



Galanthus Gala



Snowdrop Visit to Wentworth Woodhouse Thursday 10 February 2022

The great expanses of gently tumbling mixed landscape of South Yorkshire, set under a bright blue winter sky occasionally interrupted by fast moving low grey clouds was the unlikely setting for what had been one of the most impressive houses in Europe – Wentworth Woodhouse.



Wentworth Woodhouse east front

From Tudor origins, the house and its surrounding park had grown and grown reflecting the burgeoning wealth of its owner family, the Fitzwilliams. Making their money from coal and iron, over the centuries they had employed some of the finest architects and landscape designers, resulting in the enormous, extrovert house, stable block, riding school and numerous other supporting buildings, all set in its enormous private park. In its heyday the park boundary wall exceeded 9 miles in length, showing itself off by various monuments set way out at its furthest extremities, acting as landmarks and distant eyecatchers.

And then the world changed and the money ran out! In 1986 the Fitzwilliams vacated the estate, by which time the main buildings were still largely intact but leaking and rotting. The park however had suffered worse. Immediately after WW2, the recently

nationalised National Coal Board had commenced opencast coal mining across the estate. Their activities were limited by few conservation restrictions and, even after reinstatement work, much of the historic landscape had gone.

Equally devastating was the fragmentation of land ownership across the estate. Although the eyecatchers are still there, many of them are now in separate ownership...still pointing skyward like Gormenghast's blasphemous finger but falsely declaring the extent of today's estate. Particularly galling, through disjointed ownership, is the loss of Humphry Repton's theatrical arrival route from Rotherham, previously across John Carr's bridge over lakes, through woods and finally rounding Temple Hill to discover, with surprise, the longest house in Europe.

Following the death of the last private owner in 2015, the house and the rump estate was on the market. It was acquired by the Wentworth Woodhouse Preservation Trust in 2017. What a challenge.... What an opportunity.... By 2018 the Trust had published its ambitious declaration of intent: *A New Life – The Masterplan 2018*. Already impressive progress has been made, raising substantial sums from the Heritage Lottery Fund and forming a close relationship with The National Trust. Much re-roofing and re-pointing has occurred, and general landscape maintenance is well in hand, but there is much yet to do.

Our tour was led by Reg, ably assisted by Ron who ensured that the laggards were kept informed but also encouraged to catch up. Our tour started at Well Gate – an ornamental gateway which

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albeit now ex situ, has survived from the house's Tudor origins. As we rounded the south end of the house, we emerged before the West front. This revealed the unusual orientation of the house, it has a (very) long axis running north/south with two (rivalling) "fronts", one facing east and one west. The East front is the more "authoritative" Palladian stone front (receiving Mr Repton's surprised visitors), whilst the West front is red brick with extensive stone detailing, and it provides a warmer, less commanding but perhaps more inviting appearance.



Wentworth Woodhouse West front

We learned that the family had not enthusiastically adopted Mr Repton's eastern arrival route, preferring to bring visitors through the west facing gardens. The west front had long been provided with a decorative garden setting, parterres, paths, etc. The east front had been given a simpler, more austere, natural landscape setting. The creation of this eastern arrival route had been enhanced by demolishing the pre-existing walled kitchen gardens on this side of the house (including pineapple glass house, etc) and relocating these facilities at the top end of the western garden. This had involved the relocation westwards of the adjacent north/south public road, now Hague Lane. As a result of subsequent fragmentation of land ownership, the Kitchen Gardens and nearby Japanese and Italian gardens are no longer part of the WW Estate, but owned and cared for by Wentworth Garden Centre. Our tour concentrated on the remaining features in the west facing area of the gardens. As Reg led us away from the house, across the lawns, we entered mixed woodland. Reg pointed out a Sweet Chestnut, being one of but a handful of enormous veteran trees which are believed to derive from the 18th century garden. The sharp winter sun not only picked out drifts of snowdrops between the trees and bushes, but we also found witch hazels showing off their yellow blooms, early daffodils, some camellias in flower, plenty of hellebores and occasional rhododendrons in flower. It would be too early to claim that these heralded Spring, but it must be just around the corner.



A veteran Spanish Chestnut (with lightning damage)



Hellebores, snowdrops, witch hazel and early daffodils

After skirting the great stone masses of the Stables and the Riding School, we came across the Camellia House. The classically designed, impressively large colonnaded front was built across the front of an earlier brick pavilion, in 1738 known as Lady Rockingham's Tea House. Currently the south facing casement windows are wrecked and the glazed roof has been removed except for its cast iron skeleton. As invading weeds and adventitious buddleias, etc. were being removed Trust workers discovered the original Camellias still growing in their beds. These have now enjoyed expert regenerative pruning and may turn out to be some of the very earliest Camellias to have arrived in England from China in the 18th century. In the Masterplan this beautiful building will revert to being a café/events space.

The Camellia House has itself previously enjoyed a more elaborate landscape setting. In front is an ovoid shaped pond with a one-time fountain. Integrating the pond and the Camellia House, ground markings hint at lost, quadrant flower beds and perhaps gravelled areas.



Camellia House

To the south of the Camellia House are the remnants of an area known as the Menagerie. There was a menagerie at Wentworth Woodhouse for over 200 years and its existence was first noted in 1737. It is interesting to reflect upon the relationship between people and animals in 18th and 19th century England, as just over the wall, now in the Garden Centre, is the Bear Pit, which itself is adjacent to contemporary duck houses and ponds, the whole area being interspersed with numerous ancient, stone grotesques of heavily jowled dogs and lions, apparently rescued from the earlier Tudor house. It's a jungle in there!

