



Brodsworth revisited: revelations and restoration 2023

Inspired by last year's Research and Recording group's training day at Brodsworth in the summer of 2022, September's YGT visit was planned to continue following developments in this outstanding formal Victorian garden in South Yorkshire. In sharp contrast to the 2022 visit on the hottest of summer days, the backdrop for YGT's return visit was rain, rain and more rain.

Fortunately, the morning session was held inside the Hall. A group of about 30 YGT members were welcomed by Dr Michael Klemperer, Senior Gardens Advisor North/Midlands for English Heritage.

Brodsworth's Collections Curator, Eleanor Matthews, began the session with an overview of the history of the family and ownership of the Brodsworth estate, with a particular focus on the Thellusson family who built the Hall and laid out the gardens in the 1860s. Brodsworth reflects the taste of one man, Charles Sabine Augustus Thellusson, who came into an extraordinary £700,000 inheritance in 1858, the equivalent of £140 million today. He devoted much of his wealth to creating the Hall and its gardens in his own personal style.

Eleanor shared some examples of the oral history archive in the collection. This included a former gardener recalling the unwelcome suggestions for dealing with garden waste by the owner which proved to be far more time consuming than the system the gardening team already had in place!

Eleanor's overview provided a useful context for Michael's keynote presentation outlining the history of Brodsworth's Grade II* historic park and gardens and providing an insight into how the gardens are currently managed and future plans for its ongoing restoration.

The visit report, published the previous year in the YGT Autumn 2022 *Newsletter* (Issue 51), refers to the detailed information covered in the interesting morning session.

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

Conservation Report	9
Events News.....	11
Events Programme for 2024.....	12
From The Chair.....	4
Gardens Trust News.....	8
Gibraltar Botanic Garden.....	15
Gillingwood Hall revisited	18
Membership Fees.....	20
Notes from the Editor	5
Notes from the Membership	
Secretary	7
Recently Published Books	21
The Folly Flâneuse.....	11
Visit to Bowcliffe Hall Gardens ...	13
Wentworth Woodhouse Camellia	
House Restoration Update.....	6
YGT Schools	3

Garden tour with Dan Hale – Head Gardener

After lunch the relentless downpour of rain continued. Those who felt able to brave the elements sheltered under a magnificent Cedar of Lebanon for Head Gardener Dan Hale's tour of the gardens.

Since the 2022 YGT *Newsletter* write up contains details of a comprehensive tour of the whole garden, this short write up provides an update on what has happened since then, with the key 2023 project being the restoration of the Summer House landscape.



The majestic Cedar of Lebanon on the lawn opposite the Hall entrance



*25 inch OS Map surveyed 1891 published 1892
©National Library of Scotland*

Since 2019 this western corner of the Brodsworth pleasure grounds has been the focus for a series of major Historic England restoration projects including the Eye-Catcher, The Target Garden, the Fern Dell (formerly known as the Grotto) and in 2023 the Summer House landscape and access improvements. (The building coloured pink on the above map is the Summer House).

Dan described the inevitable starting point for many of Brodsworth's restoration projects - the clearance of mountains of ivy, weeds, unwanted planting etc to reveal paths, and materials such as old stone to be recycled.

Before the restoration project

This 2006 image shows the newly planted laurel hedge immediately in front of the Summer House, now grown to approximately waist height.

The ivy is spreading, and the mound is interspersed with specimen planting requiring unmanageable maintenance demands.



Image credit: PJ Marriott (2006) , Creative Commons licence

For this project an archaeological survey was commissioned which Val Hepworth recently referred to in her planning consultation report in the Autumn *Newsletter* 2023 (Issue 53 p 27) which included the following information:

"The entrance to the Summer House mound, at the rear, is the old ice house (No access for the public, but it is used for storing gardening equipment). A shallow depression visible in the parkland west of the mound was once a body of water (shown on the 1891 OS map) measuring about 30 metres long, 10 feet wide and with a depth of about a foot. This was used to stock the icehouse with ice and possibly for curling or skating. This 'pond' had previously been excavated by University of Sheffield students c.2013."

The 1891 OS map has been used to restore paths to their original location and visitors now have full access to a circular walk around the Summer House



The rear entrance to the Summer House mound.

mound, passing the pet cemetery and leading onto the Eye-Catcher.

After the restoration

A final end of season visit (again accompanied by rain) shows the mound with its newly planted mediterranean garden, which includes arbutus, rosemary, euphorbia, sage, and santolina.



The three key landscape features of the western corner of Brodsworth's pleasure grounds: the Summer House in the background, the Eye-catcher and the Fern Dell in the foreground. (2023).



The mediterranean planting of the Summer House mound 2023.

YGT Schools: Climate Proof your Garden!

This Autumn term, in support of our theme, we are delighted to report that our member schools have had the chance to apply for child-proof water butts.

Also on offer have been packs of miniature daffodil bulbs and, early in the term, some lucky schools received a copy of Jess French's Pedro Loves Saving the Planet.

We're grateful for help from EvenGreener, Rogers of Pickering, and The Little Apple Bookshop.

Sue Lindley

The purpose of the Summer House landscape restoration was to invite visitors to enjoy the view that the Thellusson family created and appreciated over 150 years ago.

Conclusion

Equally as impressive is the strategic view, planning, organisation and hard work of the whole Historic England team. Led by the dynamic partnership and historic landscape and horticultural expertise of Dr Michael Klemperer and Dan Hale, the sense of energy, enthusiasm and pride in Brodsworth is evident and brings an ever-increasing number of visitors to this relatively unknown part of South Yorkshire.

Many thanks to Michael, Dan and Eleanor for giving so much of their time before and during this YGT visit. Thanks also to Kathryn Barnes for co-ordinating the day.



Chris Beevers

Unless otherwise stated image credits
© Chris Beevers 2023



From the Chair

We have done well for publicity in the last year or so with our X (Formerly Twitter) account, our online lectures, our event at the Autumn Harrogate Flower Show and particularly with our Instagram posts, which are attracting lots of welcome attention. It made a change, therefore, to be invited to appear on a local radio show. On 30 November I was interviewed about Yorkshire Gardens Trust by Radio 119, which is run by and for adults with learning disabilities, out of BCB Radio in Bradford, and supported by New Choices–Bradford and District. All three of my interviewers were adults with learning disabilities. They had devised the questions themselves and put them to me with the help of their support worker. The questions spanned the range of YGT's activities, from who we are to what events we hold, whether we had volunteers and whether our events were always wheelchair accessible. I was asked to choose a piece of music at the end. After editing – thankfully for me, this was not a live show – the interview will air in the New Year. You can see my interviewers on <https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=313258698215408&set=pb.100085938411125.-2207520000> (2) Facebook.

Following on from my piece in the *Autumn Newsletter*, Council has met to consider how we increase our revenue, and you can see a description and explanation for one of our decisions (to raise membership fees) elsewhere in this e-Bulletin p.20. We are still open for suggestions, however, so if you have any ideas, do write to us.

