



# YORKSHIRE GARDENS TRUST NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 47

Autumn 2020

## Stillingfleet Lodge Gardens and Nursery

Tuesday 7 July 2020



View to the wildlife pond. (Photo credit: Geoff and Maddy Hughes)

In view of the coronavirus pandemic the majority of YGT Events for 2020 have had to be cancelled. It was therefore with anticipation that a number of members met at Vanessa Cook's Stillingfleet Lodge Garden and Nursery on 7 July. Within the restraints of social distancing, members were able to meet for the first time for many months and enjoy the delightful and peaceful surroundings.

In pouring rain Vanessa provided a warm welcome and an introduction to the garden which she and her husband John have developed over the last 40 years from a self-sufficient organic smallholding to the current family garden: a series of cottage garden style rooms, surrounded by a shelter belt of native trees. The garden is managed to encourage wildlife and is as organic as possible, with the only spraying being on the gravel in the car park to prevent weeds germinating.

We then had the opportunity to wander and enjoy the various areas, with highlights being the Wildlife Pond area and borders closer to the house, planted with a wide range of herbaceous plants in delightful combinations including a number of geraniums and campanulas.

Finally, we were able to split into groups to enjoy tea and cake in the Cafe, to purchase plants from the well-stocked nursery and for a small group to visit the medieval Stillingfleet Church with John Cook and to admire the historic south door.

**Maddy Hughes**

**YGT Trustee and Treasurer**

*More photos overleaf*

### Contents

Gardens & Visits	Page
Broaches Farm & Lowbridge House	10
Greenhead Park and Clem's Garden	14
Kiplin Hall	16
Low Askew Farm	7
Stillingfleet Nursery and Gardens	1
Weston Hall	12
York Museum Gardens	18
<b>Groups' News</b>	
Conservation and Planning	20
Research and Recording Group	
Sir Thomas White	26
Seek and ye shall find...	29
The Gardens Trust updates	32
YGT Small Grants Scheme	3
<b>Other items</b>	
Aysgarth Rock Garden	6
Book: Timothy Hutton at Clifton Castle	19
Helmsley Walled Garden	3
Lotherton Hall training day	34
Notes from the Editor	3
Sir John Resesby's List	5
Some Reflections on Post War	
Landscapes in Yorkshire	35
Wydale Hall refugee visit	31
YGT Events Update	38
YGT Who's Who etc	2



One of the beautiful cottage garden style 'rooms' at Stillingfleet Lodge Garden. (Photo credit: Geoff and Maddy Hughes)



The 12th century, historically important south door of St Helen's Church, Stillingfleet. (Photo credit: Geoff and Maddy Hughes)

## YGT: Ways to Keep in Touch

**For general and membership queries:** visit our website [www.yorkshiregardenstrust.org.uk](http://www.yorkshiregardenstrust.org.uk) and click the 'Contact' tab or simply email [secretary@yorkshiregardenstrust.org.uk](mailto:secretary@yorkshiregardenstrust.org.uk).

Existing members can use the contact details shown on your membership card.

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

**Event bookings:** currently suspended due to the pandemic; please see p. 38 for future plans.

## YGT Membership Renewals and GDPR

YGT annual memberships are due for renewal on 1 April each year. For data protection reasons (GDPR), we are unable to contact lapsed members and therefore **no reminders will be sent**.

**Gift Aid and standing orders:** Where possible, these are encouraged; a joint form can be found at [bit.ly/3bW2U2H](http://bit.ly/3bW2U2H) or by requesting one using the address below or [membership@yorkshiregardenstrust.org.uk](mailto:membership@yorkshiregardenstrust.org.uk).

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

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# Notes from the Editor

As we continue to endure the privations of the pandemic, I hope that this Newsletter finds you well. Now the season begins to move into the cool of Autumn, we are bringing you a reminder of the halcyon days of the summer of 2019 when life was normal, and we were still able to visit wonderful houses and gardens. As promised in the Spring Newsletter, this issue contains reports of our visits, beginning with our summer picnic in June at the beautiful gardens of Penelope and Martin Dawson-Brown at Low Askew Farm near Cropton. This was followed by a trip in July to the Richmond area to see two gardens, those of Alan and Judith Hutchinson at Broaches Farm, followed by Lowbridge House in Dalton, owned by Clarissa Milbank. We had a most interesting visit to Weston Hall and Banqueting House, where we had a fascinating glimpse into some of the rooms in the Hall itself. This was followed by a tour of the Stone Garden. Last September we went to Greenhead Park and Clem's Garden in Huddersfield. It was a wonderful year of visits and events and our thanks are due to the unremitting efforts of the Events Team.

How we have missed our trips this year! We ran three visits, one to Kiplin Hall to see the snowdrops just before the term "lockdown" crashed into our lives. Some photos appeared in the Summer e-

Bulletin and the report has been supplied by Pat Robertson. There are short reports by Maddy Hughes of the two visits held in July, both in very wet conditions, to Stillingfleet Nursery and Gardens and York Museum Gardens.

This issue contains details of the planned programme for 2021 and let us hope that it will all be able to take place. This year our Council and Committees have been operating via Zoom meetings. Despite the pandemic, planning applications have not decreased and the Conservation Committee has been kept extremely busy; see Val's report on p.20. Similarly, despite the closures of many archives, the Research and Recording Committee has been working hard. Louise Wickham describes her work on Sir Thomas White and Chris Beevers recounts the ups and downs of her research at High Melton

Finally, I am grateful to Kath Gibson who discusses the August 2020 Heritage England report, *Introduction to Heritage Assets: Post War Landscapes*, which adds some Yorkshire landscapes to the National Heritage List for England.

As usual, I would like to thank all our contributors for their sterling work in producing so many interesting reports and articles.

**Christine Miskin**  
**Newsletter and e-Bulletin Editor**

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## YGT Small Grants Scheme

As you will have read in YGT e-Bulletin No 2, July 2020 we have been delighted to welcome Brendan Mowforth to co-ordinate our scheme; it was a pleasure to see him via Zoom at our Conservation meeting in July. Do get in touch with Brendan if you have ideas of where we could help with our grants; email him at [bmowforth@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:bmowforth@hotmail.co.uk) or find his postal address on our website under Small Grants Scheme.

News from a previous recipient of a YGT Small Grant,  
YGT member Helmsley Walled Garden

Many of you will know Helmsley Walled Garden, have visited us over the years since we opened and know that we still maintain the vision of Alison Ticehurst, who began the garden, to restore and develop it for the benefit of visitors and our local community, enabling individuals to gain confidence and learn new skills through horticulture. Our visitors benefit from the therapeutic nature of the garden itself, getting ideas on growing vegetables from our kitchen garden, planting ideas from the borders or simply enjoying time spent in this beautiful and tranquil space.

This April, in under a week we went from about to open, to not opening, to lockdown and furlough.



*Dahlia Carolina Moon. (Photo credit: Colin Dilcock)*

We needed to raise £50,000 to ensure the garden survived; without it, permanent closure loomed.

Like many other attractions and businesses we were faced with very hard choices. And so it was that Garden Manager June Tainsh dreamed up the #OurSecretGarden appeal which neatly tied up the newest garden in development here alongside the release of the latest feature film of the novel by Frances Hodgson Burnett in which we feature.

People who wanted to support the garden could sponsor a square metre at a cost of £25.00. We opened the appeal on our Local Giving page and crossed our fingers firmly; we knew it was a big ask amidst very difficult times for everyone.

Frankly, we were not sure we would raise it all but hoped for the best. We promoted the appeal through our website, social media, our local paper and radio station, who were indefatigable in their support.

The response we got was exciting, emotional and energising. The comments people left when they donated brought home just how much the garden means to our visitors and supporters. I confess I was a wee bit tearful at times at both the level of donations and the kindness and support that came with them.

It made us all determined to work even harder, both to ensure that the garden would not fail and to safeguard its future. With just two full-time staff and a part-time volunteer coordinator, the garden is primarily maintained by our 50 strong volunteer team who have been the driving force behind getting the garden back into shape after three months of furlough.