Continuing our tour along the south boundary of the current estate we found ourselves walking along the faux fortifications of the raised south terrace, built around 1735. This quite astounding structure incorporates projecting bastions, and it offers panoramic views across the South Yorkshire



Re-used Tudor door at Bear Pit

landscape. At its highest point, the west end, an Ionic Temple (1735) has been erected. This incorporates a substantial statue of Hercules overcoming a mythical beast which, as Reg pointed out, can be re-interpreted at any time to suit the mood/politics of the day. Near the east end of the terrace, the next landmark for walkers is a spectacular stone urn, allegedly contrived to provide light and flame during celebrations.

This marked the end of our tour and Reg encouraged us to continue at our own pace to visit the Mulberry Garden, the Ice House, the Ha-Ha, the Japanese and Italian Gardens, the Kitchen Garden, the various monuments around the estate, Temple Hill.....and then there is the house itself which Peter Goodchild described as the “most fantastic back-to-back in the country”.

All photos are by Roger Lambert.

Roger Lambert and Christine Miskin



Michael Myers Talk “Snowdrops - October to April” 19 January 2022

A dark winter evening was considerably brightened by the launch of YGT's 2022 programme of events, with Michael Myers fascinating *Snowdrops October to April* talk. Michael's informative and engaging talk gave an interesting insight into the intricate world of the *Galanthus* species, quite a revelation for this deceptively simple and beautiful flower. Michael began with a brief botanical biography of the snowdrop. Native to Europe and the Middle East there are more than 20 different snowdrop species classified into 'clades'

Platyphyllus clade	
Trojanus clade	
Ikariae clade	
Elwesii clade	
Nivalis clade	
Woronowii clade	
Alpinus clade	

A brief outline of the botanical structure of the snowdrop clarified the contrasting features of each species. The snowdrop is made up of six petal-like segments known as tepals, three larger, outer ones and three smaller, inner ones. The inner petals have a little

notch at the tip and a green inverted V marking above it.

Michael then described a selection of *Galanthus* species drawn from across the clade classification. Some were familiar such as *Galanthus nivalis*, *Galanthus elwesii* and *Galanthus plicatus*. However, there were many unfamiliar examples which highlighted the range and diversity of these plants, as well as the opportunity of there being a snowdrop in flower for every month between September and April.

Personal highlights included:

- *Galanthus* S. Arnott – honey-scented, tall and sturdy. The Hazel Tunnel at York Gate has an impressive collection.
- *Galanthus bursanensis* Alpha Teutonic Helmet – an unexpected 'warrior-like' name for such a gentle, nodding flower.
- *Galanthus plicatus* 'Three Ships' – always in flower on Christmas day.
- *Galanthus* 'Cordelia' – a particularly attractive double snowdrop.

Looking to the future, some galanthophiles' interests are now focussed on developing snowdrops with yellow as opposed to green markings – all a matter of personal taste. Michael's talk, with beautiful photographs from his own extensive *Galanthus* collection, along with horticultural advice, left many of us with a *Galanthus* wish list, and more knowledge to enable us to look at snowdrops in a much more informed way. ...and a visit to Michael's garden should be a definite addition to YGT's Events programme!

Chris Beevers

A Happy Coincidence – A Forgotten Woman Gardener and Her Snowdrops

The Garden Trust's excellent lecture series on Forgotten Women Gardeners has focussed attention on a group of interesting and dynamic individuals, including Alice 'The All-Powerful' - Alice de Rothschild. Sophie Piebenga, Waddesdon Manor's Gardens' Archivist, introduced Alice de Rothschild and the garden she created at Eyethrope, Buckinghamshire, still a private garden of the Rothschild family, which occasionally opens to the public.

Coincidentally *Country Life* (January 12, 2022) has a feature on Eyethrope and its famous snowdrop collection. Among the 70 varieties on show notable examples include 'Mrs McNamara' (named after Dylan Thomas's mother-in-law) 'Lime tree', 'Magnet', 'S. Arnott' (honey-scented) 'Jacquenetta' (double snowdrop) and 'Ophelia' (double snowdrop).

Feature writer Mary Keen comments "What makes Eyethrope special is the groups of named snowdrops covering as much as 100 square yards at a time". Certainly, a spectacle of snowdrops.

Sue Dickinson, Eyethrope's first and legendary head gardener was a galanthophile, carrying on Alice Rothschild's original exacting *Galanthus* interest. The current head gardener Suzie Hanson is continuing the tradition. Waddesdon Manor the Rothschild house which is open to the public, also has a fine collection of snowdrops.

Where to buy rare snowdrops:

- Colesbourne Gardens, Cheltenham Gloucester
- Marchants Gardens and Nursery, Loughton, East Sussex
- Avon Bulbs, Petherton, Somerset
- North Green Snowdrops online only <http://www.northgreensnowdrops.co.uk>

Chris Beevers



Notes from the Editor

Welcome to the first e-Bulletin for 2022 which appears as part of our new publishing routine of four e-Bulletins and two Newsletters each year. It is hoped that the more frequent publishing schedule will keep our members better informed on all aspects of our work.

This is a quiet time of the year in terms of our events, but the Council of Management have been busy organising the AGM and preparing the Trustee's annual report. Further information about what promises to be an interesting day at Bramham Park, courtesy of Nick and Rachel Lane Fox appears at page 11.

Our Galanthus Gala theme continues in this issue and includes a report of our first visit of the year to Wentworth Woodhouse to view the snowdrops. For those of us who attended there was so much more to see than just the snowdrops, including touring the magnificent house, walking the wider grounds, seeing the village of Wentworth and visiting the Wentworth Garden Centre which encompasses some of the remains of the estate's formal gardens. A great start to our Events year.

We also include a report of the visit to the NYCRO garden history exhibition, ably organised by Gail Falkingham last October. It included a pleasant surprise for three of our members who discovered historical material relating to a garden they have been working on.

The YGT, in association with the Gardens Trust, have organised a series of Zoom lectures on the theme of Unforgettable Gardens. There are five lectures, all about gardens in Yorkshire, and they begin on Wednesday 2nd March with Chris Ridgway talking about the landscape at Castle Howard. We hope as many of you as possible will tune into what promises to be an excellent treat.

