



Yorkshire Gardens Trust Conservation Report – May 2009

Over the past year we have been active on a variety of fronts.

In June 2008 we had our display stand at the Ryedale Conservation and Heritage Fair held in York House, Malton. This was a very worthwhile two days for those manning the stand with many enquiries and our Vice-president, Peter Goodchild taking tours of the unique historic garden. There was much appreciation of the conservation work going on in Malton.

In West Yorkshire, we have been trying to help the new owners at Whinburn, a listed Arts and Crafts house and garden near Keighley, and as a result of the efforts of our committee member, Dr Anne Tupholme, English Heritage have now also listed the Upper Garden Pavilion, a fine garden building possibly designed by Thomas Mawson. Anne has been involved with planning proposals for the gardens and landscape at Dobroyd Castle, Todmorden, and has commented on the draft Craven Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) where it relates to designed landscapes and woodland. She has completed a fine piece of research on St Ives Park at Bingley, which has been deposited in the Yorkshire Gardens Trust archive at The Borthwick Institute, University of York. A copy has been given to English Heritage to support the Trust's request that this park, now owned by Bradford MB Council, should be included on the English Heritage Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest. We await English Heritage's deliberations.

Jane Furse has given advice on Spens Hall, Gomersal to Kirklees MC. In North Yorkshire we have commented on the Hambleton District Council Housing Allocation document where it impacts on Cleveland Lodge, a designed landscape at Great Ayton, not on the English Heritage Register. We were very pleased to work with the authorities' conservation officer over concerns about this site. Similarly it was very good to have input from member David Rhodes who framed a letter registering our concern about proposals from North Yorkshire County Council for a waste management facility in close proximity to the Registered historic park and garden at Allerton Park. At Scarthingwell Park (Selby DC) we assisted the Garden History Society with comments on a planning application for a nursing home and we have also commented on the draft English Heritage Register entry for Middleton Lodge near Scotch Corner. We have written in support of retaining North Yorkshire County Council Heritage Champion, Councillor Heather Garnett, who works hard for all aspects of the historic environment and to the Heritage Lottery Fund in support of an application by Kiplin Hall. We also wrote opposing two separate proposals for wind turbines, which would impact on Gledstone Hall and Bolton Abbey respectively. In South Yorkshire we have commented on the draft conservation management plan for one of England's most epic landscapes, Wentworth Woodhouse. The Trust is fortunate to have landscape architects, botanists, horticulturists, conservationists and historians to assist in its conservation and planning work. We also input into the national conservation and planning work undertaken by Val Hepworth for the Association of Gardens Trusts. This has included a wide range of work connected with the draft Heritage Protection Bill, English Heritage's Conservation Principles, gardens as brownfield sites, the London Olympics and the draft Marine/Coastline Bill.

The Small Grants Scheme 2007-8 has supported five applicants; the Friends of Beaumont Park, Huddersfield, the Castle Garden Project, Malton, *Dales Plants and Gardens 1900-60* Project, Friends of Whinfell Quarry Garden, Sheffield and York Gate Garden, Leeds. £1,000 has been paid to the Castle Garden Project for work on the trees; Beaumont Park, £500 for work on the cascade and pond; *Dales Plants and Gardens 1900-60* £385 for display cases; and Whinfell Quarry Garden £644 for rhododendron replanting. York Gate Garden has been allocated £750.

The Small Grants Scheme 2008-9 has allocated £800 to the gardens at Cannon Hall near Barnsley and £700 to The Ancient Society of York Florists for a plaque to be located at the site of their first Florists Show in Colliergate, York in 1768. Cantley Community Centre (Trust) at Doncaster is to receive £500 for garden tools for the gardening team of adults with learning difficulties and to help them with the design and planting of the gardens round the Centre. Jenni Howard is liaising with the Centre Manager and with the English Heritage Outreach Officer. Jenni has been able to take spare plants donated from Brodsworth Hall to the Centre.

The Trust's nominated trustee for the Wentworth Castle and Stainborough Park Heritage Trust, Jane Furse, has continued her passionate and skilled work for this special place. The Wentworth Castle Gardens and park with its monument trail is officially open. Almost £1,000,000 has been spent recently on the monuments, tree works and children's playground; all making a tremendous difference to the visitor's experience. The Union Jack and Secret Gardens are developing well as are the Fernery and Stumpery near Stainborough Castle. The beautiful Rotunda now has new steps and new avenue planting has gone in and deer graze in the parkland. Everyone's hard work over many years is being realized magnificently.

<http://www.wentworthcastle.org>