



Visit to Boynton Hall Saturday 9 April 2022

April certainly lived up to T S Elliot's assessment of its cruelty, when more than 40 members visited the house, park and gardens of Boynton Hall in East Yorkshire. It lured us out with promises of summery sunshine, loured over us with cloud as we set out to tour the park, and lashed us with hail on the most exposed part of the walk, before offering something more spring-like at the end of the day.

The known history of Boynton, which starts in the early 15th century, has been well-researched. David and Susan Neave wrote the YGT report of the site, which you can find here - <https://www.yorkshiregardentrust.org.uk/research/sites/boynton-hall#info> - and David led the visit, alongside Yvonne Boutwood, who had walked the landscape as part of the YGT Research and Recording team's follow-up work.

We started the day with coffee and biscuits in the Garden Room, a south-facing hall of the house, which incorporates part of the original medieval building. Sally Marriott, the current owner, whose husband Richard was related to the Strickland family who owned Boynton for almost all the years since its purchase in the 16th century, had hoped to welcome us but was unwell, so Vicky Price opened the day and introduced David.



Strickland, Sir George 5th Bt. marr Elizabeth Winn of Nostell.

Image (with turkey crest) Courtesy of The Heraldry Society:
<https://www.theheraldrysociety.com/shop/images/strickland-sir-george-5th-bt-marr-elizabeth-winn-of-nostell/>

David gave a brief account of the history of the Strickland family and ownership of the house and grounds, questioning a few 'facts' as he went. Despite Strickland iconography, and local legend, we were told

that the first William Strickland, who purchased the house in 1549, was not a sea captain who introduced the turkey to England (although he was granted a coat of arms with turkey crest in 1550) but rather Clerk to the Council of the North, MP for Scarborough, and a Puritan political leader. This last fact made me wonder if Celia Fiennes had ever visited Boynton; I later found that she passed through while journeying between Burton Agnes Hall, the seat of her relative Sir Griffith Boynton, and Scarborough but she appears to have made no note of what she saw there¹.



*Arthur Devis, 1751, Sir George and Lady Strickland.
(Photo credit: Ferens Art Gallery, Hull, via ArtUK)*

The second fact problematised was the 1751 portrait of Sir George and Lady Strickland against a landscape with a lake - or was it a river, and was it even Boynton? David pointed out that the artist, Arthur Devis, often used artistic licence on the landscape behind his sitters, so neither the water nor the subject was a sure guide to Boynton's appearance in the 18th century: you can read more about Devis and his portraits in landscapes here <https://thegardenstrust.blog/2017/03/11/a-conversation-with-arthur-devis/>

More certain was that Sir George, the 5th baronet, was the Strickland who had

TO GO STRAIGHT TO ANY PAGE JUST CLICK ON THE PAGE NUMBER

Camelia House	15
Council News.....	6
Garden Trust News.....	6
Historic Houses -	
Garden of the Year	11
New Instagram Account.....	5
Notes from the Editor.....	4
Planning responses	10
St Mary's Lastingham	9
The Evil Effects of a	
Head Gardener	14
Thomas White Lecture	16
Visit to Boynton Hall	1
Visit to Goddards, York	7
Visit to Thwaite Gardens	12
Visit to Waterton Park	17

the greatest impact on the landscape and the estate's buildings. He moved roads, bought and enclosed land, removed village cottages and planted many trees, continuing the work that his father, the third William Strickland and 4th Bt., had started. His father is also said to have pioneered the planting of larches in England.

David led us through the rest of the Strickland family, several of whom had horticultural, botanical or arboricultural interests, up to 1951 when the estate was sold and many of the plantation trees were felled. In 1981 the hall and some of the original estate returned to the Strickland family when purchased by Richard (nephew of the last Strickland owner) and Sally Marriott.



*Picnics on the West Portico (originally on the south of the house and moved when the house entrance was changed).
(Photo author's own, with verbal permission of subjects)*

After David's introduction, Margaret Nieke spoke briefly about the work that Natural England had supported at Boynton, including archaeological investigation of the terracing and restoration of the 'The Hollow Road' (see below), some parkland railings and new tree planting in the wider parkland. We then had a short break for our picnics, while the clouds gathered, and started the exploration of the park and gardens at the south side of the house.

David began the tour by pointing out the visible changes to brickwork and fenestration on the south (garden) front of the house, which helped us understand its development. He drew our attention to the relatively modest east wing of the house, by John Carr, and to the banqueting house and its 17th century origins, to the west. The portico on the west front of the house had been moved from the south side when the house entrance was moved. This original remains in its altered position but a duplicate has been added to the garden front.

A chalk stream, the Gypsy Race, flows through the estate, just to the north of the house, and over it there is a fine, five-arch, 18th century bridge that carries the road from the village to the former home farm buildings at the west. Spring planting to both sides of the stream created a very pretty photo opportunity for members.

Turning left at the bridge we walked up to farm



*The five-arch bridge over the Gypsy Race.
(Photo author's own)*

buildings that, although old, are still functional. Their 'tumbling' gables prompted interest and on the way home I saw this feature repeated on a building at the junction where the village road meets the road to Bridlington. In his introductory talk David had told us that Sir George's wife had created a 'Dutch Farm'; given that tumbling gables are generally held to be a Dutch influence, perhaps there had once been more of a feel of an estate village and farm, with some unifying style, than is currently evident.

We passed the outer edges of the banqueting house where David pointed out the 18th century changes that had attempted to create a 'Gothick' look. These included battlements and arrow slits. I could not help feeling that the result was less successful than the original might have been, but perhaps that just reflects my own prejudice towards 17th century garden design.