Christine Miskin

Council News

In view of the prevalence of the Omicron variant, the Council of Management met by Zoom on Tuesday 25 January.

There was a full agenda, and items considered included the need for the YGT to recruit some additional trustees. Our Articles of Association state that we should have at least five, and not more than twelve, trustees and one third of them should retire at each AGM with those longest in office retiring first. Retiring trustees can be reappointed if they are willing to serve again. Pat Gore has indicated that she will retire as a trustee at the AGM in March. If the trustees eligible for re-election are willing to stand again, we still have four trustee vacancies. It was agreed that a call for members to consider putting themselves up for election as trustees should be sent out as soon as possible as any nominations have to be received by the 12th of February.

The search is continuing for someone to replace Val Hepworth as Chairman of the Planning and Conservation Committee (see page 17); and the sub-committee tasked with finding a replacement for Louise Amende have produced a job description and have started actively searching for a new administrator.

Work in all the Committees appears to be going

well and the Council received reports from each of them. Regarding Membership and Engagement, it was noted that the Membership Survey sent out by the Gardens Trust had been very disappointing in terms of the questions it asked, and we would await its results, due to be published in March, to see how helpful it would be to our own work on membership and engagement. Work on the new website is also progressing well. (See elsewhere at page 14).

Work would shortly be resumed on the Development Plan 2022-2026. Following the controversy over the proposed cuts in visiting times to Rievaulx Terraces, Chris Webb has received a communication from Mike Innerdale, the NT North Region Director stating the following:

"In terms of the impact of [sic] Rievaulx from our national restructure programme in response to Covid, we did have to make a reduction in visitor facing staff but our gardening expertise at this site has increased. This has enabled the team over the last 18 months to achieve some really great work on continuing with our conservation management plan making many improvements for both heritage and nature conservation".

YGT Visit to NYCRO Garden History Exhibition

Saturday 23 October 2021

From mid-August to mid-November 2021, North Yorkshire County Record Office's (NYCRO) foyer exhibition area was dedicated to a display of archive material relating to garden history.

The ideas for the exhibition emerged from the series of garden history blog posts created by YGT Trustee Gail Falkingham during lockdown whilst the Record Office was closed to the public. <https://nycroblog.com/category/garden-history/>



Gail focussed on three themes for the display cases in the Record Office foyer:

Victorian Gardens; Fruit and Orchards, Swinton Park and a chronological selection of 18th to 20th century maps and plans.

Gail, who works part-time at the Record Office, curated the exhibition with colleagues Rachel Greenwood, Conservation and Digitisation Manager, who advised on and facilitated the mounting and display of material and Emily Ward, who designed the beautiful hanging banners and case labels.

Three hanging banners explored sources of evidence for researching garden history at the Record Office and key features of different periods of garden design throughout history.

Successive sequences of historic maps for a variety of sites from the 18th and 19th Centuries were reproduced side by side to show the potential for map regression to trace changes in historic landscapes through time. These featured map extracts for Newburgh Priory, (below), Aldby Park, Howsham Hall and Aske Hall.



A further banner included images from the 19th century sketchbooks of local artist Henrietta Matilda Crompton of Micklegate House in York. Henrietta illustrated several views of North Yorkshire country houses and their surrounding gardens, as well as some from further afield during visits to her family and friends c.1813-1870



Due to continuing social distancing restrictions, the day was split into three sessions for YGT members to visit between 10am and 3pm, with a limit of six YGT members per session. A small select group of nine YGT members in total visited the special exhibition event which Gail had organised so well. Others' loss was our gain, with plenty of time and space to explore in detail all the archive material available. Perhaps best of all we had a 'VIP' personalised tour with Gail and benefitted from her detailed knowledge of the materials on display. The opportunity for in depth discussions between YGT members with their individual expertise and interest in specific sites e.g., Moira Fulton and Newburgh Priory, was both beneficial and enlightening.

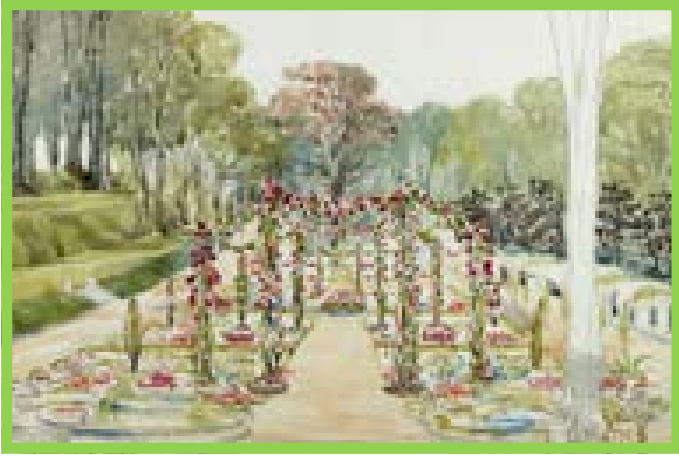
Exhibition "Eyecatchers" in the Foyer Display

There was so much to pore over, but personal highlights included:

Victorian Gardens Display Case

- A delightful, coloured sketch of Moreby Flower Garden (ZCM) from Henrietta Matilda Crompton's sketch book showing a typically exuberant Victorian floral display. (1st image next page)
- A monogram carpet bedding design with initials E.H.T. from the Upsall Castle Archive (ZT) possibly by Edmund Henry Turton c.1860's-1870's, plus a letter with comments on the plan and planting suggestions by Mary Miles of Bingham Rectory Notts (ZT) passing on her son Frank's principles of colour design (2nd image next page)

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The chance question of “Who are Mary Miles and Frank?” then led to a discussion and the interesting discovery that Frank Miles, the celebrated late 19th century portrait artist, close friend of Oscar Wilde and Jack the Ripper suspect (he had an eventful but short life) was also an architect, gardener, and keen plantsman. Between 1877-1887 he contributed text and botanical illustrations to *The Garden*, the weekly journal published by William Robinson.