As a further follow on, we have received notice of intention to resign from another trustee, more on that in a future *Newsletter*. This means that we are two trustees down on our complement at our last AGM, so this is a plea to you all to consider who might fill the vacancies: it might be you, another YGT member, or someone who has not been a member before. Trustee experience is not necessary, but enthusiasm for garden history is. Please, contact me or another trustee for an in-confidence chat about what being a trustee for YGT entails.

Finally, to Studley Royal. Our response to the National Trust's planning application has been submitted, and you can read it here:

<https://uniformonline.harrogate.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=documents&keyVal=RYPRFGHYGFT00>

In summary, YGT believe the application has not established a need for the new visitor centre, and we have objected to the application as a result. In contrast, the Gardens Trust have accepted the need

for the new visitor centre, so their submission begins at that point, examining the benefits and disbenefits of the proposal to the Studley designed landscape. They have concluded that, on balance, the construction of a new visitor centre behind the existing villa tea-room is acceptable: they support the application. You can read GT's submission here: <https://uniformonline.harrogate.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=documents&keyVal=RYPRFEHYGFS00>

The difference of opinion between us is amicable, and we continue to work closely with GT on the whole range of planning applications affecting designed landscapes in Yorkshire. No-one can predict the outcome of the Studley Royal application; we all await it with interest.



Notes from the Editor

As we approach the end of another year, I hope you have all managed to attend at least one of our visits. I think we should congratulate Vicky Price and her Events team on the excellent programme they have provided this year.

My first task is to express my gratitude to Chris Beevers who has produced three articles for us. The first is an update on the progress of the restoration of the Camellia House at Wentworth Woodhouse. When we visited it in 2022 (Issue 7 *e-Bulletin* page.1 and Issue 8 *e-Bulletin* p.15). the Camellia House was in a state of total disrepair, being held up by scaffolding and its collection of extremely rare camellias at risk. Now it is totally restored and occupies its rightful place as one of the gems of the landscape at Wentworth Woodhouse. Her photos clearly illustrate the transformation that has been wrought. Chris has also contributed a report on a lecture given by Tim Gates to the Northumbria Garden Trusts in November 2023 discussing the results of ongoing research at Gillingwood (Visit 2022, *e-Bulletin* Issue 9, p.5). Finally, Chris reports at p.1 on an excellent visit we made to Brodsworth Hall in September to see the continuing amazing work carried out by the wonderful gardening team

under the enthusiastic direction of Dan Hale, the Head Gardener. Despite the almost continuous heavy rain it really was an uplifting occasion.

This issue includes a report by Vicky Price on our visit to Bowcliffe Hall in the summer where an extensive renovation of the gardens has been in place for the past two years at p.13. Penelope Dawson-Brown paid a visit to the Gibraltar Botanic Garden (Alameda) in the spring and discovered a thrilling collection of tropical and South African plants and a highly enthusiastic work force who have implemented an extensive educational programme see p.15.

This issue has the normal reports from our committees, Chair and Membership Secretary. There is a new contributor and a new format for the Conservation report. Geoff Hughes has taken over from Val Hepworth, who is stepping back to concentrate on our planning responses, and the committee has decided to give a short summary of ongoing cases and then to concentrate on a significant current case in more detail. See p.9.

Seasons greetings to you all!

Christine Miskin



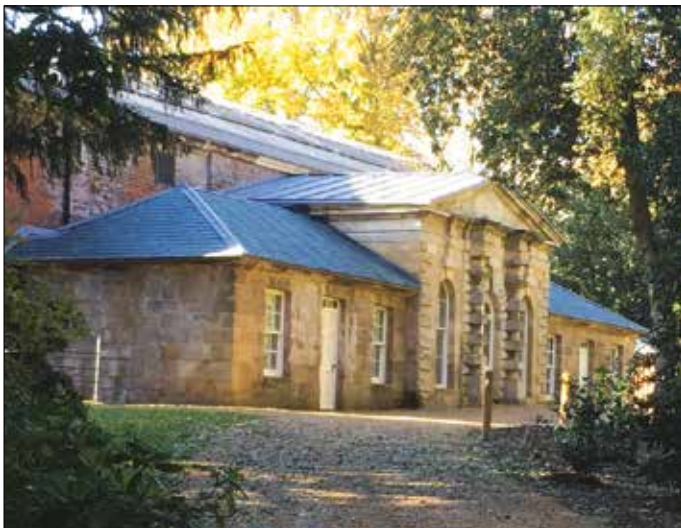
Wentworth Woodhouse Camellia House Restoration Update

Introduction: the restored Camellia House

On a recent visit to Wentworth Woodhouse, it was delightful to see the gardens back to normal after the unavoidable disruption created by the £5 million Camellia House restoration project. After being hidden from view since 2022, and out of bounds to visitors, the work was completed on 7 July 2023. The scaffolding, screens, fencing, huge machinery, piles of masonry and tiles, armies of contractors and the constant noise have disappeared. Calm has been restored and this elegant building has reclaimed its status as a stylish and historic Georgian landmark in the Wentworth Woodhouse landscape.



Front view of Camellia House with restored pond and fountain, November 2023



Rear of Camellia House, November 2023

History of the Renovation Project

Before the full restoration project began, every visit to Wentworth Woodhouse gardens was an opportunity to capture the deteriorating condition of the Camellia House through a collection of images, such as these:



Front elevation, pond and fountain, November 2021



Rear elevation, November 2021: no roof, holes in the wall, unsafe to enter



In January and February 2022 work on the building's interior was about to start, with scaffolding carefully erected around some of the oldest and rarest camellias in the world dating from c 1792.

Read more about the importance of Wentworth's historic camellia collection at:

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2022/jan/04/quite-incredible-some-of-worlds-rarest-camellias-discovered-in-yorkshire>

There have been regular updates on the estate's YouTube channel and the latest video for October 2023 provides a complete tour of the finished results, inside and out, as well as giving a fascinating insight into the scale, challenges, and achievements of this ambitious project. Some of the facts and figures include the following:

- The project took 44 weeks to complete, with a total of 25,000 working hours.
- On average 15 people were working on the project each day.
- 39 different sub-contractors were used, 33 of them from Yorkshire, and more specifically about 16 of them from South Yorkshire, a key principle of the Wentworth Preservation Trust's support for local businesses.

Preparations for an official Spring 2024 opening ceremony are well under way, to coincide with the flowering period of the camellias.

At the beginning of November 2023, the Wentworth Preservation Trust received an early accolade with the Grade II* Camellia House officially being removed from Historic England's at-Risk Register. Visitors can once again look forward to enjoying this part of Wentworth Woodhouse's historic landscape, as it was once described over 200 years ago in *A New Display of The Beauties of England* (1776)

"Upon the whole, Wentworth is in every respect one of the finest places in the kingdom; the house is one of the very best in England, and very large; the temples etc are elegant pieces of architecture, and so admirably situated as to throw an uncommon lustre over every spot....." (p.147)

Chris Beevers

All images © Chris Beevers

Notes from the Membership Secretary

Firstly, I would like to thank the Yorkshire Gardens Trust Trustees for such a warm welcome and I look forward to meeting some of you at our forthcoming events.