The drive that runs behind the banqueting house and along the south garden wall leads to 'The Hollow Road', a deep path lined with yews, which stimulated one of several lively conversations during the visit. To some it seemed very like a green way and surely must be much older than the house; to others it was clearly an 18th century creation to produce a vista to the house from the south. Climbing the way to the platform at its summit and looking back revealed that the vista as currently experienced was variable, the house sometimes being wholly in view and at others only partially, and not entirely lined up with the main south entrance. A quick look at the map shows that the way lines up with the church, which some felt might suggest an earlier use as a route from the ancient Woldgate track to the village, before enclosure. As ever when two or more garden history buffs are gathered together, no consensus was reached. However, a recording of a talk given to the Society of Antiquaries in 2014 by Richard Marriott, Adrian Green and Tim Schadla-hall reports archaeological evidence that the hollow way was deliberately cut, but in the late 17th rather than the 18th century: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WeRTnZfCblQ>

The platform at the top of the hollow way is home to a clutch of slightly incongruous Monkey Puzzle trees (which have a whiff of Victorian 'fashion-planting')

and a view across acres of what is now arable farmland but was once wooded plantations. The top of the Carnaby Temple, perhaps by John Carr, is visible also, some $\frac{3}{4}$ m to the south. This would have provided a destination for walks or rides from the house, but we did not venture that far and turned west. Here Yvonne pointed out the mysterious earthwork bank that runs north to south and aligns with the medieval ridge and furrow ploughing, but which is considered to be too neat to be a plough headland.



Braving the hail on the way back down from the platform. Farm building with tumbling gables on the left and the banqueting house on the right. (Photo author's own)

Pelted by hailstones, we headed back down to the drive and turned again along the south wall. Here David pointed out the gate piers at the end of the drive where they had been moved from their original position in the south wall, before we climbed up the eastern side of the valley slope to see the pigeon-house or dove cote (terminology for such a thing being another subject of some debate) and then the Gothick dairy house, now used as a holiday cottage. Beyond this were the walled kitchen garden and, next to it, what had once been a slip nursery. There is a surviving glasshouse and this stimulated conversation around various topics: how it had been heated, whether it showed more signs of Victorian style than earlier, where the flues were, and what the ornate arcaded loggia to the easterly wall of the enclosed garden, which appeared to offer only an entrance to the glasshouse and boiler room, could ever have been intended for. It is not easy to see the loggia from the outside of the walled garden (though one or two intrepid YGT members tried later) so we had to rely on the photograph included in Yvonne's very helpful handout. If it was an original entrance to the kitchen garden (before the glasshouse was added) then this surely suggests that Sir George and Lady Strickland had a high opinion of what was grown there and, one hopes, those who grew it.

The walled garden now contains the bulk of modern garden interest, being both productive and decorative, and provided a gentle (and warmer) end to a fascinating visit. Tea and very good cake, provided by the YGT event organisers, rounded the day off, and the volume of the conversation indicated that as many questions were raised as were answered, as should always be the case when we visit historic landscapes



Arcaded loggia leading to the glasshouse and walled garden. (Photo by Caroline Kernan, with permission)

and gardens.

Some members were keen for more and re-visited parts of the site and/or visited the church, rebuilt in the 18th century on the site of its medieval predecessor. The Celtic cross and the etched sundial, incorporated into the surviving medieval tower, indicate a much more ancient Christian history than the Puritan first William might have found comfortable.

One of the paradoxes of garden and landscape history is that the less important a house was to an owner, the more visible the historic layers of the gardens are likely to be. As we saw at Bramham Park at the AGM in March 2022, the destruction of the original house by fire helped preserve a wonderful, and rare, example of late 17th and early 18th century landscaping. So it was at Boynton, too, at least in part. From the 1830's onwards, none of the Strickland family used the house as a main residence, and, apart from Sir George and family, there is doubt whether earlier families did, either see: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WeRTnZfCblQ> This has left important elements of the history of the park and garden visible. Remnants of terracing, the hollow way and the 17th century banqueting house testify to the earlier layouts, while the plantations, dairy, Dutch farm, and the loggia are perhaps evidence of an 18th century flirtation with the ideas of Stephen Switzer and the ornamental farm, as Peter Goodchild hinted while we were gazing at the dairy house. Apart from the Monkey Puzzle trees on the plateau at the top of the hollow way, subsequent generations seem to have added relatively little that remains visible, leaving a multi-layered and fascinating site for 21st century garden history hunters to explore.

Sally Marriott allowed generous access to her house, gardens and parkland; the day was brilliantly organised by Vicky Price, assisted by Yvonne Boutwood, Helena Anderson and Susan Neave; and David Neave and Yvonne were knowledgeable and engaging guides. Thanks go to them all.

¹ Christopher Morris (ed), *The Illustrated Journey of Celia Fiennes*, 1685-c.1712, 1995, Stroud: Allan Sutton Publishing, p. 100.

Gillian Parker

Notes from the Editor

What a fantastic summer this has been! We have enjoyed wonderful sunny days – maybe occasionally a bit too sunny for some of us – but we cannot complain, especially as most of our visits have had excellent weather.

Maybe the exception to this was our first visit of the season in April to Boynton Hall near Bridlington, which will be remembered by those of us who attended for the large hailstones and scattering of snow which fell on us on that occasion! Our visit was led by David Neave who is the joint author of the YGT research report on the site. He was ably assisted by Yvonne Boutwood. The site was full of interesting features and stimulated much discussion and gave us lots to think about. The visit has been written up for us by Gillian Parker.

The next visit report by Paul Knox and Malcolm Pickles covers our trip to Goddards in May. It is currently a National Trust property, situated in York and we had two tours, one led by Tom Longridge, the senior gardener, who covered the restoration and current planting and the other by Gillian Parker, the author of the YGT report on Goddards, who told us about the history of the site and the original garden design.

Gillian has then kindly written up the joint YGT/YPS biennial joint lecture given by Louise Wickham discussing the very recent book which

she and Deborah Turnbull have written about the neglected northern landscape gardener, Thomas White.

Our Summer picnic was kindly hosted by Clemens and Johanna Heinrich in their delightful garden in Lastingham and included a visit to the most interesting and ancient parish church of St Mary's. This visit was kindly written up by Jill McCandlish and Jean Pick.

The final contribution is by Marlene Godfrey and covers our visit in July to Thwaite Hall and Bishop Burton Walled Garden in East Yorkshire. The former was a 19th century villa which has been owned by Hull University since 1948 and was once the home of the Thwaite Botanic Gardens. The latter was an important manor and deer park for the Archbishops of York but has had a more chequered history in the recent past.

We also have our usual selection of snippets of information but are not including any updates from our Committees in this issue. They will appear in our Autumn Newsletter to be published in October.

Some of you will have noticed that we did not publish our June e-Bulletin, due to a combination of circumstances, but I hope that you will find items of interest in this issue.