Fruit and Orchards Display Case

An Orchard Plan in the form of a grid, possibly for Brockfield Hall (ZSG XIII 1/10) identifying apples, crab apples, pears, plums etc planted, such as the Yorkshire Greening and Sir Walter Blackett's Favourite which would interest YGT's historic fruit experts.

Next to the Orchard Plan was a Gardener's Notebook belonging to John Smith of Egton (Z.139). This recorded a fascinating example of the ingenious 'family tree' grafting procedure plus the list of the 11 apple varieties grafted on to the root stock specimen.



- Plate XI Section of the Succession Pine Stove at Mulgrave Castle from *Plans, Elevations and Sections with Observations and Explanations of Forcing-Houses in Gardening* by James Shaw, gardener to the Right Hon. Lord Mulgrave 1794.

This yielded yet another exciting new discovery on the day for three members of the YGT group. The list of subscribers to this publication, at the front of the book, included William Marwood, the owner of Busby Hall. At the back of this edition, an inscription never noticed before, revealed that this edition had been purchased at a sale in the 1950's from Busby Hall! The Hall's owner, and Mike and Gel Heagney, who have been involved in the restoration of Busby's gardens, were delighted to find such a personal connection to an archive item on display.

More VIP Treatment

As an additional bonus for our visit a further selection of archive material was on display on the tables in the search room, providing the opportunity for close and concentrated examination of documents and plans, which the morning group took full advantage of. (Perhaps a more detailed account of this session could be included in a future Newsletter).

This included larger maps that would not fit in the display cases, including two 1628 maps by William Senior of Whorlton Castle and park, a 1722 map of Newburgh Priory and the mid-18th century plan of Busby Hall by Thomas White [c.1766], as well as a selection of maps and plans from the Darley of Aldby Park archive from 1633-1829.

A further selection of mid-18th century account books, notebooks and survey books from the Busby Hall archive were on display, alongside John Carr's plans for alterations to the house. The Busby Hall delegation appreciated having access to material of such personal relevance to the history of Busby.

Mutual benefits for the Record Office came in the form of valuable information about John Carr's designs for Busby with owner Frances's confirmation of an unsigned plan as yet another Carr original.

A final table displayed a memorandum book of Robert Fairfax of Newton Kyme, 1775-1802, recording various observations on his garden; a botanical notebook of pressed flowers from the Scrope of Danby archive, 1830s-40s and a notebook from the Cholmley archive recording notes and illustrations of various specimens of trees planted at Howsham, 1709-1767.



By the end of our visit, we all had a wish list of places we wanted to visit, inspired by the materials we had seen, which was passed on to the Events Team. We had relished seeing and exploring primary garden history sources in an actual archive setting after lockdown restrictions. It was a reminder of the discoveries to be made in what might appear to be an uninspiring archive catalogue entry.

Gail provided an excellent set of materials to

accompany the exhibition, ideal for reading at home when reflecting on all that we had seen. There was one more surprise which turned out to be the icing on the cake for YGT's Research and Recording Group. Buried in Gail's transcription of an 1805 letter in the Swinton Park display case from Adam Mickle II (the Bedale landscape designer) to Swinton's owner William Danby, was a brief remark by Mickle about visiting Melton to see Mr R.F. Wilson (Richard Fountayne Wilson). This is the only evidence of a named designer's possible involvement in Melton's historic landscape, what a find, thank you Gail!

Having expressed our grateful thanks to Gail and all the staff who gave their time to host our visit, we left the North Yorkshire County Record office fired up to pursue our individual research interests and grateful for having such a high quality resource in our home county.

*(Photos: ©North Yorkshire County Record Office/
Gail Falkingham)*

Chris Beevers

Lotherton Hall Event June 2022

Valuing Our Historic Garden Heritage: Lotherton Hall's Edwardian Gardens - Wednesday 22 June 2022

We are delighted to tell you that this event is indeed going ahead on the above date and we would like to see as many of you as possible attending it so please do hurry and book it as places are limited.

We are reprinting the programme and booking form to remind you all of what should be a most interesting and stimulating day!

Val Hepworth



Valuing Our Historic Garden Heritage: Lotherton Hall's Edwardian Gardens

Wednesday 22 June 2022

This is a Continuing Professional Development Event

9.30 am Coffee and Registration

10.00 am Welcome and Introduction

Adam Toole, Curator, Temple Newsam and Lotherton Hall, Leeds C.C.

Maria Akers, Senior Estates Manager, Temple Newsam and Lotherton Hall, Leeds C.C.

10.10 Lotherton: a Garden in Time:

- The Wider World Context of the late 19th century

- Leading Figures in Fashion in late 19th century Garden Design

Mette Eggen, Landscape Architect, Historic Research and author of

'The Edwardian Garden at Lotherton Hall'

10.25 Lotherton: a Garden in time: The Late 19th century and the Impact of the Discovery and Introduction of Hardy Plants from Asia on Gardens and Gardening

John Grimshaw, Director of the Yorkshire Arboretum

11.10 Break for Coffee/Tea

11.25 Lotherton Gardens and Parkland: Creation and Layout 1898- 1949

- Frederick and Gwendolen Gascoigne at Lotherton

- Gwendolen - Unique Family Context + Influences; Garden designer and creator

Mette Eggen

12.10 Lotherton Gardens and Parkland: A Unique Edwardian Garden- recent developments

Jane Furse, Landscape Architect,

Historic Park and Garden Specialist

12.35 Questions

12.45 Lunch in the Stableyard Cafe

13.50 Challenges and Successes of historic garden restoration- an inspirational story

Chris Flynn, Head Gardener at

Dyffryn, National Trust of Wales

14.30 Rebirth - the Economic case for Garden renovation and renewal

Chris Flynn

14.45 Questions

15.00 Guided Visit to Lotherton's Gardens and Parkland

16.30 Summing Up

Meet in the Stableyard Café courtyard for Afternoon tea and cake

How to Book

Please complete the separate booking form on Page 13 and submit it ASAP to secure your booking.