Dipping pond and Helmsley Castle.  
*(Photo credit: Colin Dilcock)*

We reached our £50,000 target in six weeks and amazingly were able to open our doors again to the public in August; it has been the most challenging roller-coaster of a year and we are proud of, and grateful to, all our volunteers and supporters who have helped us to survive.

Thank you.

**Tricia Harris**  
*Assistant Garden Manager and  
Marketing and Communications Manager*



Dahlias and Helmsley Castle. *(Photo credit: Colin Dilcock)*

# Sir John Reresby's list – why did he make it?

## YGT's Chair delves deeper into our lockdown research project

### Introduction

Following the launch of the YGT's lockdown challenge project, which was reported in the Summer e-Bulletin, to try to rediscover today some of the plants grown in Sir John Reresby's garden in the middle of the seventeenth century, Chris Webb reflects on why Sir John decided to make such a list.

### Possible reasons

There are many puzzles associated with the list of plants in Reresby's garden, not least of which is his reason for making it. Dr Sally O'Halloran, who is the expert on Reresby and his garden, notes that his neighbour, Rev Walter Stonehouse of Darley, had begun a similar list of his own garden a couple of years earlier, possibly in the "hope of founding a new colony"<sup>1</sup>

The ravages (actual and rumoured) of the Civil War offer a further explanation. In August 1642, four months after Reresby began his list, an eyewitness reported an 'outrage' committed by soldiers for the King and Parliament upon a garden and house in Acton (Essex)



Pears from Parkinson's *Paradisi in sole*

“some six miles distant from London, where lived a gentleman, reported and believed to be different in religion (as too many now-a-dayes are, which we know to be the cause of all our evils,) from the Church of England; but, in the voice of most of his neighbours, a sober, moderate, and charitable-minded man. This gentleman, having in his house no more but one ancient gentlewoman, his kinswoman, whom he intrusted as his housekeeper, with one serving man and maide, had his house besett with divers companies of soldiers, who had listed themselves for the service of the King and Parliament, and were in pay and command under officers; where, after they had forced him to open the gates by threatning words, they entered the house, and so strangely despoiled him that they left him not a bed, bedstead, table, doore, or glasse window, chest, trunk, or the smallest utensil, but sold all for very small prices before his servants' faces, some of them having forced him before on foote to London; and for his bills, bonds, letters, and other writings the

most part they tore in pieces, and strewed them about the house; others some they sent up to London. He hath, with much industry and long time, rarely furnished a plot of ground with the choicest flowers and outlandish trees which he could procure, which they plucked up by the roots, as many as they could, and the rest left so desolate that, whereas it was thought the finest and most curious gardens in all those parts, there is now left nothing but the ruines of Art and Nature”.

(Ellis, H. (1854). XXIV.—*Letters from a Subaltern Officer of the Earl of Essex's Army, written in the Summer and Autumn of 1642; detailing the early movements of that portion of the Parliament Forces which was formed by the Volunteers of the Metropolis; and their further movements when amalgamated with the rest of the Earl of Essex's Troops. Communicated by Sir Henry Ellis, K.H., F.R.S., Director, in a Letter to the Viscount Mahon, President. Archaeologia, 35(2), 310-334. doi:10.1017/S0261340900002885.*)

<sup>1</sup>The Exactness and Nicety of Those Things: Sir John Reresby's Garden Notebook and Garden (1633-44) at Thrybergh, Yorkshire, Jan Woudstra and Sally O'Halloran, *Garden History* Vol. 36, No. 1 (Spring, 2008), p. 154.

Rumours of the ravages of the rival armies were circulated effectively through pamphlets and tracts (there is an excellent collection in York Minster Library) and through the extensive correspondence and visiting kept up by gentlemen and their families.

Perhaps it was neither of these anticipated or feared cataclysms. We should not underestimate the popularity of list-making and the keeping of notes of all kinds in what are often called commonplace books. There are hundreds of examples of these in archives all over the UK: *The Book of Remarks of William Storr of Cawood* is one local example (Borthwick Institute for Archives, MD/153). Sometimes in these books it is hard to discern any particular reason for a note having been made. Idle curiosity certainly seems to have played a part in Storr's book, which contains 'miscellaneous notes on weather, natural phenomena, famous men, foreign lands etc., early 18th century' as well as more obviously useful lists of local landowners and Storr's acreage under timber, for example.

In Resesby's case one might also wonder why he bothered to write a list at all, when he could have followed common practice in the 16th and 17th centuries and made notes directly in his copy of Parkinson's book. We know that when making his list he had a copy of John Parkinson's *Paradisi in*

*Sole Paradisus Terrestris* close at hand since, as Sally O'Halloran shows, he consistently (but not invariably) notes the page number in Parkinson and uses the Latin name given by Parkinson. We do not know, however, whether Resesby owned a copy of Parkinson, or had a copy on loan. There is sparse information about provenance for any surviving copies of *Paradisi* in international libraries contributing to the various online book catalogues, and none that I have found shows evidence of having been owned by Sir John. On the other hand, we know that Resesby exchanged plants and information with friends and neighbours, so he might have borrowed a copy, or his own copy might have disappeared when his estates were sequestered in 1644.

Further puzzles remain. How, exactly, did Resesby make his list? Did he work directly from Parkinson, on a cold wet day in April when he had no chance of getting out of the house? Did he go round the garden, then resort to Parkinson? Close examination of Resesby's notebook might suggest answers to these questions and probably, if my experience of using archives is anything to go by, further examination might well raise yet more questions.

**Chris Webb**  
**YGT Chair**

## News From Aysgarth Edwardian Rock Garden

We have been the owners of Aysgarth Edwardian Rock Garden since January 2012 and for some time we have been hoping to find a way to secure its long-term future as a garden freely open to all.

In the summer of 2019 we approached Aysgarth and District Parish Council with a view to gifting it into their care during 2020. We were delighted that they took up the idea enthusiastically and on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> September the legal transfer of ownership was successfully completed.

We have thoroughly enjoyed looking after this unique and historically important garden during the eight years we have been its custodians. It has been fascinating to talk to visitors, both those living in the local area and those who have travelled from further afield.

We want to thank all the people who have visited for their interest and in particular would like to acknowledge the long-term support shown by residents of Aysgarth.

We wish the garden every success in its new incarnation as a community-owned space.

**Words and photo: Rosemary and Adrian Anderson,**  
**YGT members.**



# Summer Picnic at Low Askew Farm

Wednesday 25 June 2019

## Low Askew Farm

Our journey to Low Askew took us longer than we thought on that misty June morning, so we half expected that Martin and Penelope's garden tour had already begun, and that we had missed her introductory talk. Sadly, we had, however we were warmly welcomed by the wife of the retired Bishop of Peru, now Vicar of St Mary's Lastingham, which we were due to visit later on. She found it chilly outside and had returned to thaw out in the outbuilding (once a dairy) now used as a café at garden open days. She put the kettle on for us and, as we drank coffee, we admired the 18th century stone farm buildings which some years ago had been beautifully restored, including the large granary and old mill. It was the third time we had visited Low Askew over the years. Set in a glacial valley of the River Seven, the land has been inhabited since Bronze age times and there are several barrows close to the house. The Farm has been Martin and Penelope's home for almost 40 years and all three daughters were married in St Mary's Church just a mile away. Penelope always intended that the design of the garden should naturally nestle into the landscape beyond and it does.

## The Garden

Entering the garden, which is sheltered by stone walls to the east and west, we wended our way down the central path, lined by flowering crab apples and variegated pyramidal hollies to the sloping lawns and waving flower beds, the largest

to the west partly shaded by an ancient oak which, in early spring, is carpeted with snowdrops and hellebores. We soon encountered Penelope coming towards us, dressed in fetching white trousers, palest sunny pink cashmere top and wide brimmed hat, to keep her shaded from the sun and shielded from the showers! Aware of such confidence, the heavens dared not open, but the sun dared to shine just a little!