Christine Miskin



New Instagram account

There is a new YGT social media account on Instagram named [@YorkshireGardensTrust](https://www.instagram.com/YorkshireGardensTrust) set up in May 2022 by Gail Falkingham.

It aims to feature and promote the work done by YGT's various committees, YGT events and visits, as well as other garden-related information and events throughout Yorkshire. Although Instagram is primarily image based, in addition to photographs the site features short videos set to music, up to 90 seconds, known as 'reels' and more short-lived, 24 hour, posts known as 'stories', which we can save on the grid as 'highlights'. The stories enable us to easily share posts by made by other organisations. For example, when Camellia Hayes won silver medal at the RHS Tatton Park flower show, we were able to re-post her posts thanking YGT for supporting her via our bursary scheme.

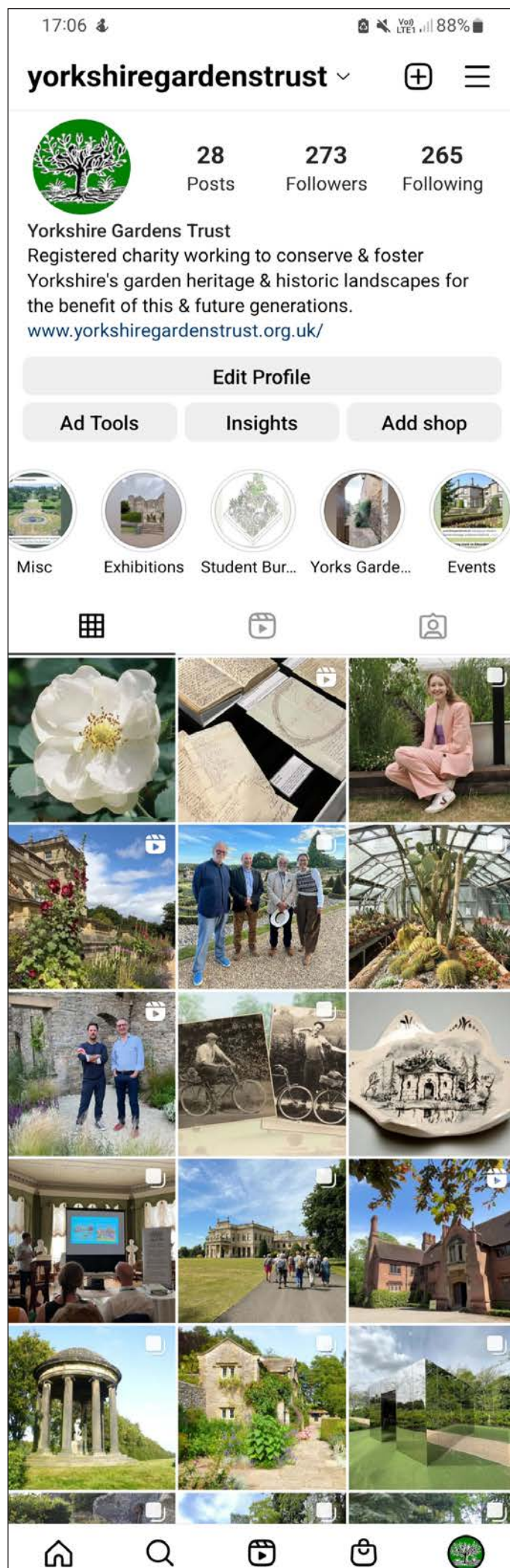
We can also collaborate with other Instagram accounts, a feature which has the potential to vastly broaden our reach. Following a recent visit to former treasurer Nigel Tooze's garden in Richmond, Gail asked designer Alistair Baldwin (who has nearly 45,000 followers) if he would be happy to collaborate on a reel she created of the garden. The result was a staggering 16,200 views by people all over the world and over 960 'likes' of the short video, which appeared on both YGT and AWB Associates' Instagram sites. It also greatly increased the number of our followers by about 45, which now total 273.

We also 'follow' other like-minded organisations, such as The Gardens Trust, other County Gardens Trusts and numerous gardens and gardeners throughout Yorkshire and beyond. It's a great way to find out about what's going on in the gardening world and to promote YGT to a world-wide audience! Of our current followers, 83% are from the UK, the rest span as far as the US, Canada, Australia and New Zealand! The power of the internet!

So, if you're already on Instagram, do follow us and if not, why don't you join? You'll need a smart phone or tablet and be able to access the internet and download the Instagram app.

We're always looking for interesting content for our social media. If you have lovely pictures of your own gardens, or Yorkshire gardens you've visited, or know of events in Yorkshire that our garden followers might like to hear about, then do let us know!

Gail Falkingham



Gardens Trust News



Gardens Trust AGM on 8 September

The Gardens Trust Annual General Meeting will take place on Thursday 8 September on Zoom, to allow as many members as possible to participate. Before the formal AGM business, there will be a presentation on the Trust's achievements during the year, given by Linden Groves, Head of Operations and Strategy. Full joining details for members are available online.

GT launches Community Grant scheme

The Gardens Trust has launched a new grant scheme for volunteer projects that support historic designed landscapes. The Gardens Trust Community Grant is for up to £2,500. It is intended to help seed-fund volunteer projects for any activity related to historic designed landscapes, such as a restoration plan, Friends group set-up costs, research project or volunteer training scheme. Any volunteer group can

apply, and the application process has been kept as simple as possible. The grant has been made possible by a generous donation from the Gentian Trust, established by GT members Peter and Rosy Gent. You will find more information and the application form here <https://thegardenstrust.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Garden-Trust-Community-Grant-Application-form-v1.pdf>

New Garden History PhD

A new Garden History PhD programme, created in association with the Gardens Trust, has been launched by Buckingham University. The course will be led by Adrian Tinniswood and our very own David Marsh, and is now open for applications. We will be sharing more information soon but wanted you to know straight away.



Council News

Council met in person on Tuesday 26 April at York Medical Society and again during the extremely hot weather on Tuesday July 18 via Zoom.

The meeting in July was largely devoted to discussing the new Development (formerly Business) Plan for 2023 to 2028. Each of our committees had circulated papers outlining their objectives together with summary papers drafted by our Chairman. A lengthy and useful discussion took place. Following the meeting a revised draft plan has been circulated by Chris Webb, who is heavily involved in leading the project. We will be reporting on progress in the next Newsletter.