Places are limited.



Gwendolen Gascoigne and granddaughter in the rose garden, Lotherton.

Photo credit: Lotherton Hall archive, Leeds City Council.

Lotherton Hall Event June 2022

BOOKING FORM

Cost: £40 per person

(see below for subsidised rates)

Some free places are available for garden/horticulture apprentices and students studying heritage horticulture. Please e-mail: conservation@yorkshiregardenstrust.org.uk with your details and proof of your apprenticeship/studentship to book a free place.

Speedy booking is advised.

For booking with payment by cheque: please complete this form and either email it to conservation@yorkshiregardenstrust.org.uk, then post a cheque made out to Yorkshire Gardens Trust to us, or post both elements to: YGT Conservation, 43 Richmond Road, Skeeby, Richmond DL10 5DX.

Please write your full name and telephone number on the back of the cheque.

For booking with on-line payment by BACS, please complete the form below and e-mail it to conservation@yorkshiregardenstrust.org.uk then arrange a bank transfer of £40 to:

Yorkshire Gardens Trust

Account number: 25555237

Sort Code: 05-09-94

Reference: LHEG xxxxx (your surname)

Bookings will only be confirmed once payment has been received.

YOUR DETAILS

Name

Occupation

Tel. Number

Address

.....

Post code

Email address

This is a Continuing Professional Development (CPD) event.

Closing date for booking 31st May 2022

Bookings will only be confirmed once payment has been received.

In case of queries, telephone 01748 822617

Events Committee News

We are pleased to tell you that Patricia Sharp has joined the Events Committee. Pat and John are newish members who live in Beverley so we are hoping that some of our future events will take place in East Yorkshire.

The programme and booking form have now been sent out to all members. The following notes are reminders of some of our forthcoming events

MARCH 2022

Saturday 26th March - AGM at Bramham Park

This promises to be a very interesting day with not only the business of the AGM, but a delicious lunch and then a guided tour of the pleasure grounds at Bramham led by Nick Lane Fox and David Jacques, who is our keynote speaker. David will be talking to us on The Great Formal Layouts of Gardens and Parks 1610-1740. Dr David Jacques is a very well-known landscape historian and the author of many publications on the subject, one of the most recent of which was Landscape Appreciation- Theories since the Cultural Turn, 2019.

Full details went out in the recent Events mailing and we do hope that as many people as possible are able to attend this, the first in person AGM since 2019.

Unforgettable Gardens talks

Booking has now opened for the series of 5 talks being run by YGT in association with the Gardens Trust. Cost £20 for the series or £5 per talk. For booking details, please see

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/unforgettable-gardens-tickets-251259452787>

Please note that in purchasing a ticket for the events detailed below, you do not need to watch them live. Within 24 hours after the event, you will be sent a link to the recording which can be accessed at any time during the following week.

All talks will take place at 18.00

Week 1. Wednesday 2nd March. Castle Howard: A Landmark in the Mind and the Eye with Christopher Ridgway

Castle Howard has furnished visitors with sights, sensations, and memories ever since early tourists witnessed the Earl of Carlisle's new building and gardens taking shape at the beginning of the 18th century. This first talk on Castle Howard will discuss what visitors have seen over the centuries, how they responded to the landscape, and how Castle Howard acquired a reputation well beyond the boundaries of Yorkshire.

Christopher Ridgway has been Curator at Castle Howard since 1985, he has lectured and published widely on the history of the house and estate, and on a range of heritage topics. A graduate of York University, he is also chair of the Yorkshire Country House Partnership, and Adjunct Professor at the Centre for the Study of Historic Irish Houses and Estates at Maynooth University. His recent publications include George Howard, Lord Howard of Henderskelfe: A Life in Yorkshire and Beyond (2020), and 'New Walls for Old Pictures: The Castle Howard Bequest', in Country House Collections: Their Lives and Afterlives (2021), jointly edited with Terence Dooley.

Week 2. Wednesday 9th March. Three Yorkshire Gardens with Tom Stuart-Smith

Tom Stuart-Smith says: "I have been lucky enough to work a lot in Yorkshire over the last few years and will talk about three very different gardens. The first, Mount St John, with astonishing views over the Vale of York, the second, an enclosed walled garden at Middleton Lodge near Darlington, and the third, a public garden for the Hepworth Wakefield. They are very contrasting in their styles, and I will talk about how this is a response not just to very different client briefs but also to the varied setting of the gardens."

Tom Stuart-Smith is a landscape architect whose work combines naturalism with modernity and built forms with romantic planting. He read Zoology at the University of Cambridge before completing a postgraduate

degree in Landscape Design. Tom is a Vice President of the Royal Horticultural Society, a Trustee of the Garden Museum, an Honorary Fellow of the Royal Institute of British Architects, and a Fellow of the Landscape Institute. He has also designed eight award winning gardens for the Chelsea Flower Show, all of which were presented with gold medals and three 'Best in Show'.

Week 3. 16th March. Old Durham Gardens in the context of early Durham gardens with Martin Roberts

The talk will first offer a contextual summary of the city's gardens, briefly looking at the medieval period, before more closely examining Durham's late sixteenth century and seventeenth century gardens, such as those around Durham Castle, examples broadly contemporary with work at Old Durham. The continuing story of the city's planned landscapes will consider early mid eighteenth-century sites, notably the Durham Riverbanks, many of which have known or probable links with cathedral canon and landscape designer, Joseph Spence.

