, with King Edwin of Northumbria (AD 616 -632) and an attempt to assassinate him there. Is this true?
- (3) Legend also associates Aldby with a 'Prince Edwin' in the time of King Athelstan (King of England, 927-939) and the "first regular Grand Lodge [of freemasons], held in this kingdom". Could this be true? There is said to have been a freemasonic lodge at "Auldby" in the "York District" before 1663. Could this have any significance in relation to the earthworks?
- (4) Why and when did the castle-like earthworks in the garden take on their present shape? It seems that they had been re-shaped by the time that the estate map of 1633 was prepared. The present earthworks resemble quite closely those indicated on the 1633 map. One way of interpreting the map

is that the earthworks were part of a garden layout that is linked to the former main house at Aldby, before the present one was built. Was this the case? The general appearance of the former main house is recorded in one of Samuel Buck's sketches of c.1720.

(5) In the mid-17th century the Darley family were strong supporters of the Puritan and Parliamentary cause against Charles I. Henry Darley I (1596 -1671) was an MP for Aldborough, Yorkshire, and later for Northallerton. He was also a member of the influential "Providence Company" which was involved in attempts to establish new settlements in the West Indies and the East Coast of America. Could these affinities have any bearing on the history of the estate at Aldby?

(6) When was the park at Aldby first established? What is the origin of the unusual pattern of tree planting that is shown on the first edition Ordnance Survey map 6" to the mile scale (Yorkshire Sheet 158) surveyed in 1851 and published in 1854?

(7) Did Thomas Knowlton (1691 -1781, gardener to Lord Burlington at Londesborough Park) design the terraced gardens at Aldby or did he construct them to someone else's design and who might this someone else have been?

(8) Were features that lay beyond the boundary of the park and garden significant aspects of the landscape setting of the mansion and its garden and park? For example, Beech Lane and Buttercrambe Moor Wood to the west; Buttercrambe Wood to the north and Bridge End Fields to the east.

(9) Is there now any physical evidence of activities associated with the breeding of racehorses? This was a keen interest of Richard Darley III (1631 -1706) who was given the famous "Darley Arabian" as a colt in 1703. The horse remained at Aldby until it died c.1720.

(10) What significance should be attached to the garden improvements of c.1971-73 planned by Jim Russell (1920 -1996)?

To date I have prepared a format and outline for the report and I have collected and written up some preliminary information about Aldby Park and its history. This will help members of the



The East Lawn at Aldby Park during a YGT visit in May 2019.
(Photo credit: Gail Falkingham)

working group to select which features or aspects of the property they would like to investigate further. The format will allow the report to be compiled by more than one contributor and on a planned, cumulative, and co-ordinated basis.

It is proposed that the report be made up of 8 sections, as follows:

1. An introduction to the study;
2. A current description of Aldby Park and the naming of parts;
3. A basic chronology and a chronological index to the history of the study area and its landscape;
4. Historical notes on individual features and aspects of Aldby Park;
5. A general account of the history of the Aldby Park landscape;
6. An assessment of the character and significance of Aldby Park and its landscape;
7. Sources of information about Aldby Park and its landscape.
8. Appendices.

I have made a start on collecting information and adding some initial notes to sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 7 and 8 in order to demonstrate a method of working.

The main question now, is how best to proceed from here? This will need to be discussed with the Winn-Darleys, the members of the working group, and anyone else who would be interested in participating in this collaborative project.

Peter Goodchild

Forthcoming YGT Publications

Due to uncertainties caused by the Covid 19 pandemic, the production of both the e-Bulletin and Autumn Newsletter is liable to be disrupted this year. We suspect that there will no e-Bulletin in July and we are hopeful that the Autumn Newsletter will appear but probably not until October or November. Please send items for inclusion to Christine Miskin: c.miskin@btinternet.com by 15 September 2020.