Louise Amende has now ceased working for us as Membership Secretary and Administrator and at the time of writing we have appointed a successor, Lucy Bennett, who started work in mid-August.

The Schools group continues to be very active and their increased budget was confirmed at the

meeting. Our Bursary Scheme is flourishing and a small number of bursaries have now been awarded. Difficulties have been encountered in obtaining sufficient material to allow us to publish four e-Bulletins and two Newsletters each year and it has been agreed that in future we should only publish two hard copy Newsletters and two electronic e-Bulletins. A revised timetable will be put in place for 2023.

The pattern of Council meetings for the next year was discussed and it was agreed that we should continue with bi-monthly meetings, of which four would take place via Zoom and two in person, which would be wider and possibly include sub-group members, as well as concentrating upon matters other than regular business.

The next Newsletter will include reports from all our committees.

Visit to Goddards, York

Thursday May 19 2022

A Terry's Delight in York



View of the house and terracing from the front lawns

Upon arrival, a little ahead of time, there was a distinct lack of sunshine as the gloomy grey morning continued into the afternoon. Then, when over 30 members of the YGT had gathered at the allotted time at the marvellous gatehouse to the property, the sun began to shine and it shone gloriously for the rest of our visit.

Goddards is currently a National Trust property, and the house and gardens were developed at the instigation of Noel and Kathleen Terry – of Terry's of York. The site had been bought and developed by them in the 1920's. The property was named after Noel Terry's paternal grandmother Frances Goddards. For full information about Goddards, including a range of maps, plans and photos please see Gillian Parker's report on the property on our website.

<https://www.yorkshiregardenstrust.org.uk/research/sites/goddards#info>

Dringhouses, Terrys and the National Trust - a short history

Today, Goddards feels to be firmly within York, but it is in the area known as Dringhouses which was originally in the West Riding as it stretched up to the city walls. In 1925 Noel Terry purchased the plot of land that was sandwiched between the old Roman road to Tadcaster and the Knavesmire and its racecourse (relocated there in 1731). The land was bought from the Wilkinson family and a relative included Fanny Rollo Wilkinson (1855–1951) who had connections at nearby Middlethorpe Hall and incidentally was the first woman to make a professional career as a landscape gardener in the UK. At this time the chocolate business was flourishing, including the development of the famous Terry's Chocolate Orange before its highly successful launch in 1932. A note for those interested in plant-related chocolate: a chocolate apple had previously been trialled but with little success.

Noel Terry commissioned Walter Brierley (1886-1926)

to build the new family home on the 3-acre site and engaged a Kent-based plantsman and designer George Dillistone (1877-1957) at the same time to design the garden. Walter Brierley was a local and prolific architect responsible for more than 300 buildings in York and across the North of England and for many years he was the favoured architect of the North Riding County Council. Goddards was to be his final design as he died in 1926 ahead of its completion and occupation by the Terrys in 1927. Dillistone is a somewhat neglected garden designer who had worked with Edwin Lutyens at Castle Drogo. He maintained involvement with the creation of the garden at Goddards until 1935. Noel and Kathleen Terry both died in 1980 and the property remained empty until 1984 when it was purchased by the National Trust to act as its regional HQ. This led to a period of clearing and simplification of the overgrown garden and it was not opened to the public until 2012. Since 2015 Tom Longridge has headed the team of staff and volunteers re-working and restoring the garden in the spirit of Dillistone.

Two guides reveal the history and future of Goddards

Our visit to the site and viewing of the gardens was superbly enhanced by two contrasting and complementary guides. Members were split into two groups and Tom Longridge, the senior gardener, led a group to outline and discuss the restoration and current planting whilst Gillian Parker took the other group around the garden and covered in more detail the history of the site and the original garden design. Groups were then swapped and the complementary perspectives and indeed differing routes around the gardens at Goddards ensured a fully immersive experience and appreciation.



At the west end of the house Gillian Parker discusses the layout of the terraces

The house is approached through a gatehouse that today provides an effective screen from the busy A1036. An avenue of red and white horse chestnuts lines the approach to the house, although a cycle of pollarding every seven or so years to keep it in check

[CLICK HERE TO RETURN TO FRONT PAGE](#)

does mean that they are rarely seen to be flowering. On moving down the avenue there is the merest glimpse of the house and when arriving a visitor is presented with the back of the house. In fact the house sits at an angle to the approach and its position was altered during the planning (although no one told the garden designer!) and is now SE facing. It is not the grandest of architectural arrivals but both the house and garden gradually reveal their delights through further exploration.

Views of the house begin to open up as a visitor ventures around to the right or through the house and arrives at a fine terrace planted with lavender and Sarcococca edging. From here the visitor can take in the view of the front of the house and its terraces, lawns and ponds. The house is built of brick with fine features and flourishes and is a good example of Arts-and-Crafts design including elements of Jacobean and Queen Anne. The new orientation was to provide room to accommodate vehicle turning and views across the countryside and towards the south of the Knavesmire, away from the chocolate factory – more of which later. The view is now lost due to mature trees and in fact a visitor may not be readily aware, unless on a noisy race day perhaps, that the racecourse is very close by, just beyond the trees.

In its somewhat constrained space, mostly bordered by shrubberies, the feeling of the garden today is largely inward-focused, and it presents a series of satisfying spaces varying greatly in formality and sensory impact. Directly at the SW side of the house there is a fragrant garden where Kathleen Terry grew sweet peas which today is being restored (after being a lawn for 30 years) with fragrant shrubs such as miniature lilacs. The original 1928 planting plan for the fragrant garden with stocks, antirrhinums and the heliotrope Lord Roberts can be viewed online on the YGT website along with other extensive information and insights on the property and garden written by Gillian Parker. See website link on previous page. The relaxed formality at the front of the house with brick terracing, lawns and aligned ponds is very pleasing and the associated statuary, removed when the NT took over, is in the process of being restored to original positions. Moving away from the house along lines of axis to the east including the long walk which had detailed planting plans by Dillistone for borders with blocks of colour. Today the garden maintains the structure if not the precise planting, in a series of contrasting rooms and spaces and the formality is gradually replaced by a more naturalistic design. On the eastern boundary curving paths intersect and encompass rock gardens and delightful ponds, all with much colour.