The garden is full of wonderful features yet not too much to spoil the main attraction of bold and leafy planting, choice plants and shrubs, many evergreen (her three favourites being *Sarcococca confusa*, *Daphne laureola* and *Viburnum davidii*) and Penelope's pride and joy at this time of the year, her deep-blue 12 foot delphiniums set against a limestone wall well-matched in height.

Steps lead down to the lower part of the garden with its finely mown lawns and specimen trees. Various shades of geraniums grow by the stream walls interspersed with pimpinellifolia roses. On the eastern side, beneath a fine and venerable oak, a little wooden bridge leads one into the old cow pasture and the site of a Bronze Age barrow. Continuing along the banks of the River Seven, and the river walk created by Martin and Penelope to help the wild daffodils naturalise, one can walk to the end of the valley and eventually to the sleepy village of Sinnington.

Returning to the garden, certain beds are bordered with clipped box giving a hint of formality.



Penelope's remarkable 12' delphiniums against the limestone wall.



The south facing scree with the prized geum at the bottom right.

Close to the house and adjoining the old mill is a sloping scree, originally designed for alpinists until the mice got their teeth into them. Then it was transformed into a Mediterranean area where plants flourish in their south-facing position. Penelope showed us a large choice ruby-red geum which she had been given by the owner of Hereton House in Northumberland, during the YGT weekend to celebrate the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Capability Brown in 2016. Soon, she said, she would be dividing it, much to the delight of those standing nearby!

Beech hedges planted soon after Martin and Penelope arrived here enclose much of the garden and divide it from other less formal areas such as the adjoining wood, planted at the same time. One enters the wood from the east side of the garden, offering the visitor a beautiful view of the River Seven as it bends south on its course through the valley to join the Derwent.

Martin and Penelope were thrilled with the gift from YGT of a cedar of Lebanon *Cedrus libani*. They told us it was in this peaceful area that a ceremonial planting would take place and that a plaque inscribed with the name of Yorkshire Gardens Trust and the date of the picnic would mark the occasion.

“We were very touched” they said, “by the kindness and generosity of the YGT, and how thoughtful of Vicky to choose us such a beautiful

specimen having known the last one we planted had died”. Penelope has been involved with YGT since its inception at Bramham Park on May 10<sup>th</sup> 1996 and her membership card is numbered five!

She became, and remains, a Trustee and was Chairman of the Trust from 2006 to 2010. Over the years we have enjoyed her articles both in YGT Newsletters and *Country Life*, many about her experiences while plant-hunting in some of the most inhospitable parts of the world. Her love of pelargoniums took her to the island of Saint Helena where she was taken up the highest peaks to see one of the island’s last surviving endemic species - *Pelargonium cotyledonis* (Old Man Live Forever) and the St Helena Ebony *Trochetiopsis ebenus*, thought to have been extinct until 1980, when it was rediscovered here.

In one YGT Newsletter she tells of her journey with Martin up the Amazon when one night, in a small canoe with native Indians, a giant fish leapt up from the murky waters, striking her on the neck and giving her whiplash which almost resulted in her being tipped out of the canoe. The nearest doctor was two days down river, so it was not until she returned home that she visited her doctor who noted visible fin marks.

### **St Mary’s Church, Lastingham**

Leaving Low Askew to join the others visiting St Mary’s Church in Lastingham, we spotted Martin collecting the signs which he’d put up earlier to



ensure members didn't get lost down the windy lanes, recognition that hosts on these occasions are not only involved with the preparations but the clearing-up afterwards.

The church is a gem. Penelope has been a churchwarden for two years and Chairman of The Friends of Lastingham Church for over ten. Their greatest achievement most recently has been the conservation of the unique painted glass windows in the Apse carried out by York Glaziers Trust.

Commissioned by Professor Sydney Ringer in 1875 in memory of his beloved daughter Annie, they are stunning examples of the work of Florentine Gothic Revival stained glass pioneer Ulisse De Matteis (1827-1910).

We were warmly welcomed by Bishop Bill Godfrey (Father Bill to his parishioners) who explained the early history of St Mary's which dates back to 654 when Cedd, a monk and bishop of Holy Island, Lindisfarne, founded a monastery here. Cedd died of the plague in 664 after returning from the Synod at Whitby. The original wooden church was eventually replaced by a stone one, and then in 1078, a fine stone crypt was built by Stephen of Whitby, which astonishingly has remained intact for almost 1,000 years. Cedd's body is interred on the right side of the stone altar which is visited by pilgrims from all over the world.

Since 1228 the parish has been served by vicars in unbroken succession and their names appear in a framed list attached to one of the church walls. One of them, who was not paid very much, had a wife and thirteen children. His wife kept the local pub, the Blacksmith's Arms, and he sometimes played the violin to entertain his parishioners. He wrote:



The hand painted stained glass by Ulisse De Matteis in St Mary's Church, Lastingham.

*"My parishioners enjoy a triple advantage, being instructed, fed and amused all at the same time. Moreover, this method of spending their Sunday is so congenial with their inclinations, that they are imperceptibly led along the paths of piety and morality....."*

This visit was a memorable way of ending a lovely day with the Dawson-Browns and our friends in Yorkshire Gardens Trust.

**Jennifer Tiptaft**

**Photo credits: Penelope Dawson-Brown.**

## Could you be YGT's next Company Secretary?

A vital role and a good way to meet new people.

Being Company Secretary possibly sounds a big job, but in fact many months go by and there is nothing to do! Nevertheless it is an important administrative role and works with the YGT Treasurer and other trustees. The Company Secretary (CS) is responsible for ensuring that regulatory forms and annual accounts and reports are lodged in timely fashion with the Charity Commission and Companies House. The CS also takes and writes the minutes at the Trust's Annual General Meeting each Spring. Most of the work tends to bunch in the period running up to and just after the AGM. If you have some time to spare, and want to get further involved with a very friendly group of trustees, we would welcome your help.

**If you are interested in helping YGT by being Company Secretary or finding out more about the role then please contact**

**Chris Webb, Tel: 07572104672 or e-mail: [pureycust@gmail.com](mailto:pureycust@gmail.com)**

# Broaches Farm and Lowbridge House

Wednesday 17 July 2019



Broaches Farm pond. (Photo credit Gail Falkingham)

## Broaches Farm

Our first visit of the day was to Broaches Farm, owned by Alan and Judith Hutchinson, in the village of Dalton, north-west of Richmond. The Hutchinsons came to the farm 35 years ago, to a house surrounded by fields and without any garden. They first decided to create a caravan site in a field next to the house. They soon realised that this was not a good idea because they had no privacy from the campers, so they moved the caravans to the present site, further down the drive and closer to the road. They then planted a shelter belt of trees between the caravans and the house to give both shelter to the house from the prevailing wind and more seclusion for themselves.

Judith and Alan then decided to make a garden on the land formerly occupied by the caravans. Alan decided he would like a pond, and when a neighbour offered to come and dig one out for him, he was unable to resist. The paved area around the house came next, and the rest of the garden gradually evolved over time.

The garden is informal in style with several island beds densely planted with herbaceous perennials, shrubs, clematis, roses and several specimens of acers, a ginkgo biloba, a weeping pear and several conifers. Judith said that most of the plants were gifts or exchanges, which adds a very personal element. Some of the beds include pergolas and screens built by Alan from reclaimed timber which

are now covered with roses and clematis, and a kitchen garden has been created with raised beds made from reclaimed wood. Judith has sown poppies among the fruit and vegetables to add colour and interest, and the effect is quite delightful. The pond now includes a waterfall and is planted with water lilies.

The garden has been deliberately created to be friendly to wildlife, so the flower beds have been densely planted to provide cover, which also has the effect of reducing weeds. The grass paths around the flower beds are kept quite narrow in order to retain some long grass alongside which also provides cover.

On the north side of the garden there is a beck running along the side of a low hedge with gunnera, astilbes and irises planted on the banks. Here wildflowers are allowed to flourish. The beck provides water to the pond via a pump, and the pond water is fed back into the beck lower down.