YGT annual memberships are due for renewal on 1 April 2024. For data protection reasons (UK-GDPR), we are unable to contact lapsed members and therefore such memberships will be cancelled, with no reminder sent.

To continue your membership:

- Those who pay by standing order need take no action
- If you pay by cheque, please send your membership fee (made payable to Yorkshire Gardens Trust in full) to: **YGT Membership Secretary, 5 Belle Vue Terrace, Bellerby, DL8 5QL.**

Gift Aid and standing orders: we encourage these, and forms can be found on the website at www.yorkshiregardenstrust.org.uk/join

Or by requesting one using the address above or emailing membership@yorkshiregardenstrust.org.uk.

Thank you for your continued support of YGT which makes a pivotal difference to all that we achieve together.

Lynn Watkinson





New Levelling-Up and Regeneration Act offers more protection to historic parks and gardens

The Gardens Trust welcomes the new Act <https://thegardenstrust.org/levelling-up-and-regeneration-act/>, the biggest milestone in the conservation of historic parks and gardens since the power to create the Register was introduced in 1983. This new act, which received Royal Assent on 26 October, introduces several planning reforms with two key areas of particular relevance to historic parks and gardens, namely the 'special regard' to heritage assets and the statutory status for Historic Environment Records (HERs).

The Hampshire Gardens Trust Library

The Hampshire Gardens Trust manages a useful library of Garden History, within the Hartley Library at the University of Southampton. Set up originally as a reference library in 1983, its purpose was to assist research into Hampshire gardens. It now holds a wide-ranging collection of books, no longer Hampshire-specific, and several useful series of scholarly journals. For further help contact [Jenny Ruthven](#) who oversees Special Collections.

Sussex Gardens Trust Journal Out Now!

The second issue of the Sussex Gardens Trust's academic journal will be published in November. Topics include early Sussex gardens, the Sussex travels of Gilpin, the garden diary of Margaret Beale at Standen and the publications of Augustus Hare.

The focus is also on the training available for 'lady gardeners' between 1900 and 1930, Captain Bertie MacLaren's contribution to the development of Brighton open spaces and Frederick Stern's plant index cards for Highdown.

If you are interested in obtaining a copy of the publication or contributing to the November 2024 issue, please contact the editor, [Dr Barbara Simms](#).

Historic England Reveals its Heritage at Risk Register 2023

Historic England's <https://historicengland.org.uk/whats-new/news/heritage-at-risk-2023/> gives a snapshot of the health of England's valued historic buildings and places. Over the past year, 159 historic buildings and sites have been added to the Register because they are at risk of neglect, decay, or inappropriate development, and 203 sites have been rescued and their futures secured. In total, there are 104 parks and gardens on the Heritage at Risk Register in 2023. Three were added in 2023 - Cannon Hall in South Yorkshire, Moggerhanger Park in Bedfordshire, and Repository Woods in London. Happily, three were also removed - Sheffield General Cemetery, Capernwray Hall in Lancashire and South Cliff Gardens in Scarborough.

Winter/Spring programme for Zoom talks

The list of new talks can be found here.

<https://thegardenstrust.org/events/>



Conservation Report

With YGT planning responses now being entered onto the website, the format of conservation reports is being changed. Each one will start with a short summary of the number and nature of responses since the previous YGT *Newsletter*, then move on to review a current significant conservation case, or subject, which is affecting a designed landscape across Yorkshire.

Since 1 January 2022 over 200 substantive YGT planning responses regarding designed landscapes, or their settings, have been entered onto the database on the YGT website. To view the responses for any site, go to:

www.yorkshiregardenstrust.org.uk/research/sites and click on 'view planning responses'

Whilst planning applications may be made for a variety of reasons, a large number for an individual site is likely to indicate a high level of development pressure. For example, during the period from 1 January 2022 to 1 November 2023, Bretton reached 10 responses and Allerton currently holds the record of 16 responses.



Allerton Park c.1880 from Morris' The County Seats of Nobleman Vol 2, British Library.

At Allerton seven responses have concerned applications in the RPG (Registered Parks and Gardens), either within the Walled Garden or, in the case of a farmworkers house, in open parkland near the listed Walled Garden and Gardeners Cottage. There was also a consultation for Allerton Chapel in October 2022. The other applications are within the setting of the RPG (Registered Parks and Gardens); several for the Business Park immediately across the A1M and the others for Allerton Grange Farm for large agricultural buildings at times requesting Change of Use for storage or distribution.

To see the outcome of an application it is necessary to enter the relevant planning number (always shown on the YGT response) on the relevant local

authority planning website. Whilst we know that YGT responses often do influence local authorities in making their decision, sadly, this has not usually been the case regarding Allerton.

Studley Royal



The 18th Century Water Garden at Fountains Abbey and Studley Royal Water Garden, North Yorkshire. Image Reference 1381883 Copyright National Trust Images/James Dobson.

In Issue 53 of the YGT *Newsletter* (Autumn 2023) the Trust's Chair concluded his article by stating that YGT would keep its members up to date on our involvement with a significant recent planning application by the National Trust at **Studley Royal**. Hence an update follows here.

Firstly, a recap. In 1983 the National Trust took over responsibility for a key part of the registered park (including the Deer Park with its car parking outside Canal Gates and access via Studley Roger). In 1986 'Studley Royal Park including the Ruins of Fountains Abbey' became a World Heritage Site.

With steadily increasing numbers of visitors, the National Trust took a strategic decision to concentrate new visitor facilities, with an accompanying large car park, to the north of the site and outside the registered parkland. These facilities opened in 1992 and are now the point of arrival for most car-bound visitors and form the starting point for most visits to the gardens and/or abbey. Whilst this will suit many who enjoy the parking, café etc and walk, this route is very different from the intended, or traditional, approach to the designed landscape from the direction of Ripon. That approach is still possible by passing through the untidy car parking in the deer park to reach the Canal Gates entrance with its small tearoom and basic toilet facilities.

In 2019 the National Trust announced its *Studley Revealed* proposals for a substantial redevelopment at Canal Gates, presenting already well-developed plans for new, and larger, buildings to house interpretation

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

facilities, a larger café (with considerably extended outdoor seating and views across the landscape), modern toilet facilities, and new planting at various points.

YGT and The Gardens Trust were among several organisations that were approached to discuss these proposals. Both these organisations verbally expressed substantial concerns regarding the proposals themselves and the location chosen. The Covid period then led to a pause in the National Trust's plans.

On 1 August 2023 a full set of planning applications was posted on the North Yorkshire Council planning portal with comments requested by mid-September. The plans included some changes to the 2019 *Studley Revealed* proposals, such as the proposed visitor centre buildings at Canal Gates now incorporating more environmental features. A new document also explained why the National Trust had ruled out all other possible sites for improved visitor facilities. There was also an application for a replacement toilet block and a kiosk to provide takeaway catering facilities for visitors to the Deer Park who did not wish to go through the National Trust pay gate to the new Canal Gates visitor facilities.