The 1984-2000 restoration of Old Durham Gardens will then be illustrated in detail, concluding with the continuing restoration and replanting work of the Friends of Old Durham Gardens from 2010, including its revival of Music in the Gardens, a tradition going back almost three hundred years.

Martin Roberts has lived in the Northeast for over fifty years. He studied architecture at Newcastle University before joining the City of Durham as their Conservation Officer. His work included initiating and managing the Old Durham Gardens restoration project. He later joined English Heritage's Northeast office as their Historic Buildings Inspector.

Martin founded the Northeast Vernacular Architecture Group and is a trustee of the Friends of Old Durham Gardens, a committee member of Durham Diocesan Advisory Committee, Durham Cathedral Fabric Advisory Committee and The Northumbria Gardens Trust. He is a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries in London. Martin has lectured widely on the region's historic buildings and landscapes, alongside published research in local and national journals, the most recent in 2021, the publication of his revision of Nikolaus Pevsner's Buildings of England volume on County Durham.

This promises to be a terrific talk, as those of us who attended the day visit hosted by Martin last July, will attest! See the report by Paul Knox and Malcolm Pickles at page 38 of the Autumn 2021 Newsletter.

Week 4. 23rd March. Some of Mr. Aislaby's other places: Kirkby Hall, Kirkby Fleetham & Hackfall, North Yorkshire with Gail Falkingham and Mark Newman

This talk will explore two of the lesser-known designed landscapes of William Aislaby. Following the death of his father John in 1742, William, politician, and gentleman landscape designer, continued his father's landscaping projects developing, inter alia, properties at Kirkby Hall, Kirkby Fleetham, and the rugged woodland landscape of Hackfall, between the 1740s and 1770s.

The first part of the talk with Gail will look at the development of the Kirkby Hall estate, William Aislaby's marital home from 1724, through a variety of surviving archival and documentary sources. Then Mark will explore how William's modest initial aspirations soon burgeoned into a project on the grandest of scales, drawing huge tracts of the Studley estate into a single great designed landscape, culminating in the rugged glen of the river Ure at Hackfall.

Gail Falkingham. As a Trustee of the Yorkshire Gardens Trust (YGT) and a member of the YGT Research & Recording Group Gail researched Kirkby Hall as part of the Hambleton District Historic Designed Landscapes Project. Gail has a BA in Ancient History & Archaeology from the University of Birmingham and an MSc in Archaeological Information Systems from the University of York. She was formerly County Archaeologist for North Yorkshire, is a member of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists and the Society of Antiquaries, and now works part-time at the North Yorkshire County Record Office.

Mark Newman is the National Trust's Archaeologist for Yorkshire and the North-East. He has a BA in Ancient History & Archaeology and MA in Archaeological Method and Practice. He then worked as a field archaeologist in England, and overseas before joining the NT in 1988. Mark currently advises the NT on properties over a region stretching from Berwick-on Tweed to the Pennine boundaries of Greater Manchester.

Week 5. 30th March. The Future of Memory at Castle Howard with Christopher Ridgway

This second talk on Castle Howard will chronicle how the estate has worked to preserve its priceless array of gardens, lakes, woods, and monuments that comprise one of the most spectacular landscapes in the UK. The perennial equation of managing change and continuity sit at the heart of how Castle Howard remains an unforgettable landscape, but today fresh environmental, political, and economic pressures mark the 21st century as one of the most volatile periods in its history. How will Castle Howard outlast these new challenges?

The following talk may also be of interest to you:

Tuesday 22nd March at 6pm: York Gate Garden: the Spencer Legacy by Ben Preston, Head Gardener

The history of York gate begins in 1951 when the Spencer family bought a six-acre farm on the edge of Leeds. It is currently considered one of the finest post-war small gardens in the country. Ben will share his philosophy on the importance of moving the garden forward while remaining true to its origins and the spirit of the place. Once a family garden which opened occasionally for the NGS it is now a busy garden opening five days a week.

Cost of the talk is £5

JULY 2022

25th Anniversary Celebration at Harewood House

On Thursday 14th July we are holding a special evening event at Harewood House from 18.00 to 21.00 to celebrate the Trust's 25th Anniversary, by courtesy of the YGT President the Countess of Harewood.

Guests will be welcomed with a drink on the Terrace, which will be followed by a talk by Harewood's Head Gardener, Trevor Nicholson, with seating provided in the Billiard Room. Afterwards guests will be able to wander through the formal gardens and the parkland designed by Capability Brown.

If you would like to come, please can you book soon as numbers are limited. Tickets cost £25.00 (£30.00 for non-members).

For details, please contact Maddy Hughes: madalynhughes56@aol.com

SEPTEMBER 2022

Gardens Trust Annual Conference 2022 – North Yorkshire

The Gardens Trust's Annual Conference is always a highlight of the year and this year it is being held in North Yorkshire from Friday 2nd till Sunday 4th September. It will be based at the Holiday Inn at Scotch Corner and a full programme of visits has been organised. The planned outings will be to Temple Grounds in Richmond, or a tour of Richmond's Georgian Theatre and Millgate House Garden, Aske Hall, Constable Burton, Bolton Castle and Bolton Hall. Between visits there will be plenty of opportunities to meet fellow GT members from around the country over a drink or meal. The weekend will also include a talk by YGT's Louise Wickham on the designed landscapes of North Yorkshire. The Conference Reception and Dinner will be held at The Station in Richmond.