Additional land to the north bought in the 1930's, which extended the site to 5-acres, was developed as a vegetable garden. When the NT took over the property the vegetable garden was the first to go in the pursuit of easy management. It is now a delightful meadow and orchard with six-year-old fruit trees,

including pear and quince and also Sturmer Pippin apples, a variety raised by Ezekiel Dillistone, great grandfather of George Dillistone. On the day of our visit the orchard was a true delight and presented great boughs of May blossom and sprightly blue cammassias. From here we enjoyed views out towards the racecourse and could see, to the left of the grandstand, the iconic 135 ft (41 m) clock tower of Terry's chocolate factory. This was constructed in the same year as Goddards. Noel Terry would walk out from his garden across the racecourse to his factory each day. The garden gate he used can still be seen, though neglected and unused, further along the boundary near the attractive glasshouse, which with cold frames and adjacent potting shed was originally constructed by Richardson's of Darlington and has recently been restored. It currently services a small vegetable garden of raised beds nearby in the spirit of



Senior gardener, and our guide, Tom Longridge walking in direction of the racecourse. Terry's chocolate factory clock tower can be seen to the left of the grandstand.

the garden in the original plan.

At the eastern end of the garden the paths weave in a range of directions and the house cannot be seen. There was much of interest to view in this area including two tall ginkgos. Some particularly impressive tree peonies that were a gift to the NT from Japan, led to an overheard discussion and questions to Tom about their care. Apparently, the best thing is to leave them alone other than for a little 'tidying up'. The rock and water gardens are particularly impressive. The cascade was fed by water run-off from the house, a forward-looking green credential for the 1920s. A notable space, entered through a gap in a hedge and eliciting gasps of appreciation on the fine May day of our visit, was the tennis court with a raised viewing area. The court, now a lawn, was backed by flowering

[CLICK HERE TO RETURN TO FRONT PAGE](#)



Tom Longridge outlining planting and maintenance schemes in the rock and water gardens.

laburnums and fellow legumes, Japanese pagoda trees. A path wound behind the trees back towards the house and with only occasional glimpses of it. A

visitor could pass through distinct areas with mixed and dense planting and then only emerge for a sudden view of the front elevation of the house when arriving back at the front lawn. Venturing back from the rock and water gardens and eastern boundary it could be hard to take the same route twice and there would always be colour and surprises.

At the end of our visit members were welcomed into the house to view, in a dark-panelled room, the plans for the original designs for the garden structures and planting schemes. This included the never implemented idea for a wiggly edging to the grass of the horse chestnut avenue where we began. It was a most enjoyable visit to Goddards and we were blessed by the weather and our engaging and informative guides Gillian and Tom – many thanks to them. It was a lovely day for the visit to a delightful garden that will be full of colour and interest throughout the year.

Paul Knox and Malcolm Pickles

Photos by Paul Knox and Malcolm Pickles

St Mary's Lastingham Summer Picnic Tuesday 14 June 2022



Clemens and Johanna Heinrich

Members of Yorkshire Gardens Trust were welcomed by Clemens and Johanna Heinrichs to their beautiful house and garden in Lastingham, which was previously the holiday and retirement home of Professor Sydney Ringer (1835-1910), the physician whose inventions were responsible for the introduction of the saline drip.

Clemens and Johanna explained that the development of the garden had been a long journey taking 12 years, of which the first three were spent getting to know it.



They wanted to make a haven for wildlife within the garden, but first needed to create its structural bones of the garden. They enlisted the help of Keith Pullen who took this on as a retirement project. One of the first jobs was to remove forty Leylandii conifers!

The owners liked to get a feel for an area and then develop it, creating a series of totally diverse rooms, including our starting point at the Pavilion Garden where coffee and biscuits were served and where the Pavilion itself is used by Johanna for wellbeing activities including meditation and yoga. Logs were used here and elsewhere to create inspired and unusual walls.



Brick rose pergola

A beautiful brick, rose covered pergola led us into the main garden area with glasshouses and raised vegetable beds and wild-flower meadows with mown paths set into the lawn creating homes for slow-worms, lizards and small insects.

We then found ourselves in the kitchen garden comprising a brick circle with four raised beds, an asparagus bed and soft fruit bushes encircled the area. A separate bed was planted up with nettles and these have a culinary use as do the young shoots of hostas and hops.

The far side of the garden is bounded by a valley stream with natural planting and a bog garden and with large swathes of beautifully planted shrubs and perennials and strategic planting of grasses. This leads on to the winter garden. The gardens surrounding the house include wide drift beds overflowing with flowers, a gravel garden and, at the front of the house, a formal courtyard garden featuring a stipa gigantia and tall alliums.



The Kitchen Garden

The weather was fantastic, and we were encouraged to use the many seating areas in the garden in which to enjoy our picnics. Following tradition, strawberries and cream were very kindly provided by the committee.

After lunch we were invited to visit St Mary's Church which is almost adjacent to the garden: this is surrounded by a beautiful old churchyard and cared for by the local community. The church has an interesting history. Some of the remains of St Cedd, who was the 1st Abbot of St Mary's Lastingham, are allegedly thought to remain here after monks established a wooden monastery on the site in 654. The earliest parts of the building we find today including the crypt, chancel and apse are Norman and date from 1078. The church has a Grade 1 listing.

Jill McCandlish

Photos by Jean Pick

Planning responses now on website

Following on from the launch of the new YGT website in April, it is now possible to view all responses that Val Hepworth and her colleagues in the YGT Conservation Group have made since January 2022 to planning applications affecting parks and gardens or their settings anywhere in Yorkshire.

To do this, please look up any site, whether it is registered or not, on the site database at <https://www.yorkshiregardenstrust.org.uk/research/sites>.

If you see a field entitled 'View Planning Responses (n)' against the site you can click against this field to then see the planning response(s) displayed by title and in date order, most recent first, each entry having the option to then load the respective full response(s) as a PDF.

If anyone wants to know more about what an applicant proposed, what other consultees, supporters or objectors have said regarding an application or the planning authority's eventual decision, please go to the respective local authority's planning application database and enter the planning application number as shown in the YGT planning response title field.