In planning terms, the application acknowledges the creation of some harms but claims that these are fully offset by the nature and quality of the submitted proposals that themselves enhance the visitor experience. The planning debate largely hinges on matters such as whether the proposals do in fact mitigate the acknowledged harms, whether this development at this site is appropriate in achieving the stated aims and whether the proposals themselves might cause additional harms. The status of being a World Heritage Site introduces additional issues as to how proposed changes might affect the attributes for which the site was listed.

Whilst some of the proposed new planting would represent reinstatement of historic designs, the proposed buildings represent a major change from the previous (1992) philosophy of concentrating visitor facilities away from the designed landscape. The National Trust's justification for the change might be summarised as being that a rest point is required part way round the current pedestrian circuit from the main visitor centre; that high quality buildings within the designed landscape are the best location to explain that landscape; and that Canal Gates is the only suitable location for this. Curiously, it is claimed that such an improved visitor attraction at Canal Gates would not exacerbate problems directly outside in the Deer Park as it would not attract more visitors to the Deer Park entrance area. YGT's response objected to the set of planning

applications on several grounds, questioning the conservation rationale of a major intervention in a registered landscape and World Heritage Site based on meeting contemporary visitor demand. The full response challenged in detail the accuracy of the submitted visitor data upon which the facilities have been sized, the suitability of the Canal Gates location for a substantial expansion of visitor facilities and the necessity for a substantial building here to provide better site interpretation in a multimedia age. YGT also questioned the claim that improved visitor facilities at Canal Gates would not attract additional visitors via the Deer Park, itself a heritage site with significant existing problems, but outside the area of the National Trust's responsibility.

Several other organisations have submitted responses agreeing with the National Trust's assessment that the acknowledged harms are mitigated by the proposed improvements to visitor facilities.

Unusually, The Gardens Trust submitted its own response separate from YGT's. This stated that 'the proposals offer a reasonable and balanced solution...' and expressed a view 'that the public benefit ultimately derived outweighs the harm...' to the landscape.

Several local organisations based around Ripon expressed concerns that the proposals would attract many more visitors to the Deer Park side of Canal Gates with resultant worsening of existing problems of access through Studley Roger and of parking outside Canal Gates.

There was also a detailed response by ICOMOS (International Council on Monuments & Sites UK). This objected strongly to the choice of the Canal Gates site, rather than the main visitor centre, for new facilities and was scathing of the nature, quality and timing of the Heritage Impact Assessment submitted by the National Trust. It also disagreed with the notion that the creation of admitted harms to a World Heritage Site can be offset by public benefits.

What next?

On the one hand, the local planning authority has the authority to simply approve this application, with or without conditions. On the other hand, this could be but one step in a lengthy saga of deferred, or delayed, decisions and new, or changed, planning submissions regarding Canal Gates at Studley Royal. There could still be further planning responses to enter on the YGT site database!

Geoff Hughes

The Folly Flâneuse



I am again indebted to Karen Lynch for allowing us to include a link to a recent blog in the Folly Flâneuse about the Gothic Temple at Wentworth Castle in South Yorkshire, not to be confused with Wentworth Woodhouse, just across the M1! It is now managed by the National Trust. Unfortunately, the temple no longer exists but Karen provides an interesting account of its life. The Earl of Strafford, in the middle of the 18th century, added a new wing

to his family home and sought advice from Horace Walpole on additions to the “Menagerie House” whose grounds included ponds, cascades within the extensive gardens and grounds of Wentworth Castle. Walpole suggested a structure “in the manner of an ancient market cross” referencing the one at Chichester in Sussex and construction started around 1756. For illustrations and to find out the fate of this little temple go to Folly Flâneuse at:

<https://thefollyflaneuse.com/the-gothic-temple-wentworth-castle-south-yorkshire/>

Events News



Snowdrops at Devonshire Mill (Photo Sue and Chris Bond)

We are nearly at the end of another year, and it has been a busy one for the Events team, organising all the 2023 visits and receiving the places we want to visit next year.

In September we embarked on a new adventure when we were invited to have a stand at the Harrogate Autumn Flower Show. Many thanks to all the Events committee members and all the volunteers who came to help.

The details of the complete 2024 programme will be sent out to members early in the New Year along with a booking form, although we hope that most tickets will be purchased on-line through Eventbrite. More details and instructions on how to do this will be included with the Events programme mailing.



Events Programme for 2024

FEBRUARY - Wednesday 21st

Visit to Devonshire Mill near Pocklington to see the snowdrop display there.

MARCH - Wednesdays 6th, 13th, and 20th, all at 6.00pm.

Zoom talks hosted with the Gardens Trust. The subject is 'Restoration in Action' and they will be given by Nick Lane Fox, about Bramham; Ian Murphy, Pete Rogers and Jill Ward from Burnby Hall Gardens; and Matthew Constantine, National Trust Cultural Heritage Curator in Yorkshire.

APRIL - Saturday 6th

AGM at Askham Bryan. After the AGM business, there will be a talk by Trevor Nicholson, Head Gardener at Harewood, and after lunch a tour of Askham Bryan.

Wednesday 24th

The Lost Nurseries of Central York, a walk with Gillian Parker to discover the sites of three nurseries, close to or inside the city walls, ending at the Yorkshire Museum Gardens.

MAY - Wednesday 8th

Sewerby Hall and Gardens. Join us for a talk and walk to discover these gardens uniquely situated in a dramatic clifftop position with spectacular views over Bridlington and set in 50 acres of early 19th century parkland.

Tuesday 14th

Ray Wood, Castle Howard. An exclusive day starting with a talk by John Grimshaw, director of the Yorkshire Arboretum, followed by a walk of the wood guided by John.

Tuesday 21th

Biennial joint lecture with the Yorkshire Philosophical Society. This will be given by Dr Victoria Thomson and the title of her talk is 'Identifying and Protecting Historic Parks and Gardens in England: Celebrating Forty Years of 'the Register'.

JUNE - Tuesday 18th

Summer evening Party at Ness Hall near Nunnington, where we'll be able to explore a 2.5 acre 17th century walled garden. Three generations of the Murray Wells family have created and developed the gardens there.

JULY - Wednesday 3rd

Summer Picnic at Littlethorpe Manor Gardens, near Ripon. The gardens were laid out in 1985 when Mr and Mrs Thackeray bought the Manor. There will be a guided tour by Eddie Harland, the Head Gardener before our picnic lunch and strawberries and cream.

Friday 19th

Dark Star Plants Nursery, East Rounton near Northallerton. This nursery, which specialises in plants with dark flowers or leaves, is based in the Walled Garden of Rounton Grange. This house, sadly no longer there, was designed by the Arts and Crafts architect Philip Webb for the Bell family.

SEPTEMBER - date tba

David Rhodes will give a talk and guided walk about Knaresborough Castle, built above the Nidd Gorge c. 1100 and the Royal Forest of Knaresborough which was a royal hunting forest covering 42 square miles to the south and west of Knaresborough. He will also tell us about plans to protect the castle and incorporate the Forest into the Northern Forest.