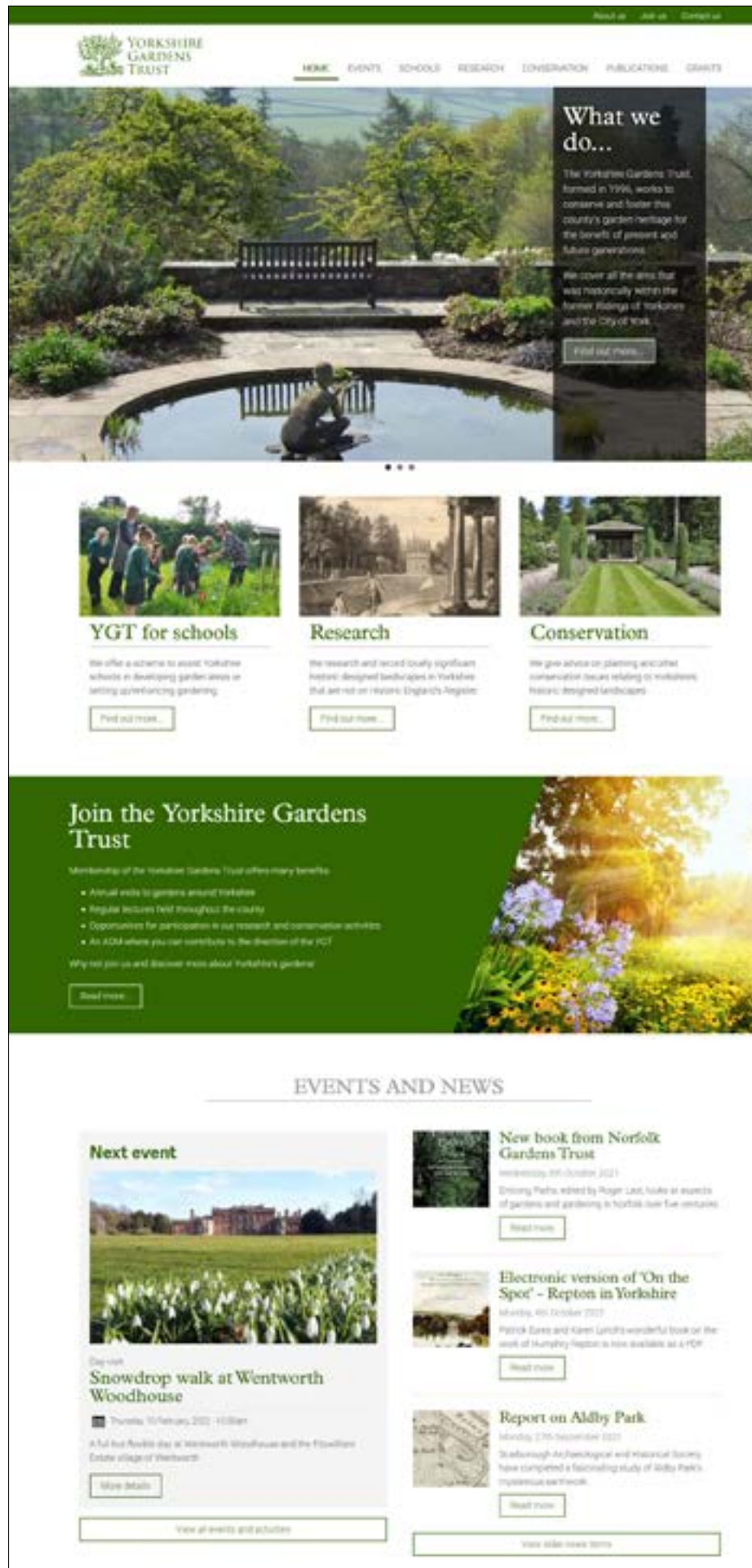
Do think about coming as we would love to have a strong contingent of Yorkshire Gardens Trust members, who would also be able to help with 'shepherding' and passing on our local knowledge.

More details can be found on the Gardens Trust website. <https://thegardenstrust.org/events-archive/page/5/>

If you are thinking of coming and would be happy to volunteer as a helper, please can you let Vicky Price know: dvickyprice@waitrose.com

New YGT website

The following is a draft of the home page of the new YGT website.



The new website for the Yorkshire Gardens Trust will go live at the end of March. It is designed not only to modernise how the Trust is seen online, but also to highlight to the general public all the important work the Trust does in the key areas of Schools, Conservation, Research and Recording and Grants. In the newly named 'YGT for Schools' area, teachers and others interested in gardening for schools can learn more about what the YGT team offer. This includes materials to help set up areas for children to learn about growing a variety of plants, experience from schools to show the positive benefits of these schemes, and specific themes for each year including gifts and offers of tools, plants etc.

Details of the excellent work of the Conservation and Planning team will be expanded with more resources for those involved with planning applications that relate to historic designed landscapes. In addition, all the planning application response letters, from 2022 onwards, which relate to specific sites will be made available for the first time on our website. It is planned to also add historic letters for particular sites and also responses to general planning issues.

The Research and Recording pages have been completely updated with a new, fully searchable, database of Yorkshire's historic designed landscapes. Initially it will have the 128 sites on the Historic England Register that are in the areas of East, North, South and West Yorkshire, the cities of Hull and York,

Redcar & Cleveland, and Middlesbrough (the majority of these areas being part of the historic county of Yorkshire). This is where any planning letters for individual sites (see above) will be posted. In addition, the 60 full research reports for the non-registered sites that the R&R team have completed over the last 10 years will be available. As more are completed, they will be added. There is also a new Research Blog where short articles about historic parks and gardens, the people involved in them and what they created will be posted. If you would like to contribute to this, please let me know.

The YGT has a long history of providing small grants to organisations to help fund their important work in their community, whether it is paying for plants, educational resources or repairs to important features. More recently we have introduced a bursary scheme for horticultural and landscape history students. Both of these needed more prominence to encourage applications and they now have their own section.

Other changes you will notice is that the Events section is easier to access, as you don't need to log in any more. There is more information on each event, so that non-members will be encouraged to come. Newsletters too will now be available for all to see on the website.