Future YGT planning response will be added to the database every month. Over time it is also intended to add some earlier responses made by YGT, thus helping make the YGT site database an increasingly valuable reference tool.

Thanks are due to Louise Wickham, Pat Gibbs and all those behind the new YGT website and to Geoff Hughes for specifying the planning response function and entering the responses.

Historic Houses – Garden of the Year

Two Yorkshire gardens have been shortlisted in the annual Historic Houses (Formerly Historic Houses Association) Garden of the Year Award and our members are invited to vote for one of them. They are Wentworth Woodhouse and Parcevall Hall and Gardens

You do not need to be a member of the HHA and voting should be done via their website as follows:

<https://www.historichouses.org/garden-of-the-year/vote-for-garden-of-the-year/>

Your Editor visited Parcevall Hall and Gardens last weekend and they told us that they are currently in second place.

The closing date for voting is 30 September 2022.



Wentworth Woodhouse



Wentworth Woodhouse



Parcevall Hall and Gardens



Wentworth Woodhouse



Parcevall Hall and Gardens

Thwaite Gardens and Bishop Burton College Walled Garden

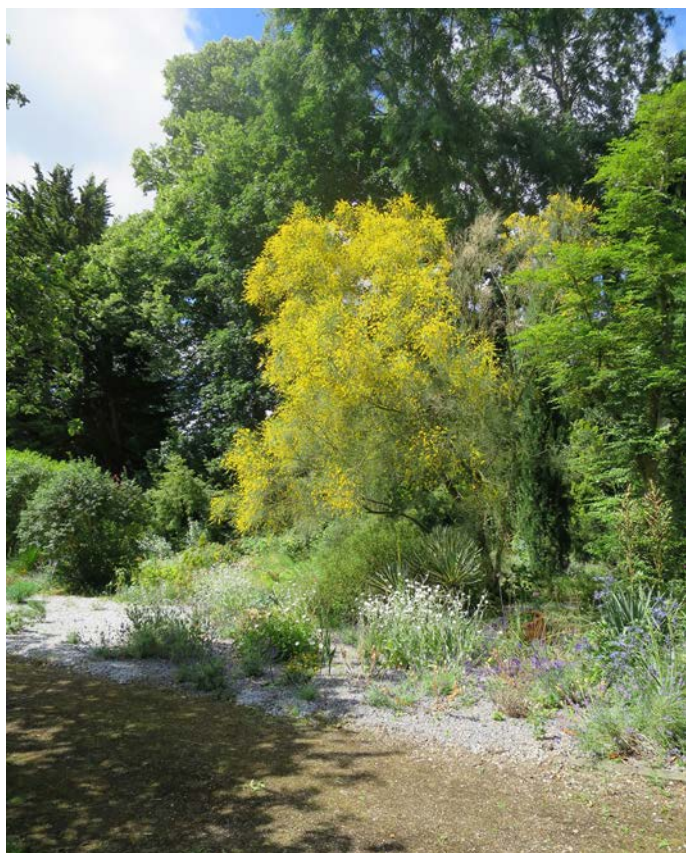
Thursday 7 July 2022

Thwaite Gardens

On a perfect summer day about 30 people assembled at Thwaite Garden in Cottingham and were welcomed to the visits by Vicky Price, Chair, YGT Events Group. Val Hepworth gave a brief introduction to the importance of the urban villa and the history of Thwaite.

In the 18th century Cottingham comprised the deer parks of Hull merchants and, following the 1790's enclosures, these merchants moved to Cottingham and built large houses in extensive grounds. In 1803 Henty built Thwaite Hall and grounds, which passed through a number of Hull families including Rollitt and then Goddard who sold it, with 31 acres, to the University (then University College Hull) in 1928. The mini 18th century style landscape, with stream made into a lake became the University Botanic Gardens (now on the Register of Historic Parks and Gardens: <https://www.parksandgardens.org/places/thwaite-hall>)

The gardens were used for teaching and the Hall was developed and much extended as a student hall of residence. Many of the other large villas in Cottingham have been demolished and their gardens lost to development.



Mediterranean garden, Thwaite

John Killingbeck, of the Friends of Thwaite, then talked about the University Botanic Gardens, which were the third location of the Botanic Gardens of Hull. The first one which was in the centre of the town has disappeared except for a street name, and there are

traces of the second on the site of Hymers School. The heyday of Thwaite was in the 1950-60s as part of the Botany Department, as it has a classic botanic layout. The Botany Department closed in the mid-1970's. The many important listed trees are from the 19th century and from university specimen planting. In the 1990's the site was neglected and following a public enquiry the Friends were set up in 2000. The main site, including the lake and many listed trees and buildings have been sold by the University which has been given permission for development (unfortunately not accessible) while the 2 acres including the greenhouses were retained.

Steve Howe of the Friends then told us about the present and future of the garden. He described the approximately 23 volunteers who maintain it as a "self-perpetuating oligarchy". The University does not support it, but does pay for gas, electricity and water and for their grounds staff to cut the lawn. They have a very well supported Open Day each year which raises funds for upkeep and the site is open to members of the Friends on Tuesday afternoons and Friday mornings when the volunteers are working there.

For more information, please consult the Garden website - <https://thwaite-gardens.hull.ac.uk>



John Killingbeck, Thwaite

John then took us on tours of the garden, showing a very impressive knowledge and enthusiasm for the trees which include champion specimens and a new wildflower meadow was at its best. Steve conducted tours of the greenhouses and their interesting collections, including a much-admired cactus collection.

Thanks were expressed to the volunteers from Thwaite, led by Annie Bourton Card, who provided us with much appreciated refreshments, including delicious cake and made us very welcome. Some of our members had left home at an early hour to make their trek to the far reaches of the East Riding.

[CLICK HERE TO RETURN TO FRONT PAGE](#)



Wild flower meadow, Thwaite

Bishop Burton Walled Garden

We then left for Bishop Burton village and the College in its impressive grounds, where lunch was taken in the cafe or picnics in the gardens.