Tuesday 16th

A visit to Howsham Mill near Malton is planned, with the possibility of a visit to Howsham Hall where the late 18th century landscape improvements, completed by 1776 by the Cholmley family, included the creation of a landscape park to the south of the Hall and the remodelling of the existing water mill and The Holms to the west. Lancelot Capability Brown was associated with the site c.1770.

Vicky Price

Visit to Bowcliffe Hall Gardens

Monday 3 July 2023

As you drive north on the A1M a few miles past junction 44, not only are there signs to Bramham Park, but also to Bowcliffe Hall which seems to be perched just above the motorway. Karen Lynch had very kindly organised a visit to the garden there. The Hall is now owned by Jonathan Turner, entrepreneur, and businessman. We were to meet in the Potting Shed for refreshments and cake and an introductory talk by David Petherbridge, the Head Gardener.

History of the House

The land where Bowcliffe Hall now stands was purchased in 1805 by William Robinson, a cotton-spinning magnate from Manchester who only managed to build the West Wing before he went bankrupt. The estate was bought by a **John Smyth** in 1819 and by 1825 he had completed the late Georgian house and garden. He died in 1840 and the house was bought by **George Lane Fox** as his home next door, Bramham Park, had been destroyed by a fire in 1828. The family was to live there until 1906 when they moved back to Bramham after it had been re-built. In 1908 **Walter Geoffrey Jackson**, a director of Henry Briggs Son and Co, a coal mining company, bought the house and lived there for twelve years. The last private owner of the estate until its current owner was **Captain Robert Blackburn**, the aviation pioneer who had introduced the first scheduled air service, half hourly between Bradford and Leeds, in Great Britain and had designed and built his first powered aeroplane, a monoplane in 1909. When Blackburn died in 1955, his family were forced to leave Bowcliffe, which was bought by the fuel company Hargreaves to be used as their main offices. In 1988, Hargreaves was taken over by Derbyshire-based Anglo United, and Bowcliffe was bought by Bayford and Co Ltd, who had been competing with Hargreaves in the energy market for many years. It became the head office of Bayford, which it remains to this day. In 2010 the current owner of Bowcliffe Hall, Jonathan Turner, JT or The Boss, began an extensive restoration and redevelopment of Bowcliffe costing over £7m.

The Gardens

Part of that money was to be used to renovate the garden and Alastair Baldwin Associates were asked to create lawns, flower gardens, and walks for the corporate functions and weddings that would make Bowcliffe a very desirable venue. David explained that he had only been doing the job of

Head Gardener for less than two years and part of his remit, as well as maintaining the gardens, was to refresh the parts which were not doing as well as they could be. We were astonished to find that he had only been involved professionally with gardening for six years. His previous job had been as Creative Director of his own design business, undertaking everything from branding, corporate and consumer-based work, advertising, marketing to video, digital and print work for clients around the world, but he had served an apprenticeship at York Gate, and worked as a gardener at Newby Hall before coming to Bowcliffe. He introduced us to the word 'phenology' - the study of cyclic and seasonal natural phenomenon, especially in relation to climate, the way a plant grows, flowers, and dies, and to have a place in the garden the plant has to die well. It is important to know how much space a plant needs, some plants were clearly now in the wrong places, some had become invasive, some small plants had been smothered and practically disappeared.



The Tryptych in April

He led us from the Potting Shed onto the South Terrace, a large, paved space with views out over the lawn to the mature woodland beyond, and with four-foot high terracotta pots filled with seasonal planting, dahlias, cosmos, and nemesia. David emphasised that the garden and pots needed to look attractive for 12 months of the year as there were always events taking place. We then walked across the lawn to the three rectangular beds, The Tryptych, filled with perennials, rose-lavender flowered Betony, pale lemon *Thalictrum flavum*, pale pink *Echinacea pallida* as well as mature *Euonymus europaeus*, from pre-Alastair Baldwin days. He told us that not only had there been invasions of three different types of rosebay willowherb, but Japanese anemones had grown into huge clumps. Lots of work to do here to make the beds create the desired effect. In

April when I had visited the garden on a recce with Karen, The Tryptych beds were filled with muscari and multi-coloured tulips which looked magical on a damp misty day, but David said the bulbs had developed tulip fire and he and the other gardener, Tom Kenwood, would need to dig up all the 2,000 they had planted.

Blackburn Wing



The Blackburn Wing

He took us next to the Blackburn Wing. This award-winning building is a treehouse built in the shape of an aircraft wing as a tribute to Captain Robert Blackburn. It is supported on stilts on the edge of the garden where there is a steep slope covered with ancient woodland with mature beech trees. Inside there are function rooms and a bar, and all the fixtures have been made using parts of old planes. Outside there is a suspended viewing platform, where the trunks of the beech trees are just an arm's length away.

The Wedding Walkway

Back in the garden David complained about all the beech leaves that are blown every year from neighbouring Bramham to the west. Not to be wasted, these are turned into leaf mould in a huge room sized compost bin. We walked across to an area where there were some small trees, and the remains of bluebells. David said he wanted to put in a stream here, which would lead to a pool under a distant cherry tree as there were no water features in the garden. Beyond the cherry tree is a tiny chapel, possibly fifteenth century and connected to Nostell Priory, but much more likely to be nineteenth century, where you can indeed get married. A path leads from the chapel to a long, paved walkway wide enough for a bride and groom to walk comfortably to the end where weddings are conducted in the open air.



The Wedding Walkway

The walkway has planting beds on either side. When we had come in April, this was the project David was eager to show us, the hard landscaping just about finished, now the flower beds had just been planted. There is a row of yews down each side which will form an avenue, and with the plants he has selected he hopes to create the effect of a stained-glass window, using *Sesleria autumnalis*, moor grass, as the lead between the blocks of plants with flowers in pinks, mauves and blue. In full flower it will be a stunning pathway for the bride and groom and all their guests.

We walked back across the grass and the front of the house, noticing the new imposing entrance gates and gate piers which were part of Alastair Baldwin's responsibility in the renovation of Bowcliffe Hall. He had relocated the car park and moved the entrance so that people arriving now got a glimpse of the Hall as they arrived.

Back to the Potting Shed which was built on the footprint of a greenhouse, and we noticed that not only was this a space to entertain visitors like us, but it was also a working greenhouse with cucumbers and tomatoes already ripening. We do not know how David manages to keep the garden looking so good when he is the only full-time gardener; not a weed in sight and all the grass edges neatly trimmed. He is obviously passionate about his change of career, and what he will be able to create at Bowcliffe. At present the parts of the garden all seem very separate, held together by areas of lawn, but for David it is still early days. He told us that we were the first garden group he had taken round, and that because so many areas needed his attention it was a good time to come. 'You need to come again and see the changes' he said. I hope we will.

Vicky Price

Gibraltar Botanic Garden

Introduction

On a glorious morning in May we landed in Gibraltar on its exceptionally short runway fringed by sea, something Martin and I had always wanted to do.

Conditions were perfect to first encounter this massive edifice of rock which the Spanish ceded to the British in 1713 under the terms of the Treaty of Utrecht. Today it remains one of Britain's most British Overseas Territories, strategically located at the Southern tip of the Iberian Peninsula, near the entrance to the Mediterranean Sea. It is also the place where HMS Victory docked with Lord Nelson's body on board preserved in a cast of brandy!