Louise Wickham

webmaster@yorkshiregardenstrust.org.uk

Website Helpers Needed

Calling all web experts. If, by chance, you (or maybe a friend or relative) have any experience in loading information onto a website, would you be willing to help please? When the new Yorkshire Gardens Trust website goes live in March we will need to up-date the various sections regularly. This is especially important for the Events section where we need to remove the event from the Home page when it has happened and replace it with the next event in the calendar. It's not a very onerous task and training will be available.

Please can you contact Maddy Hughes madalynhughes56@aol.com, or Vicky Price dvickyprice@waitrose.com if you can help.

Parks and Gardens at Risk

In a note in The Garden, January 2022 it was reported that of the 1,700 important parks and gardens in England, 104 are now on the Heritage at Risk Register maintained by Historic England. However, there are fewer sites on the Register in 2021 compared with the previous year. HE attributes this improvement to the work of the government's Culture Recovery Plan "which has made big inroads in helping historic sites with urgent repairs..."

A site of special interest to us is Plumpton Rocks a Grade II* landscape covering 30 acres of parkland designed by John Carr, which is one of 233 removed from the Register recently. It includes a large man-made lake and dam built c.1756, together with a backdrop of dramatic rock formations. It has been closed for a few years whilst essential maintenance and repairs took place, but it is hoped that it will re-open this Spring. (The website states that it is still currently closed).

The Great British Dig at Beningbrough Hall

The Great British Dig series broadcast an episode on January 19, 2022 featuring Beningbrough Hall – Series 2, Episode 2, available on demand.

<https://www.channel4.com/programmes/the-great-british-dig-history-in-your-garden/on-demand/72396-004>)

On 20 April 2021 Mark Newman gave a fascinating talk for The Gardens Trust on several of the landscape design, architectural and archaeological mysteries at Beningbrough which have intrigued him for many years. In July 2021 the Great British Dig's team of experts and film crew arrived to work with Mark to investigate:

- The North Front – the mystery of Beningbrough's missing wings as seen in the painting of Beningbrough Hall by John Bouttats and John Chapman c.1751
- South of the Hall - the channel seen in Samuel Buck's sketch of the garden area south of the Hall
- The elusive Mediterranean garden

(<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/beningbrough-hall/features/the-great-british-dig-comes-to-beningbrough>).

Not wishing to spoil “the great reveal”, do try and watch the episode on catch up (Channel 4 or More 4) and perhaps a follow up talk from Mark might be suggested too.



Conservation and Planning Committee

We are looking for a new Chairman!

Following Val Hepworth's decision to retire from the Chairmanship of the Committee we would like to recruit a new Chairman. Val has done a sterling job in steering and developing the work of the Committee and the YGT is enormously grateful to her for her hard work over the years.

We are printing the job description below and if anyone is interested in taking over from Val could they please contact Chris Webb at pureycust@gmail.com

Notes/Job Description for Chairman YGT Conservation and Planning sub-committee

Important features of the role

As in any voluntary society, tact and diplomacy are important, as is enthusiasm for the purpose of the Conservation and Planning sub-committee (C and P). The Chairman is supported by active and knowledgeable members of C and P, the Council of Management (C of M) and by members and friends of YGT.

Time Required

Most weeks very little.

A few hours a week are needed in the periods around quarterly C and P meetings and around the preparation of C and P's copy for the Newsletter and E-News. Once a year there is a (small and simple) budget to prepare, and infrequently there is time required in relation to YGT's website and Development Plan.

As with consultations and planning responses, which represent the vast bulk of C and P's work, the functions and responsibilities described here may be shared among members of C and P or changed as the life of C and P requires.

Responsibilities and functions

Most of the Chairman's work focuses on arranging and chairing meetings; but there are other responsibilities and activities, spread out across the year.

1. Meetings

C and P meets three or four times a year either in person or via Zoom. If the meetings are to be in person, then the Chairman books a room and arranges for payment via an invoice to YGT Treasurer, Maddy; if by Zoom, the Chairman

sets up and sends out the Zoom invitation using YGT's shared Zoom account.

The Chairman proposes the meeting agenda, reminds C and P members to compile and submit reports (including reports from our Historic England and Natural England representatives), circulates the agenda and papers, chairs the meeting, and assists the minute-taker with the draft minutes before circulating them to C and P members.

C and P, under the guidance of the Chairman, discusses and proposes strategy for Conservation and Planning, which is embodied in YGT's quinquennial Development Plan; and subsequently monitors the implementation and impact of the strategy.

Once a year (May/June) the Chairman, with C and P, determines the budget for the following year that is to be submitted to C of M at their July meeting.

2. YGT Council of Management

The Chairman is the link between C and P and YGT C of M, writing reports for C of M (which meets quarterly) and helping to compile YGT's annual report for the agm.

3. Newsletter and E-Bulletin

The Chairman works with members of C and P to compile reports for YGT Newsletter and E-Bulletin.

4. Website

The Chairman oversees C and P's section of YGT's website and liaises with the webmaster when updates or changes need to be made.

5. Small Grants

The Chairman assists YGT's Small Grant Scheme officer (Brendan), when asked.

6. General

The Chairman oversees the routine functioning of C and P answering, or devolving questions, supporting the development of C and P's practice and acting as the fulcrum of C and P's work.

February 2022

YGT Membership Renewals are Due

YGT annual memberships are due for renewal on 1 April 2022

For data protection reasons (GDPR), we are unable to contact lapsed members and therefore such memberships will be cancelled, with no reminder sent.

To continue:

- 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, 14 Huntington Road, York YO31 8RB. Thank you.

Gift Aid and standing orders: We encourage these; forms can be found at bit.ly/380GxJd, or by requesting one using the address above, or emailing membership@yorkshiregardenstrust.org.uk.

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

Forthcoming YGT Publications

Publication	Copy deadline	Publication date
Spring Newsletter	15 March 2022	21 April 2022
June e-Bulletin	1 June 2022	21 June 2022
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.

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.

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

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