Judith has also added other features over the years, such as a bug hotel and a Wendy house for children to enjoy. Additionally there are several small metal sculptures within the flower beds that she has purchased at flower shows.

After walking around the garden for a while, we all began to appreciate the tranquil atmosphere, not only within the garden, but also in the surrounding countryside. The only sounds that we

could hear were from the pond waterfall and the wind in the trees. No noise from road traffic, aircraft, or agricultural machinery; it was a pleasure to sit in the garden with our drinks and the excellent cakes and just relax and chat to one another.

We were also treated to a performance by Judith's dog and one of the hens that roam freely in the garden. This consisted of the dog running around one of the flower beds to "ambush" the hen from several angles, while the hen just stood her ground and stared at the dog with utter contempt.

### **Lowbridge House**

The second visit of the day was to Lowbridge House, close by in Dalton, owned by Clarissa Milbank. On arriving we could see a lawn and flowerbeds on the south side of the house, and a vegetable garden at the rear of the house, but we had been told to continue round the house to the far side. As instructed, we did so and discovered a delightful water garden. We saw a small lake (to describe it as a "pond" seems insufficient) planted with rushes and reeds to attract wildfowl and more recently with waterlilies. The lake is stocked with fish and attracts damselflies in profusion. An island has been created to provide secure nesting for a variety of birds. Coots, moorhens, teal, mallards, a visiting swan and also kingfishers have been seen. We could see some

movement in the rushes, but the waterfowl were perhaps not used to large numbers of people and preferred to hide away.

The Milbanks came to Lowbridge House in 2005, and Clarissa's husband decided to create the lake on the field next to the house. He helped to build it and moved earth to create banks on the south side that people can walk on and admire both the lake and the valley beyond. He also lined the base and installed the revetments on the sides. Water is pumped into the lake from a stream that runs through the site and it is returned to the stream further away. Sadly, he did not live to see its full development and the arrival of wildlife.

Beyond the lake is a small wood, planted with ash, oak, hazel and other specimen trees and also laurels, rhododendrons and other ornamental shrubs, all designed to provide cover for birds and other wildlife through the canopies up to the highest tree top. There are narrow walkways through the trees, but the grass has mostly been kept long with the intention of providing cover and nesting sites at ground level.

The weather was warm and fine all day, and it was such a pleasure to sit beside this lake with tea and more excellent cakes and enjoy the atmosphere and beautiful views of the surrounding countryside.

***Liz Barker***



Lowbridge House lake. (Photo credit Gail Falkingham)

# Weston Hall and the Stone Garden

Wednesday 31 July 2019

A week after the Hottest Day Ever came the downpours and flash-flooding in parts of our county. Happily, after a wet start to the day, the sun came out over Weston, which is only a mile or so from Otley, but just over the border into North Yorkshire. As ever, the YGT banner pointed the way and, as is also becoming the norm, Geoff Hughes was there with his high-vis vest and a cheery wave.

There had been such interest in a visit to Weston that the events team offered three tours over the course of the day, so there was a constant stream of members circulating around the hamlet. Our hosts at Weston Hall were the current owners Christopher and Mary Dawson, who welcomed us warmly and guided us around the house and grounds with the assistance of Wendy and David, who look after the house and garden.

## All Saints Church

First stop for each group was the Grade I listed ancient church of All Saints, a lovely little building originally built in the 11th century but with later additions, including a peculiar buttress which was the source of much discussion. Of particular interest to YGT members was a memorial window to Mrs. Emma Dawson inserted in 1882. The painted glass illustrates her patronage of the Redcar Lifeboat with a view of the craft putting out to sea. Looking closely the boat is named "Emma" and underneath are the words "United Free Gardener". A brass plaque under the window explains that the window was erected in "affectionate remembrance" of Emma Dawson by the National United Order of Free Gardeners Friendly Society. A quick consultation confirmed that no-one present seemed to be familiar with this organisation so, with a little help from google, all can be revealed here.

Emma Dawson funded the Redcar lifeboat and lifeboat station in collaboration with the United Order of Free Gardeners and the boat operated independently of the RNLI: the full story can be discovered at the Zetland Lifeboat Museum in Redcar. The United Order of Free Gardeners originated in Scotland in the 17th century and the earliest members were gentlemen gardeners with land of their own. Within a century the Order had grown to include professional gardeners and provided training and a benevolent fund. The members were not freemasons, but were similarly organised in lodges, and held floral exhibitions and horticultural shows. Eventually, the society's activities became purely charitable before the lodges largely disappeared in the 20th century.



The memorial window in All Saints' Church.

From the church we walked to the tithe barn with its giant oak beams and trusses held together with traditional wooden pegs. It was probably built in the 16th century and is a very impressive structure in remarkably good condition.

## Weston Hall and garden

A short stroll around the corner revealed the twin beauties of Weston Hall and its detached Banqueting House, both Grade I listed and built in the late 16th or early 17th century for Sir Mauger Vavasour. The house has had later additions and the interiors reflect this: downstairs is a bedroom of dark oak furniture where a ceiling with features apparently from the reign of Henry VII features the heraldic emblems of the Vavasours, including a fiery red dragon. Upstairs, on the *piano nobile*, the ceiling is light and airy in a Victorian interpretation of the Adam style.

But we are the Yorkshire Gardens Trust so it was time to get out into the emerging sunshine. It is fair to say that the gardens at Weston are in need of some restoration and the current owners do have long-term plans to do so. Both the Hall and



The East Principal Front, Weston Hall.

the Banqueting House are set at the back edge of the rich, alluvial flatlands straddling the River Wharfe, tucked against the steeply rising land to the north. This heavily wooded bank ensures that modern visitors are surprised as they drop down through the trees to discover the house, although historically the principal access was from Otley, east of the house. The embankment immediately behind the house advantageously faces south, providing a natural setting for gardens. The extant adjacent gardens on this sunny slope now include an inheritance of walled kitchen gardens – in various states of decline, including associated remnants of glasshouses.



Potting shed, Weston Hall.

In contrast, the polite views from the main house and the Banqueting House are towards the south and east, over lawns, falling meadows and down the valley. A substantial lake sits in the middle background – it has an island and it has previously enjoyed a bridge. A highlight is the late 16th/early 17th century Banqueting House, built as a place to eat dessert and enjoy the views from the roof, as was in vogue at the time of its construction.



The Banqueting House, Weston Hall

Sir Mauger married Joan Savile and the building features their avian emblems of the Vavasour cock and the Savile owl. “Very lavish”, said Pevsner. As we no longer trek across our gardens to eat pudding, the building has been adapted for other uses. It was playroom and schoolroom for the present owner’s grandfather and has also housed a snooker table. For more on the tower see Susan Kellerman’s account at [Karen Lynch’s blog thefollyflaneuse.com/the-banqueting-house-weston-near-otley-north-yorkshire/](http://Karen Lynch’s blog thefollyflaneuse.com/the-banqueting-house-weston-near-otley-north-yorkshire/)

**The Stone Garden**

Wandering up the hill we encountered a very different kind of garden: the *hortus conclusus* that is Ronnie Duncan’s stone garden. For over 25 years Ronnie has been creating this garden from stone, mostly reclaimed or repurposed, but with the occasional piece sculpted for the site. As a sign at the entrance warns, “this is not a horticultural garden” and a quotation from Ian Hamilton Finlay, the artist-creator of Little Sparta in Scotland, wittily reinforces the point: “Flowers in a garden are an acceptable eccentricity”. But the garden doesn’t lack colour and simple planting, including lots of lavender and *alchemilla mollis* perfectly accentuates the greys, greens and mauves of the local stone.



The Stone Garden, Weston.

I must also mention the team at the Cockpit Tea-rooms in Weston, who opened especially for the YGT, and kept us all fuelled with cakes and lunch. Thanks to the Events Team for a wonderful day full of interest and variety.