The Rock of Gibraltar

Our hotel room overlooked the Botanic Garden which I visited every day, though I spent little time on the balcony. It turned out to be a favourite meeting place for the Barbary macaque, a protected species of ape which delight in stealing guests' goodies, especially anything containing sugar. They regularly enter rooms, open fridges, and abscond within seconds, arms laden with treats!



Barbary Apes

When we took the cable car to the upper rock where the apes have been protected since well before Gibraltar was captured by the British in 1704, we were treated to wonderful displays of herbs and flowers, especially as it was May.

Despite their invasive habit, swathes of *Acanthus mollis* were a sight to behold. They have become a favourite of the macaques who gorge on sweet nectar from the abundant flowers. The descent offers incredible views, but you must always watch out for the apes and never carry food on you for they will unzip your pockets to find it and even attack you.



Acanthus mollis

History of the Botanic Garden

Thankfully we never encountered them in the Botanic Garden or Alameda, as it is more commonly known. This peaceful much-loved place of the Gibraltarians with its conservation and wildlife areas which span some six hectares, was established in 1816 by Lieutenant-Governor Sir George Don who wanted to allocate significant resources to public well-being. His bust is perched on a tall column at the top of the stone steps facing the main entrance to the gardens and above the impressive stone mosaic in remembrance of Queen Elizabeth II who visited in May 1954.

The garden was laid out with meandering paths and terraced beds constructed mainly of local limestone which have changed little over several centuries and are well maintained. The presence of commemorative busts and statues, along with displays of mighty canons, are poignant reminders of Gibraltar's important military past.

As with so many public spaces, the grounds eventually fell into a state of disrepair much to the chagrin of local people. However, they were finally re-established in the mid-19th century and converted to the status of a Botanical Garden in 1991.

The Botanical Garden today

Entering the garden beneath the hotel I was immediately drawn in by the boulevard flanked by exotic vegetation which offers the visitor a sense of promenading. You can follow it full circle, should you wish but I vow you will be enticed to take the smaller paths which weave their way sneakily to quiet glades with benches where you can sit and listen to the birds and insects surrounding you. If you are lucky, you might see the Monarch Butterfly *Danaus plexipus* flitting and floating above its favourite plant, the milkweed *Asclepias curassavica*. Though native to North America, where it is famous for its migrations of 2000 miles between Mexico and the far North of Canada, the species has colonised here and has become sedentary on the Rock. The plant is grown in profusion for its leaves which are food for the Monarch's yellow and black horned caterpillars



Giuseppe Codali memorial

Giuseppe Codali 1847-1917 was an Italian-born garden-designer and horticulturist who became head gardener of Alameda. He is handsomely memorialised in a life-sized bust which sits in a quiet corner of the gardens. It was presented by his great grandchildren in 2014 in appreciation of his lasting legacy: the re-landscaping of the gardens and recreational areas for the people of Gibraltar in order to fulfil the dreams of Sir George Don. The typically Italian sunken garden, now known as the Dell, is a worthy reminder of Codali's imaginative talent lavished on the gardens during the mid-19th century.

My never-ending fascination with fellow gardeners draws me into conversation with all those I meet. Daily visits to the Alameda enabled me to chat with the gardening team, both fully employed and the volunteers, an amazing group of dedicated workers including ladies of a similar age to me. I watched them attack weeds as if they were an invading force and learnt how they have devoted years to helping here. Like all expats, they have formed wonderful friendships, giving their time to worthwhile causes. What a joy to see them so happy in their work.

I was drawn to the Pelargonium collection comprising some very beautiful South African species. One of the gardeners explained they had suffered a few problems which they hoped to solve by using a volcanic growing medium.



Fan palm

There are many other South African plants in the garden including Aloes which thrive in

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

Mediterranean regions as their climates are similar. There are also those from tropical regions of the world: prolific palms of all types, including fan, whose splayed leaves throw bold shadows of perforated shade in just the right places. Succulents and cacti are well represented in designated beds. They, of all species, can cope with reduced rainfall having evolved to store it. So too, the exotic Dragon Tree, a harbinger of most hot climate Botanic Gardens. Here in Alameda, gardeners are skilled at germinating succulent seed. I delighted in watching two young men planting out cacti brought fresh from the glasshouses. A prickly affair but executed with great precision!

I was especially thrilled to see my most favourite tropical plant of all, the Traveller's Palm, *Ravenella madagascariensis* (though not in fact a palm at all) so called because it has the capacity to store water in its stem sheaths, a life saver for the thirsty traveller. I've seen it in the rainforests of Madagascar and elsewhere. Its bluish flowers are similar to those of the Bird of Paradise plant from South African, *Strelitzia Reginae*, which are orange, but it is clear they both belong to the same plant family. Its graceful architectural features make it a much-sought-after exotic house plant if you have the space.



Ravenella madagascariensis

Native plant preservation

The Alameda is committed to helping the preservation of Gibraltar's native plants of which there are, surprisingly, more than 600 plants species from 350 genera and 90 families, of which three are endemic, including the Gibraltar campion *Silene tomentosa*. This was re-discovered in 1994 having previously thought to be extinct. Since then a team from the gardens has collected seed, which they have germinated and grown into adult plants, that were eventually reintroduced to the wild.

As I was to discover, the Alameda is a Pandora's box of secrets which can be unravelled through its many plaques and memorials, some which are poignant reminders of Gibraltar's important military past, but to me they convey just how much these gardens have been loved and frequented over the years. Not only by individuals but organisations such as The Royal Botanic gardens at Kew, which in 2000 donated succulents originating from the Middle East and Madagascar. I was delighted to find the ceramic plaque with images of aloes on it and the following wording "Here in Gibraltar in a frost-free climate with additional ultra-violet light, these plants will flower far better and produce more seed, which aids conservation of endangered plants".

Another plaque explains a gift from The Rotary Club of Gibraltar in 1993 of 14 trees planted out by local school children. Then, in the playground area, the Parasol Foundation, is recognised for the substantial donation it made towards the playground's rebuilding in 2011.

Hidden in a glade close to scented pelargonium beds, I discovered the charming sculpture of Molly Bloom, whom some will remember was a fictitious Gibraltarian in James Joyce's *Ulysses*. The statue was commissioned by Jon Searle to celebrate the bicentenary of the Gibraltar Chronicle on May 2001.

The important work which is being carried out in the Alameda and in botanical gardens around the world, has never been more urgent. With climate change and the loss of natural habitat, many species of flora and fauna, whose survival depends on a rich biodiversity, are rapidly becoming extinct.

Education programme

This leads me on to Alameda's education programme which involves the Rock's local community including its many schools. Families mainly live in high rise flats with no outdoor space to grow plants. The Education Team provide essential training for local teachers, and they have also linked up with the University of Gibraltar to offer the first ERASMUS internship. There are school gardening clubs and all sorts of groups such as Beavers, which just love

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

to spend time here hunting for bugs, cultivating vegetables in raised beds or collecting and sowing seeds.