David Neave, our member and a local historian, gave an introduction to the Bishop Burton estate, which began as a manor house and deer park belonging to the Archbishop of York. In the 16th century the estate became Crown property and was later sold in 1603 to Sir William Gee, Secretary of the Council of the North, who rebuilt High Hall, which was gutted by fire c.1790. It then passed through two other families, one of whom rebuilt the house between 1872 and 1875. In 1951 East Riding County Council bought the estate with 422 acres in order to build an agricultural college and it demolished the house. Little is known of the garden before the later 18th century when records suggest the laying out of the grounds, possibly after the enclosures of 1772, but there are no maps until the first edition of the Ordnance Survey plan of 1851-2. A report from 1888 shows that the prominent landscape gardener William Broderick Thomas had been engaged when the still existing porter's lodge and gates were being built. The brickwork of the walled garden suggests a late 18th century date. It is shown on the O.S. maps of 1852, 1890 and 1910 which follow the development of the garden.

Rob Skells, Head Gardener, who has been in post since 2015 described the gardens and the restoration of the walled garden. The garden had been restored by the previous gardener when it had been used for horticultural teaching. It included an acid bed and laburnum arch but had needed tidying and the hedges were replaced. A Friends group had existed between 2000 and the 2010's with volunteers who helped with maintenance and fund raising. We were able to give Rob information and documentation relating to the Friends. With the decline of horticultural courses, the teaching support role of the garden has now changed. As a student support role, it is to engage students of all subjects, and deprived children. The objective is to find an appropriate role in what was described as crossover with a variety of outcomes, e.g. engineering design students making sculpture for the garden. Rob

also described his role regarding the College grounds, which includes maintenance of sports pitches, 36 acres of the campus, a tree planting scheme, environmentally friendly initiatives, solar panels, wind turbine and robotic mowers to reduce compaction of pitches. A discussion of the shortage of entrants to horticulture and the higher technical skills required stimulated many questions and could have taken the remainder of the afternoon.

Rob then took us to the walled garden and made himself available for questions and debate. During Covid lockdown an outdoor classroom with a circle of fixed seating was built and several new sculptures installed, including some made by Rob. The gardens are very well maintained and many of the old features are retained. A sign of the times was the marquee being erected for a wedding.



Walled garden & sculpture, Bishop Burton

With thanks to all the staff at Bishop Burton, which describes itself as an Agriculture, Equine, Sport and Design Further Education College, who were so helpful and made our visit a success.

Thank you to Tricia Sharp who made the local arrangements and to all the YGT Events Group.

For more information about both gardens please consult the YGT website under Research - High Hall Bishop Burton report by David and Susan Neave 2013 and YGT Statement of Significance by Jim Godfrey 2018 and Thwaite Hall report by David and Susan Neave 2013 and YGT Statement of Significance 2018.

<https://www.yorkshiregardenstrust.org.uk/index.php/research/sites/thwaite-hall#info>

Marlene Godfrey

All photos by Jim Godfrey

On the evil effects of a Head Gardener ...?

As an enthusiastic follower of the Gardens Trust's excellent 19th century garden history series, the talk on JC Loudon by Dr David Marsh provided an unexpected and fruitful research diversion.

With such an engaging and informative speaker as Dr Marsh, it is not easy to be distracted from what he is saying. However, when he was discussing Loudon's publication *The Gardener's Magazine*, he showed a slide of the index to the 1826 Volume 1 with the following intriguing entry which read

Given that most gardeners, and especially Head

***"On the evil effects of a
Head Gardener....."***

page 135



Image from a private collection

Gardeners, are usually associated with being a force for "good", as a result of their incredible knowledge, skills, vision and achievements, such a pronouncement certainly warranted further investigation.

The Gardener's Magazine feature in fact was a letter published in February 1826 from possibly a Head Gardener, and its full title was

"On the evil effects of a Head Gardener being lodged anywhere else than in his Garden".

The writer argued his case as follows:

I am happy Sir that you have so well pointed out the moral and religious duties of gardeners.... But

permit me to enquire whether the gardener in England, placed as he is, in the housekeeper's room – whether he can there improve himself.

All that he can do there – he may read a little, play at cards, dance and flirt with the ladies' maids.

But in some families of the first rank and respectability, the gardener, as is the case with myself, is a servants hall inmate. In what way is a gardener to improve himself there?

his amusements, or rather, his degradation is hard at hand – as drinking, swearing and low language, is much to be found in such a place, generally speaking, as in the ale house.....

It is at this point that the reader senses that this gardener perhaps has a particular motive for submitting this article to be published in *The Gardener's Magazine*. He concludes:

Would it not be much better where there is (sic) extensive gardens, with forcing houses etc for the superintendent of such to be placed in or as near them as possible? But it requires no more than common sense to see the absurdity of any other arrangement than that of a proper house for a head gardener in the garden.....

(signed) A Common Sense Reforming Gardener

Perhaps the author had hopes of a residence more like the one below?



Image from a private collection

The case of William Chuck

The Common-Sense Reforming Gardener would have been well-supported by the experience of William Chuck, who was employed as a gardener at Brodsworth Hall, in South Yorkshire from c.1870 onwards, rising to become Head Gardener by 1891.

As part of his lengthy garden apprenticeship, the young William was working at the impressive Enville Hall in Staffordshire in August 1860. The local paper reported a disturbance described as

[CLICK HERE TO RETURN TO FRONT PAGE](#)

“UNPRINCIPLED CONDUCT” as follows:

A party of three men and two women paid a visit to Enville. Although the grounds were not open to the public, the party did not scruple to proceed to the garden and One of them commenced to pluck the flowers off a geranium.

William Chuck, the second gardener, challenged them and charged them with plucking flowers. Instead of apologising they replied in the most insolent language and took themselves off.

No formal charges were pressed but the incident highlights the important roles and responsibilities gardeners fulfilled beyond horticultural matters.

William Chuck worked at Brodsworth for more than fifty years. He would have played a key role in creating the spectacular high Victorian gardens for the Thellusson family, as recently illustrated in the fascinating talk by Brodsworth's current Head Gardener, Daniel Hale, in the English Heritage

Garden talk series.

The Common-Sense Reforming Gardener of 1826 would have been pleased and perhaps a little envious of William Chuck's substantial garden house in Brodsworth Hall Gardens – but satisfied that seventy years later his 'campaign' had been successful.