**Karen Lynch**

**Photo credits: Karen Lynch and Roger Lambert**

# Greenhead Park and Clem's Garden, Huddersfield

11 September 2019

Things were not looking too good as I turned off the M62 at Junction 24. The wipers had gone on to double speed and the weather threatened to spoil the visit but how different it all turned out. By mid-morning, as we sipped coffees in the newly restored conservatory in Greenhead Park, the sun was out and the temperature and our hopes were rising.

## Greenhead Park

About twenty YGT members had gathered to hear from three excellent guides from the Friends of Greenhead Park, Glenis, Jane and Howard, who joined us on a walk led by local historian David Griffiths, author of a definitive history of Greenhead. Together they told us something of the history of this archetypal Victorian public park and how it has been rescued with the help of the Heritage Lottery Fund (now the National Lottery Heritage Fund).

Lying half a mile from the centre of Huddersfield, Greenhead sits on land acquired from the Ramsden Estates. The main driver was a local philanthropist, Thomas Denham, who was keen to provide a park with all the amenities needed to support the town's recreational needs. He originally privately leased 15 acres with the Corporation securing a further 30 acres in 1881. The park was home-grown to the designs of the borough surveyor, Richard Dugdale. Today it sports three lakes, bowling greens, tennis courts, an Italian garden, a miniature railway, a bandstand and a portentous hill-top war memorial.

Like many municipal parks, Greenhead has enjoyed mixed fortunes over the years.

The large ornamental lake was filled in in the 1950s and an impressive statue of Rebecca is now lost, as are the outdoor theatre and most of an outdoor museum. The 1930s conservatory had become dilapidated and had only reopened days before. To show the changes, David Griffiths made good use of historic photographs which he produced at the appropriate locations. One of these was of the open-air pool and he surmised that it dated from the 1950s. "No, it doesn't" said one of our party, Gavin Barlow. "It's from the 1960s because it shows a younger me on the edge of the pool!". YGT visits never fail to provide a surprise or two.



The restored Conservatory and Rose Garden

Since the recent renovations with Lottery funding, what is clear now is that the future of the park lies very much in the hands of its enthusiastic volunteers. They are inevitably being called on to do more and more as local authority funding shrinks. The Council's staff team is much reduced and their plants are now bought in from Darlington. The Friends Group is actively raising funds for improvements such as the green sedum roof on the park pavilion. Today the park is impressively well cared-for; we must hope it can continue to be so.

Our guides were thanked for their very informative walk, Jane receiving a donation for the Friends and David a year's YGT membership.

## Briarcourt and Clem's garden

After lunch we headed north to the Arcadian suburb of Lindley. Here the well-to-do of prosperous Victorian and Edwardian Huddersfield enjoyed a semi-rural existence whilst close to the amenities of the town. We were fortunate to be given access to Briarcourt, an arts-and-crafts house built in 1894-5 to the designs of architect Edgar Wood who is best known locally for the Lindley Clock Tower and houses in the Manchester area.



View from Greenhead Park's highest point at the War Memorial looking down the main avenue.



The house from the front lawn

Briarcourt was commissioned by the Sykes family, local industrialists, and built as a wedding present for H.H. Sykes and Edgar Wood's sister on their marriage. Years of institutional use as a children's centre, old peoples' home and accommodation for those with special needs had stripped the house of much of its detailing and the grounds were sadly neglected. The cavalry arrived four years ago in the form of Vicky and Dunc who, as a childless couple, are putting their love into restoring the house and grounds. Describing herself as "a bit of a wild woman" Vicky made us very welcome and shared their story with honesty and passion.

The focus of our visit was Clem's Garden, a social enterprise set up in the grounds two years

ago and run entirely by a group of about 30 local volunteers. They work together to grow and sell cut flowers, with surplus funds going to charities and community projects in the area. The gardening is organic and the group is a member of the "Flowers from the Farm" network. Clem's Garden's mission sums up what they do: "Strengthening our community. Nurturing experience, talent, friendship ... and flowers."

The garden tour was followed by a look at some of the ground floor rooms of the house. The worst of the institutionalisation is being undone and the quality of the arts and crafts detailing is once again on show. We particularly enjoyed the Fred Jackson frieze with its briar rose motif. Our memorable visit ended with refreshments including Vicky's delicious home-made cakes. We thanked Vicky and team and gave a donation to Clem's Garden and a one-year honorary membership to Vicky.

Our thanks go to all the local guides but chiefly to Maddy and Geoff Hughes for organising such an interesting day so well.

There is more on Greenhead Park at [www.friendsofgreenheadpark.org.uk](http://www.friendsofgreenheadpark.org.uk) and on Clem's Garden at [www.clemsgarden.co.uk](http://www.clemsgarden.co.uk). Do visit if you can.

***Richard Taylor***

***Photo credits: Richard Taylor***



Blooms grown for cutting in Clem's Garden

# Snowdrop Visit to Kiplin Hall

27 February 2020

Instead of the threatened snow we were rewarded with crisp winter sunshine which set off the mellow brickwork, banks of snowdrops and gleaming lake to best advantage, though the wind had a biting edge making us very grateful for the excellent coffee and biscuits provided for us on arrival.

Marcia McLuckie, who was present at the 2014 archaeological survey, gave a very enlightening talk about the development of the grounds over the past 400 years which helped us to navigate our way round the gardens in the hour before lunch. Very helpful also were the notes and maps provided by Val Hepworth. Following a very welcome bowl of hot soup (those winds were cold!) we were led on an extensive tour of the house by Jeremy Hutchinson whose encyclopaedic knowledge of the complex lives and relationships of the various owners and his fund of amusing anecdotes kept us well entertained. Thank you, Marcia and Jeremy.

## Ownership of Kiplin Hall

Although the 2014 archaeological survey revealed habitation of the Kiplin Hall site from the Bronze Age through to the Roman and early medieval period, the first notable owners were the Calverts. George Calvert, later Baron Baltimore, bought 800 acres at Kiplin in 1619 and built a shooting lodge there. Although under their ownership for four or five generations, the hall never became a family home. No formal gardens were laid out and no further land bought. A notable legacy from that period is the link forged with New England where George Calvert was granted territory, later named Maryland. The connection remains strong to this day with a Maryland Centre established in the old farmhouse and used by the University of Maryland for student summer courses.

When the ownership of the hall passed to Christopher Crowe in 1722 he, and later his son, increased the size of the estate to 4,500 acres and began to improve the landscape in a typical 18th century manner. By the middle of the century parkland had been laid out with extensive tree planting, a serpentine lake had been created by damming the Kiplin Beck and sometime in the 1740's a garden house was built. Christopher Crowe the younger, famed for his interest in agricultural improvements on the estate, seems also to have lavished money on his walled garden, judging from his seed orders which included "Italian celery, purple broccoli, nonpareil peas, prickly cucumber, painted lady sweet peas and larkspur". The final and most significant improvement was made by Robert Crowe in 1793



Kiplin Hall and landscape. (Photo credit: Roger Lambert)

when he negotiated a diversion order re-routing the main road to Richmond from the front of his house further to the north and east so providing not only more privacy but space for further development of the parkland.

It was not until 1878 that a fine driveway bordered with limes was laid out, connecting the front entrance to the hall with the main road. By now the estate had passed into the hands of the Carpenter family who from 1818 until the end of the 19th century invested a good deal of money in the estate and gardens. The serpentine lake was enlarged and a Gothic Folly built further to the west. Lady Tyrconnel's garden contained large lawns and flower beds as well as a lily pond surrounded by a rockery, as was fashionable at that time. The large walled kitchen garden was well stocked with cut flowers, fruit and vegetables. It also boasted heated walls with peach canopies and extensive glasshouses for exotic fruit and plants. Close by was a substantial orchard. With the addition of tennis and croquet lawns, Kiplin Hall provided all that would be expected of a well endowed Victorian establishment.

## Decline in 20th century

The 20th century saw a sad decline in the fortunes of the hall and by 1930 the original 5,000 acres had been reduced to 120 but, thanks to the



strenuous efforts of Bridget Talbot, the last owner of Kiplin, a board of trustees was set up and very gradually restoration began. The 1990s' gravel excavation to the west of the hall, to make money to fund the project, resulted in the creation of a beautiful lake, not serpentine but sufficiently in keeping with the 18th century parkland. The Gothic folly on the far side of the lake is currently used as a boathouse and is yet to be fully restored.