I was hugely impressed by Alameda's commitment to education which they have placed at the heart of the garden, drawing in sponsors from all over the world. My thoughts turned to our own YGT Schools Project which has blossomed over the years because of a dynamic small committee dedicated to these ideals; they never cease to impress me.

Consequently, when I returned home, I contacted the head of the Education project and told her all about it. I wondered if perhaps their schools might possibly forge links with one of YGT's school members. She thought this was a great idea, especially having looked up our website and details of our own Schools Project which, she told me,

shared many similarities with theirs. It is early days yet but our Schools Committee members are aware of the possibilities.

Conclusion

So, in conclusion, as I look back over YGT's many achievements, I believe our greatest have been in enlightening and educating others to see beauty in landscape, whether it be natural or designed, or in a tiny school garden with pots of marigolds. My visit to Alameda and the people I met there inspired me and they will continue to inspire me, which is why I felt the need to write this article.

With all my heart, I wish them well.

Penelope Dawson-Brown

Gillingwood Hall revisited – November 2023

Introduction

In September 2022 the Yorkshire and Northumbria Gardens Trusts enjoyed a joint study day to the intriguing historic landscape of Gillingwood Hall near Richmond. (See report by Karen Lynch YGT *e-Bulletin* December 2022)

Unfortunately, Tim Gates, Gillingwood's principal researcher and investigator, was not able to attend and guide the group around the site then. This Autumn Northumbria Gardens Trust invited Tim to give their annual lecture at Newcastle's Literary and Philosophical Society on November 9, 2023, in which he shared his extensive knowledge and recounted some recent exciting developments.

This is a brief summary of a very interesting event, for those new to Gillingwood and to refresh and update those YGT members who already know this fascinating site.

Tim has spent 10 years working on Gillingwood's history and even though he has researched over 1,000 documents concrete archival evidence remains elusive.

Tim set the scene with an overview of the family and site history to date. The Gillingwood Hall estate came into the possession of the Wharton family in 1609. Bought by Humphrey Wharton, he probably built the 17th century house, (similar to Gainford Hall (1600–3) near Darlington, now part of the Raby Estates), and laid out the earlier garden c. 1610-1620.

William Wharton (1698-1750) inherited the estate in the early 18th century and is likely to have initiated some remodelling of the house, gardens and landscape. With the death of William Wharton and the destruction of the house by fire, the Wharton family leave the estate. The hall is demolished, and no further landscape development seems to have taken place.

The Historic Estate

Tim's first visit to Gillingwood was in May 2019. Remnants from the early 17th century were recorded, with the surviving grass terraces to the north-east, north-west and south-west of the farmhouse, seen here with the early 18th century feature of the Bell Park Pavilion at the far end.



25 inch OS Map 1893 ©National Library of Scotland
1. Bell Park Pavilion; 2. Summerhouse;
3. Masonry & doorway in the garden; 4. The Farmhouse



Early 17th century grassed terraces

Current thinking about Gillingwood's early 17th century garden suggests that there would have been a series of gravel paths, with the surviving width being sufficient to accommodate the swords and hooped skirts fashions of the day. There may have been steps and a water feature.

It became evident that the historic significance of Gillingwood was as a rare example of a gentry garden as opposed to an aristocratic garden, the category which is well represented on the Historic Parks and Gardens Register, as well as being a site where the garden has survived despite the absence of the house.

Tim's chronology of the history of the house and landscape then moved onto significant early 18th century developments, with the addition of the Bell Park pavilion c.1700-20, above the earlier terraced gardens.

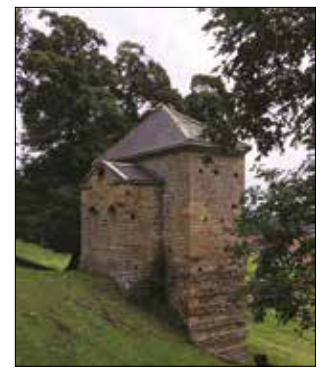
Another image of Gillingwood Hall discovered

The Samuel Buck sketch of Gillingwood Hall (1719-23) in his Yorkshire sketchbook had been the only surviving image of the early 17th century house (south-eastern aspect) and its courtyard garden. (The Bell Park Pavilion was topographically "out of the picture" on this occasion).

Tim made an invaluable discovery of another image of Gillingwood in the form of a little sketch made by the well-known map maker John Warburton. This came to light in the British Museum and was part of Warburton's promotion campaign to increase subscriptions for his maps. It is like Buck's sketch, showing the hall from the east but with a line of trees. However, a large gate in the eastern boundary appears to have disappeared by the date of Warburton's sketch. This discovery certainly illustrates that the tenacity and patience of a decade of research does finally yield the occasional gold dust which makes it all worthwhile.

The broken arched pediments of the Bell Park Pavilion are almost identical to the ground floor windows of nearby Sedbury Hall which was completed in 1718 and which John Warburton visited on 21 February 1719. (YGT report on Sedbury Hall). Tim highlighted that the Wharton family was linked by marriage to Sedbury Hall. Both properties were visible to one another, perhaps influencing their respective architectural decisions and choice of designer.

Between 1730 and 1740 Gillingwood moved towards its final phase of development, with the addition of the bastion wall to the south and the Summerhouse to the northwest, although the chronology is difficult to tie down precisely.



Summerhouse – front elevation Summerhouse – rear elevation

The semi-circular half-moon bastioned wall and the Summerhouse share the same fine-tooled expensive masonry surface. Daniel Garret is thought to be the designer of the Summerhouse and perhaps the bastioned wall. He had designed a bastioned wall at Castle Howard around the mausoleum dated 1737-42.

Many questions remain unanswered about the Summerhouse. Tim shared his views on this architectural enigma as follows:

- The Summerhouse was really a folly designed to be seen rather than entered, given the hazardous drop from the front of the building.
- It reflected the Roman presence of an earlier period, and it would have had a significant presence in the landscape viewed from the old Roman Road the A66).
- The back of the structure has an odd unexplained projection, with the remains of a doorcase clearly visible.

The final section of Tim's lecture explored the complex feature of the masonry on the lawn adjacent to the farmhouse.



Early 18th century doorway

This doorway is thought, due to the presence of smoke damage, to have been in situ at the time of the 1750 fire. There is evidence of 17th century masonry either side of the doorway. To the right is the remains of a frame for a mullioned window.

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



A contemporary niche

This niche aligns with the doorway in the lower-level front garden. The wall has the same surface as the bastion wall, and perhaps could have been a water feature.



Site of archaeological excavation

Conclusion

Tim had one final surprise and exciting update for his audience, to end his lecture on a high. Just two weeks before the lecture a much-anticipated archaeological excavation finally went ahead, led by Tim. A small trench was dug in the area south-west of the standing wall, behind the tree stump. A 20cm section of a stone window sill for a mullion window was discovered. The outer surface of this was very high-class masonry and was comparable to the remnants of a stone frame now used as a garden feature. One suggestion was that this was possibly for a basement window.

So, the evening ended on an optimistic note with the exciting prospect of what may be discovered next. Further archaeology is being planned, subject to sourcing the necessary funding.