Image from a private collection

Christine Beevers

Camellia House Funding at Wentworth Woodhouse



We are delighted to announce that, thanks to an award of over £4m from The National Lottery Heritage Fund, our Georgian Camellia House, home to some of the Western World's oldest camellias, will be rescued and transformed into a celebration of the globe's most popular drink... tea.

Saving and repurposing the Grade II* listed Camellia House, which is on the Heritage at Risk Register and which recently had to be propped up to prevent it falling down, is the Trust's first regeneration project, now that £9.7m of vital repairs have been completed to other historic buildings on the site.

David Renwick, Director, England, North at The

National Lottery Heritage Fund, said: *'Over the last 6 years, The National Lottery Heritage Fund has invested over £690,000 to support Wentworth Woodhouse Preservation Trust to get to this point and ensure the transformation of one of the UK's grandest stately homes can get underway. We're delighted to be supporting the Trust with this latest grant to embark on restoring the beautiful Camellia House for the public, and especially those within the local community, to enjoy and explore its fascinating heritage.'*

The year-long transformation begins in early summer 2022. Up to 22 new local hospitality jobs of varying hours will be created when the tea house opens in summer 2023. Historic camellias, some surviving from the early 1800s, will have pride of place, and a tea menu will embrace tea-drinking ceremonies and cultures from across the globe. The Camellia House will also serve as an evening events space and a hub for a host of tea-inspired events.

One day a week it will be a community cafe for local community groups to meet and explore local tea traditions. A vibrant range of art workshops, natural play, sensory and wellbeing experiences, exhibitions and events, many focussing on tea themes, will be staged there.

The full cost of the Camellia House project is £5m. Additional funding is already pledged and includes £250,000 from Historic England and £364,622 from The Hamish Ogston Foundation, via Historic England. WWPT's own funds and grant applications will contribute £136,536, the Garfield Weston Foundation has donated £118,257, the Ian Addison Charitable Trust £7,500, in-kind donations total £19,270 and volunteer time £33,400.

Press Release from Wentworth Woodhouse Preservation Trust.

**Thomas White (c. 1736 to 1811).
Redesigning the Northern
British Landscape
Joint YGT/Yorkshire
Philosophical Society Lecture,
Temple Anderson Hall, York,
25 May, 2022**

Despite a long and successful career, during which he designed at least 32 landscapes in England and 45 in Scotland, Thomas White is much less well known than either Lancelot Brown, for whom he initially worked, or his near contemporary, Humphry Repton. This is in contrast to his reputation during his lifetime when he was a respected landscape designer, won more Society of Arts medals than anyone else for his tree planting, and made enough money from his work to buy his own estate, Woodlands, in County Durham. Louise Wickham and Deborah Turnbull address this neglect in their book and Louise presented their work at the joint YGT/YPS lecture in May, persuading us that White was, indeed, a significant figure in 18th century landscape design. She outlined what little is known of the White's family history, his early work alongside Brown, possibly as a surveyor, his extensive independent commissions from around 1765, and explored why his name and work were well-known in the 18th century but have since been all but lost to history.

After pointing out the challenges of establishing the family history of someone with a common name such as Thomas White, Louise concentrated on his work and why he deserved a more prominent place in landscape history.

White drew up 'beautiful improvement plans' for significant northern estates, including Harewood, Goldsborough, Newby, Burton Constable and Sledmere. While not all the plans were necessarily put in place, in full or even in part, many survive, which is one reason why it has become possible to give White back to history, building on the work that David Neave and Deborah Turnbull first carried out tracking the plans down. A technical glitch at the Temple Anderson Hall meant that the slides of the plans were difficult to see in detail, but they are well reproduced in the book, which should be an incentive to a purchase or library request for anyone interested in 18th century landscapes.

White earned nowhere near as much as Brown did annually, but his contemporary reputation seems

to have been comparable. Louise quoted Thomas Shepherd who, in 1836, bemoaned, in the same breath, the loss of 'Mr. Brown, Mr. White and Mr. Repton' and their contributions to British landscape design. This reputation was based not just on White's beautiful plans but also on his working practices: he was valued for his attention to detail in his planting, his relationships with the nurserymen who supplied him, and for the management of his foremen, who were crucial intermediaries in getting the work carried out as he intended. It is also possible that he worked alongside significant architects, John Carr among them, at several northern sites, although Louise pointed out that the evidence for such relationships currently remains circumstantial.

So why do we know so much less about White than about Brown or Repton? Several possible explanations were explored in the lecture. First, as happens so often in garden history, fashions change and this tends to diminish the reputation of those who came before, until they are 'rediscovered' much later. This has certainly happened with Brown; perhaps now it is White's turn for his moment in the sun. Secondly, White has been characterised as a follower of Brown, or as his ex-foreman or pupil, but Louise and Deborah demonstrate that this was not the case. White had a style that became distinct from Brown's as he established his independent career, but he also adapted his style over time, adjusting to new ideas about the picturesque. Rather than being a follower, Louise suggested that he was an innovator, influencing Repton and others, such as John Claudius Loudon.

Although Louise did not mention this, I would throw into the mix the issue of White's work being largely in the north. As I train to be a garden historian, I observe that the subject tends to be dominated by the gardens, landscapes, designers and nurseryman of London and the south-east. Louise and Deborah's work provides a long-needed counterweight to that hegemony and proved a very suitable subject for a lecture that celebrates the contribution of Yorkshire to intellectual history.

Gillian Parker

YGT visit to Waterton Park - now Wednesday 7 September 2022

With apologies to all that we have had to change the date from Thursday 8th to Wednesday 7th September. We are looking forward to a fascinating day with a guided 5 mile walk with local expert, David Mee, to explore what is regarded as “the world’s first nature reserve”. There are still a few places available - for further details please contact Maddy Hughes, madalynhughes56@aol.com.



Forthcoming YGT Publications

Publication	Copy deadline	Publication date
August e-Bulletin	1 August 2022	21 August 2022
Autumn Newsletter	1 September 2022	21 October 2022
December e-Bulletin	1 December 2022	21 December 2022

Please send items for inclusion to Christine Miskin: cemiskin22@gmail.com

Letters to the Editor are welcome; please send them either by email to cemiskin22@gmail.com or by post, via the address shown below.

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

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