When I looked at the 1780 painting of the elegantly compact brick house surrounded by its sweeping gravel drive and smooth sloping lawns, uncluttered by parterres, yew hedges or rose gardens, I thought it might have been interesting to restore the hall to its original simplicity. But houses are for living in and have to accommodate changing needs. Fashions in gardening change too, as do ideals of beauty and attitudes to history. Restoration needs to reflect this as well. I must admit that the avid gardener in me was excited by the current restoration and reinterpretation of the garden's development over the past 400 years.

In 2009 lottery money was used to restore the 18th and 19th century pleasure gardens, making it possible to walk up through the original 18th century woodland past Lady Tyrconnel's lily pond and eventually turning right into the long peninsular wood. Here excavations discovered the foundations of the 18th century summer house marked on the 1857 Ordnance Survey map.

Unfortunately no notices have been left to indicate the site but, guessing at its location, I could see that it would have afforded fine views back to the house. Portions of the old Northallerton to Richmond road were also uncovered, but again there was no information. Close to the end of the peninsular wood a mown track through the grass seemed to represent the original driveway laid down by Walter Carpenter in 1878-80, curving down the hill and through the lime tree avenue up to the entrance gates.

### **Restoration of the Walled Garden and Orchard**

Two original features, the walled garden and the orchard, have been lovingly restored. The walled garden, replanted in 2010, was immaculate even in February. As in the Victorian period it was divided into three main areas for cut flowers, vegetables and soft fruit, with espaliered fruit trees round the walls and a herb parterre in front of the greenhouse. On the outside of the south facing wall is a steel structure representing the conservatory where exotic plants would have been grown in the 19th century. The orchard, replanted in 2017, was funded by direct descendants of the Calvert family. The apple varieties chosen were those recommended by Loudon in his *Encyclopedia of Gardening* for the best balance of sweet, bitter and sharp flavours needed for making cider. Surrounding the orchard is an edible hedge

with a mixed planting of rugosa roses, wild plum, hawthorn and hazel, a nice 21st century touch. Lady Tyrconnel's large garden which adjoined the orchard has not been restored and is currently used as a field for Kiplin Scouts.

Other garden features are a re-interpretation of the past rather than exact restorations. As a reminder of the rose garden designed for the Tyrconnels by William Nesfield, a new rose garden was laid out in 2008 adjacent to the library wing. The shape of the beds and patterning in the paths cleverly reflects the diamond patterning in the brickwork. The planting is traditional with pink and white shrub roses interspersed with lavender and carpeted with bulbs in spring. The box rectangles on either side of the main door are filled with gold and variegated euonymus creating a tapestry effect.

Hugging the building on the west side are some 17th century style knot gardens laid out in an intricate pattern with pyramids of yew at intervals, the formality relieved by the very 21st century allium "Purple Sensation". The hedging of box and rosemary is laid out with circles and diamonds representing the heavens and earth respectively.

Also very 21st century is the secluded Sensory Garden made in 2010, a restful private space filled with rustling *Stipa gigantea*, sculptural *Phlomis* and strongly scented hyssop, rosemary and lavender surrounding a central sundial set in a chamomile lawn. Windows cut into the hornbeam hedge look over the lake and towards the bog garden, another very modern concept, with its board walks arched with living willow.

The White Garden created in 2010 is a reminder of 19th century Arts and Crafts design but also of the 20th century interest in the white garden at Sissinghurst. Here four parterres with a central obelisk are edged with stone and stocked with a variety of white hellebores, tulips, lupins, lilies, gypsophila and suchlike depending on the season.

The Laburnum Arch Garden simultaneously makes a kind of gateway to the 18th century pleasure grounds and the walled garden and contains a very rich and varied planting of mostly herbaceous perennials.

All this is maintained by one head gardener and 50 volunteers, a mammoth task, made more difficult at present by the interruption in garden maintenance caused by the coronavirus pandemic, but much had already been restored to good order when I revisited in June. Restoration is ongoing and it will be very interesting indeed to see how the garden develops in the future.

**Pat Robertson**

# Visit to York Museum Gardens

Thursday 23 July 2020



The Yorkshire Museum, with colourful, recently replanted herbaceous border

A small YGT group met Peter Hogarth and Ewan Anderson, authors of *The Most Fortunate Situation: The Story of York's Museum Gardens* on a quiet July day, with the Yorkshire Museum still closed owing to the coronavirus pandemic. Our planned pre-visit indoor briefing had to be cancelled, so we were prepared for a fully outdoor visit, with showers forecast.

We commenced with the history of the site. Standing by the Multangular Tower, Peter reminded us that we were on the site of the fortress of the Roman 9th legion, established in 69AD, which largely determined the current boundaries of the gardens. The other major foundation which impacted on the site was, of course, the Benedictine monastery of St Mary, the ruins of which form a backdrop to the gardens.

The Yorkshire Museum opened on the current site in 1828 when land was given to the Yorkshire Philosophical Society through a Royal Grant. The design of the gardens, much of which remains today, dates from a commission in 1844 to designer, Sir John Murray Naesmyth, and also to Henry Baines who was employed as sub-curator of the museum in 1829, and was made responsible for creating and maintaining the Museum Gardens when they were established. Baines was a remarkable gardener, having previously held the post of foreman to the Backhouse nurseries. By the time the gardens had opened he had already amassed around 1,400 plants and shrubs for the initial planting. During his long career at the gardens, through his network of acquaintances, he

obtained rare and unusual plants from other botanic gardens, for instance, a giant Amazonian Water Lily, *Victoria amazonica*, from Joseph Paxton, at a time when the only specimens in the country were at Kew and Chatsworth. The Philosophical Society built Manor Cottage as a home for Baines and his family in 1844, close to the Multangular Tower.

From then on the gardens have served two roles, as a botanic garden and as a pleasure garden for Yorkshire Philosophical Society members and the public at large until, in January 1961, the Museum and Gardens were given in trust to the City of York Council and they became a public park. Since 2002 they have been managed by the York Museums Trust, which also manages York Castle Museum and York Art Gallery.

During a heavy rainstorm we sheltered under a tree and heard from Steve Williams, Gardens Manager, regarding the current management of the gardens, saw some of his recent plantings and heard of his plans. A future challenge will be plans by the Environment Agency to raise and widen the current flood embankment. Whilst this will mean the felling of some trees there will also be the opportunity to replace them, which will provide an important legacy.

Other areas of the garden visited included the Edible Wood, designed by Alison Pringle in 2015 and situated on a site used to cultivate edible plants for many centuries.

Our visit concluded with a broad sweep of the "lower" part of the gardens where Ewan Anderson



The recently planted Edible Garden expertly provided an entertaining guide to particular specimen trees including a true service tree, (*Sorbus domestica* ‘Pyriformis’), thought to be a direct descendant of the only known native true service tree, which was discovered in the Forest of Wyre but destroyed by fire in 1862.

Our visit concluded, as it began, close to the narrow leaved ash, (*Fraxinus angustifolia* ‘Lentiscifolia’), recognised in the National Tree Register (1991), as a Champion, but later pruned, as increasing failure in its water transport system caused some of the upper branches to become dry

Narrow Leaved Ash (former Champion Tree) heavily pruned and brittle, and hence potentially unsafe.

Our thanks to Peter, Ewan and Steve for providing us with such a worthwhile and entertaining visit which so expertly covered aspects of the past, present and future of the gardens, interlinking the fabric with the history. As recognition of this trip Yorkshire Gardens Trust will present the gardens with a *Viburnum carlesii* in the autumn.