Many thanks to Tim for such an interesting and informative evening, sharing the outcomes of his hard work and also thanks to the Northumbria Gardens Trust for the warm welcome extended to everyone. We are all looking forward to the next chapter of what must be one of Yorkshire's most absorbing historic landscape research projects.

Chris Beevers

All images © Chris Beevers 2022

Membership Fees

After much deliberation, the Council of Management has concluded that to continue our charitable activities at the current rate we must increase our membership fees. We have kept them at the same level for a good many years, during which time their purchasing power has dropped while our ambition, and calls on our resources, have increased.

Our Newsletters (back numbers are online at our website) demonstrate what your membership fees achieve. For example, our schools education programme has gone from strength to strength. It now has 79 schools on its books, all over the county, including schools with above average numbers of pupils receiving free school meals. Our bursary programme has supported young gardeners through their education and into careers in gardening and landscape design. We are pleased that these schemes receive a growing number of high-quality applications; but the value of our support is declining and, if our membership fees stay at their current level, this downward trend will continue. Just as importantly, we will not be able to extend our support to more young people.

We have adjusted the way we do things throughout this period of declining funding including printing fewer spare copies of Newsletters and holding meetings by Zoom rather than in a hired venue, but our options for further cost cutting have run out, so we have to increase our income. Raising membership fees (our principal source of income), restoring some of their lost purchasing power, will enable us to do that in the most efficient way.

Our Treasurer, Maddy Hughes, has looked at the fees of our sister garden trusts, and CoM has agreed that we should broadly match what some of the larger gardens trusts are charging. From 1 April 2024 our annual membership fees will be:

Single £25

Double £35

Please can you arrange with your bank to alter your standing order to reflect the new fee levels, before the renewal date of 1 April 2024? To help us further, please can members who don't already pay by standing order, do so? It makes our administration so much easier. Also, if you have not completed a gift aid form, please do. It increases the value of your membership fee to the YGT in a painless and cost-efficient way. Standing order and gift aid forms are on our website here www.yorkshiregardenstrust.org.uk/join

We hope that you will continue to support YGT: without our members we cease to exist.

Chris Webb

Recently Published Books

England's Gardens: A Modern History *Stephen Parker*

London, Dorling Kindersley, 2023.

Hardback, 224 pages.

Illustrations. £25

ISBN 9780241611579

"A fresh take on a much-loved subject, this book will help you get to know England's gardens up close and personal. Garden historian Stephen Parker leads you through England's horticultural history, unearthing the cultural context and hidden stories behind the gardens, and bringing lesser-known garden makers to the fore. In five detailed historical chapters, Parker explores the making of the so-called "English" garden - from its origins in the formal splendour of stately homes, all the way to climate-change resilience and future-facing designs of the modern era."



Secret Gardens of Cornwall: A Private Tour

Tim Hubbard, Author

Jo and Rob Whitworth, Photographers

London, Quarto Publishing PLC, 2023

Illustrations. £22

Hardback. 144 pages.

ISBN: 9780711281493



"Step inside the *Secret Gardens of Cornwall* for a private tour of the best horticultural destinations in the county.

Discover what grows well, when and where to visit, understand the challenges that the owners have faced, and have a taste of the

world-class gardens to be found in this corner of England.

The 20 beautiful gardens included here celebrate the diversity of gardening in Cornwall – secret coastal woodlands, lush subtropical valleys, traditional country estates and wave-lashed clifftops – through sumptuous photography, fascinating stories and interviews with their owners".

Country Life: 125 Years of Countryside Living in Great Britain from the Archives of Country Life *John Goodall and Kate Green (Authors)*

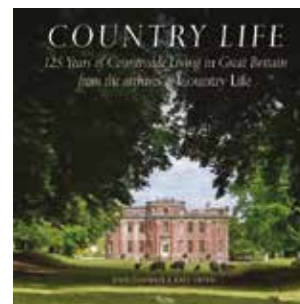
New York: Rizzoli International Publications, 2023

Hardback, 400 pages.

Illustrations. £65.00

ISBN: 9780847873159

"*Country Life* is renowned for its unprecedented access to the magnificent castles and palaces, as well as private estates and manor houses that dot the countryside from Dorset to the Scottish Highlands, revealing many to its fans for the first time. In this volume readers are treated to the loveliest and most important houses and gardens from the last century, from Holkham Hall, Chatsworth, and Burghley, to Munstead Wood, Sissinghurst, and Kelmscott".



Hot off the press!! People's Parks. The design & development of public parks in Britain

Hazel Conway & Paul Rabbits

London, John Hudson Publishing, 2023

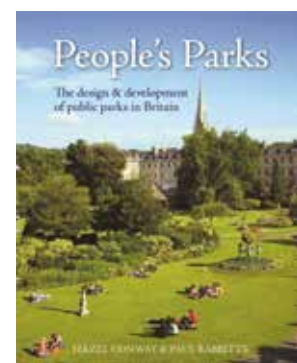
Hardback, 330 pages.

Illustrations. £50

ISBN 978 1 7398229 9

This book was originally written by Dr Hazel Conway in 1991 and in 2022, following Hazel's death in 2017, it was agreed that an updated edition should be produced. New chapters were added to take account of recent research and developments including garden cities and new towns, the impact of sports and physical activities, decline and social upheaval, and restoration and renewal. Finally, the impact of global warming and Covid on the role of public parks in the 21st century is considered.

[I have just received my copy and it is a lavishly illustrated and comprehensive survey of the rise and decline of public parks including a final chapter entitled Decline, Revival and Renewal with up-to-date case studies. Ed.]



Yorkshire Gardens Trust

President	The Countess of Harewood
Vice Presidents	Caroline Legard, Peter Goodchild, Nick Lane Fox
Chair	Chris Webb
Treasurer	Maddy Hughes
Company Secretary	Gillian Parker
Trustees	Christine Beevers, Penelope Dawson-Brown, Val Hepworth, Maddy Hughes, Roger Lambert, Brendan Mowforth, Vicky Price, Gillian Parker, Chris Webb

Committees and Groups

Conservation	Vacant
Events	Vicky Price, Maddy Hughes and the Team
Membership/Engagement	Vicky Price
Newsletter/e-Bulletin	Christine Miskin
Research and Recording	Louise Wickham and the Team
Schools	Nicola Harrison
Small Grants	Brendan Mowforth
Webmaster	Louise Wickham

Registered Company No 03256311 Charity No 1060697

Forthcoming YGT Publications

Publication	Copy deadline	Publication date
Spring Newsletter	28 February 2024	21 April 2024
July e-Bulletin	1 July 2024	21 July 2024
Autumn Newsletter	15 September 2024	21 October 2024
December e-Bulletin	1 December 2024	21 December 2024

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

Letters to the Editor are welcome; please send them by email to cemiskin22@gmail.com

YGT Contact Details

For general and membership queries: 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.

Registered Company No 03256311 Charity No 1060697

www.yorkshiregardenstrust.org.uk



@YorkshireGardensTrust



@YorkshireGT