**Maddy Hughes**  
**YGT Trustee and Treasurer**

**Photo credits: Gail Falkingham**

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## New Book: Timothy Hutton (1779-1863) of Clifton Castle and Marske-in-Swaledale

The Life and Times of a North Yorkshire Gentleman

**With many colour and black and white illustrations and Yorkshire family pedigrees**

Timothy Hutton kept detailed diaries for almost 50 years, revealing how he managed his landowning, banking, family and social life, and his travels, friendships and cultural activities. Hutton was a genial host and perceptive commentator over a period that saw society moving from the Georgian era into the Victorian period of industrialisation. Reading his diaries, we learn how the militia was trained and how turnpike roads and lead mines were financed. All of Hutton’s personal records show him to have been a conscientious and benevolent employer of both household staff and his agricultural workers.

Hutton’s circle included artists and scholars and his diaries record travels, new inventions and the milieu of life as a gentleman with a wide range of interests, responsibilities, relationships and friendships. Jane Hatcher has used her wide knowledge to explore the man and his times in a most readable and scholarly fashion.

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Clifton Castle: a 19th-century two-colour lithograph ( Source: private)

# Conservation and Planning

## “Cherish the past, adorn the present, construct for the future”

Many of you will know Portmeirion near Portmadog, the creation of Sir Clough Williams-Ellis (1883-1978). I last visited this fantastical village in 2006 when we had the Association of Gardens Trusts conference based at Bangor in North Wales. However, I have only just discovered Plas Brondanw, which is the family's old manor house that was given to Clough in a bad state for his 21st birthday and which he used to develop his architectural and garden design ideas and where he lived until his death in 1978. It is now owned by a registered charity called Ymddiriedolaeth Clough Williams-Ellis Foundation ([www.brandanw.org](http://www.brandanw.org)) and overseen by his gardening granddaughter Menna Angharad. If you have never visited then I thoroughly recommend it, as indeed I do Sir Clough's message, which is as clear and relevant now as when he wrote it many years ago: “*Cherish the past, adorn the present, construct for the future*”. The gardens of Plas Brondanw are Grade I on the Cadw list and are a beautiful design of both commanding viewpoints and vistas aimed at Snowdonia summits and intimate enclosed compartments. He loved colour and painted his architectural features, such as gates, turquoise with mustard detailing which does seem to work well. It struck me that, as we are all living through such unpredictable and difficult times, Sir Clough's message is heartening and something which many of us are trying to do in the face of many who seem to want to do the opposite.

This year the YGT Conservation and Planning Sub-committee have met on 10 March, fortunately just before lockdown, and then again via Zoom on 8 July with our next meeting scheduled also via Zoom on 29 September. Although it is good to see and speak with each other via a Zoom meeting, I do find that it is quite taxing and I miss the camaraderie and chit-chat pre- and post-meeting that we have when we meet face-to-face. Between the 10th March and 31st August we have responded to fifty-seven planning applications and it was noticeable that during lockdown the rate of consultations did not abate, in fact there seems to have been a greater number. I think that we are being consulted by Yorkshire's Local Planning Authorities (LPA) more widely than ever. Let us hope that our advice is seen as helpful and can be acted upon. It certainly seems that some LPA's return to us for further advice on particular planning issues where we have registered an objection or concerns. We continue to work with

the Gardens Trust (GT) and Historic England (HE) and are grateful for the support and advice that we get from Chris Mayes, HE's Heritage at Risk Landscape Architect for the North of England. Chris usually attends our meetings as on occasion does our good friend from Natural England, Dr Margaret Nieke.

Returning to some of the planning applications that I wrote about in Issue 46, Spring 2020 and where we have updates.

At **Wentworth Castle** there has been a revised application to replace the existing bungalow called Pine Lodge. The revision had little change and did not address our concerns, so we strongly objected as did HE and the National Trust (NT).

In July we responded to revised plans for the mansion house, associated buildings including Camellia house, car parking infrastructure and landscaping at **Bretton Hall**. As a result of our detailed response, particularly regarding our concerns with car parking, access and landscaping, we have been invited to a site visit in September with the planning and conservation officers of Wakefield Council and the developers.



Bretton Hall 2018: elevation facing lake; marquee proposed for front lawn. (Photo credit: Dick Knight)



Bretton Hall Camellia House 2020  
(Photo credit: Geoff Hughes)

The Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority (YDNPA) has continued to consult us over further amended plans for **Marske Hall** in Swaledale. This historic site with a Grade II\* Hall and an assemblage of other listed buildings faces an uncertain future with a difficult situation due to its topography, layout and finding suitable places for a large amount of car parking. The applicant withdrew the first submission in March. YGT has expressed support in principle but both the subsequent revised submission for 20 apartments and events spaces, and then the amended plans in July for an aparthotel and events space in the sawmill and kennels, have not fully resolved the car parking problem. Subsequently we have learned that HE has expressed the same concerns about the harm that the car parking would cause to the heritage assets. We have now explained to the Principal Planner at the YDNPA that we have no further advice and leave it to their expertise. We were disappointed to learn that our application to HE to consider Marske Hall for the Register of Historic Parks and Gardens had been declined.

At the beginning of April we were consulted on the National Trust Proposals for the Café Building at Canal Gates, **Studley Royal** - Heritage Impact Scoping Report "*Studley Revealed*": *Proposed Renovation and Development at Canal Gates, Studley Royal*. Together with the GT we wrote of our strong support for the NT's charitable purpose to provide physical and intellectual access to special places and the great conservation, repair and presentation work that has been done over many decades to sites owned and managed by the NT. However, we explained that we remain very concerned about the proposals for the Café Building at Canal Gates, Studley Royal and, although the HIA Scoping Report goes into considerable detail, it does not allay our concerns about the whole concept and the GT/YGT is unable to endorse these proposals. We have not heard anything further.



Burton Constable Hall Entrance Front with YGT Conservation members 2018  
(Photo credit: Val Hepworth)

The following are some of the other planning applications that we have responded to:

### East Yorkshire

We have had practical, well-thought through and sympathetic planning applications for alterations to the terrace café at **Sledmere House** and the use of the Great Hall at **Burton Constable** for weddings.

However, the reinstatement of **East Park, Kingston upon Hull**, paddling pool was a poorly documented application and took me some considerable time to gather sufficient information to make an informed response and advise on the exterior works and planting. That was a pity as East Park is a significant and well-loved park and the largest park in Hull. Designed by Joseph Fox Sharp, the Borough Engineer for Kingston-Upon-Hull and opened in 1887, it is reminiscent of Pearson Park to the north of the city and includes a carriage drive around its perimeter. There have been many 20th century additions and changes to the park, including the addition of land for the boating lake to the north of the park which was presented by the businessman and philanthropist Thomas Ferrens in 1913. Further land was added in the 1920's and although much of the original layout of the park has been retained, parts were adapted during the second half of the 20th century.

### North Yorkshire and York

We have had our first planning application for a gin distillery: that would not have happened in the early years of YGT! So, like much else, YGT records the fashions of the times whether it is for horticulture, design, leisure or indeed imbibing alcohol – perhaps we should raise a glass. The planning application from the owners of **Whitby Gin** is for the alteration and extension of old agricultural buildings/barns on land south of Whitby Abbey. The buildings are listed and the site is within the Whitby Conservation Area, part of the Grade I Whitby Abbey House complex, close to the scheduled Whitby Abbey and the north barn lies within the Grade II Registered Historic Park and Garden of Whitby Abbey



Barns for Whitby Gin Distillery with Abbey House and Gardens to left. (Photo credit: Geoff Hughes)

House. After expressing our concerns about insufficient information on the archaeology of this very historic site and impact on the views, we received additional documents and had no objection.

Moving up and down the coast we have had concerning planning applications for properties in Sandsend close to the eastern boundary of the Grade II\* park of **Mulgrave Castle**. At Scarborough we have advised on two planning applications that potentially could affect the **Valley Gardens and South Cliff** but, pleasingly, these should have good outcomes.

The **University of York** has submitted planning applications for alterations to University Central Hall including a new plaza and for changes around the Physics Building. The application sites are situated in the University of York's Campus West and the Campus West designed landscape which is on the Historic England Register of Historic Parks and Gardens at Grade II and was designed by Robert Matthew, Johnson-Marshall & Partners (RMJM); it was registered due to its historic and design interest, landscaping, designers, degree of survival and group value of the university buildings. For the Central Hall application we queried the lighting, planting and paths and the lack of an Environmental Impact Statement, particularly because of the close proximity to the lake and we suggested a landscape management plan. I was grateful for advice from Win Derbyshire who knows the campus and whose late husband's cousin was architect for the development of the University; and from YGT Chair Chris Webb who, as former Keeper of Archives at the Borthwick Institute, also knows the University well.

Also in York we have had a variation of condition for an earlier application at **York Cemetery**. The planning application for a new healthcare centre building for the Schoen Clinic York at **The Retreat** which is on the Register of Historic Parks and Gardens at Grade II\*, has caused us some disquiet. The Retreat dates from 1792-96 and is the earliest example of the expression of so-called moral therapy in an asylum estate landscape. It was the most influential model for public asylum estates during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, its example being developed but not entirely superseded. It was influential beyond England in Europe and North America. We concurred with the comments from the City of York Council Conservation Architect and the Landscape Architect and the points made by HE and thought that the development would not comply with the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 or the National

Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

South of York we have had two planning applications for **Moreby Hall** and one for a replacement care home at **Scarthingwell Park** at Barkston Ash.

Scarthingwell Park is not included by HE on their Register of Parks & Gardens; however, although the house was demolished in the 1960s and was replaced by a care home, Scarthingwell Park is a locally important historic park and garden for Selby DC, and for planning purposes the parkland is considered to have status equivalent to that of a non-designated heritage asset. Some research has been done by YGT's Research and Recording Group which was very helpful and although we had no objection to this planning application, we did have some concerns and strongly supported the advice of Selby DC's Conservation Officer and Principal Landscape Architect.

Scarthingwell Park is near the Towton battlefield and from the 18th century Scarthingwell Park was an ornamental designed landscape centred on the hall. The first record of the designing of the landscape at Scarthingwell comes from 1790 when John Davenport, a nurseryman from Shropshire, was employed by Lord Hawke to form a lake and build a bridge across it.

[www.parksandgardens.org/people/john-davenport](http://www.parksandgardens.org/people/john-davenport)

John Davenport was a nurseryman from Burlton Grove, Wem, Shropshire, active in the 1780s and 1790s, with a speciality in hothouses. Davenport claimed to have been in business since 1768 "employd in considerable Buildings of Houses for gentlemen as well as their Grounds &c.". He designed an elaborate picturesque landscape for Warren Hastings, Governor General of India at Daylesford House, Gloucestershire, but was dismissed in 1791. Davenport's client at Scarthingwell Park, Admiral Hawke, was a prominent 18th century naval commander and it may be that he engaged Davenport in the 1790's. As a nurseryman Davenport may also have been involved in the laying out of the parkland (then c.160 acres) and more formal gardens to the west. Moreby Hall was erected on the site of an earlier house for the Preston family, well-known merchants and bankers from Leeds, in 1828-33. It was only the second country house by renowned architect Anthony Salvin (1799-1881), designed shortly after he had gone to live in London, where he worked for many years with his brother-in-law the significant landscape gardener William Andrews Nesfield, and the architects John L. Pearson and R. Norman Shaw. The terraced gardens were laid out to compliment the new house by John Burr, head gardener at the time, and

included topiary, summerhouses, a rosery, bowling green and a serpentine lake as shown on the OS 1st Edition surveyed 1846. The *Country Life* article of 1907 favourably compares the gardens to those of the famous Westmorland [now Cumbria] House of Levens. The national importance of Moreby Hall is reflected in its Grade II\* listing and there are several Grade II Listed Structures within the Registered Historic Park and Garden. We gave advice on the car parking and gardens (registered Grade II) as part of the conversion of the hall to eleven apartments, but opposed the unacceptable conversion of the garage, as did the Selby DC Conservation Officer.

### **West Yorkshire**

**Horton Park**, Bradford and the Joseph Nutter Orphanage adjacent to it

*“Built by Victorian philanthropy, this orphanage was gifted to the city in an expression of civic pride in 1888. The turrets and ramparts make for unique elevations, and the building is vital to the context of the surrounding parkland”.*

These words can be found on the website [demolitionregister.org/The Demolition Register](http://demolitionregister.org/The-Demolition-Register), which charts all proposals to demolish historic buildings in Yorkshire. Despite many objections, including from the Victorian Society and Bradford Civic Society, demolition took place in May last year. We had not been informed of this application, which was validated on 18 March 2019, with permission soon granted on 11 April. The building was not listed, nor in a conservation area, nor included within the registered Grade II area of Horton Park, yet the orphanage and Horton Park had shared borrowed landscapes and an intertwined history.

Horton Park, opened in 1878, was designed by William Gay, one of the finest Victorian landscapers in the north. Gay is perhaps best known for his cemeteries, including Undercliffe Cemetery, (established 1854) and Toxteth Park



Joseph Nutter Orphanage/House  
(Photo credit: Anne Tupholme)

Cemetery, Liverpool (opened 1856), but he also designed parks including Saltaire Park (Roberts Park). He was one of the most imaginative and gifted designers of the period, using "raised and sunken terraces to enhance the complexities of the landscape" such as the grand terrace at Peel Park. At Horton Park a double-span cast-iron bridge carries the principal promenade over a lake at the centre of the site. Ten years later the grounds in front of the orphanage were laid out in a style similar to that of Horton Park, with low walls between the properties acting as ha-has, whilst a sunken public footpath ran between with mirrored pedestrian entrances to the Park and Orphanage. The latter enabled easy access to the park, not for play, but for the undertaking of regular maintenance of the park required of each orphan. So, this April we responded to an application that squeezes eleven large dwellings into the approximately one acre site by using a rigid geometrical style layout. It appears to be over-development. Trees would need to be felled and those remaining are likely to be impacted both by the building work and afterwards, which is in contrast to the Nutter Orphanage, which had been set back by perhaps 20m, giving an apron of greenspace to visually flow into the park and vice versa.

In this proposal none of these large family houses would be built with a garage. Not only would this lead to views from Horton Park being marred by cars, but most likely additional buildings too, due to the lack of any indoor storage space for bicycles, gardening equipment, etc. As the land adjacent to the public footpath bounding the site would be completely privately owned there would be no control over the landscaping of these plots and hence their contribution to the setting of Horton Park. We totally agreed with the pre-application enquiry response, that the trees along the boundary should not be retained within domestic curtilage, but in areas of public or shared open space maintained through a management agreement. In summary we considered that this planning application as submitted would result in harm to the setting and significance of Horton Park. It has caused much controversy, as it is thought that there was a covenant on the orphanage building restricting its use to educational purposes.

The iconic stone Victorian mansion, **The Mount, adjacent to Peel Park, Bradford** was featured in the Autumn 2019 Newsletter as there was then a major planning application to convert it into 26 apartments together with a large extension for an additional 28. This was eventually withdrawn on 6 August 2019. We were thus shocked to see

recently a new application for a residential development of 13 dwellings, Former Mount Nursing Home. We had again not been informed of the proposed demolition and have since failed to trace any demolition application or find any reference to it in the media, including the Demolition Register for buildings in Yorkshire mentioned above.

The Mount too had its own private entrance to the adjacent public park, but this was for pleasure and directly to the Park's Carriage Drive; the stone gate piers of this entrance are still extant. The original landscaping around the stone mansion provided a picturesque setting both from within the park and its approach from Bolton Road. Much of the original layout of the gardens remained unchanged until at least the 1930s and can be seen in the 1938 C.H. Woods aerial photo of Peel Park (N2357, C.H. Woods Collection, Bradford Museums and Galleries). This picturesque setting also features in several early postcards of Peel Park.

The applicant claims that the existing dense boundary planting on the southern boundary of the application site would ensure that the proposed two storey housing would not be visible from Peel Park. The photo of The Mount in the Autumn 2019 Newsletter shows this is clearly not the case for at least half the year when the trees are not in leaf. A detailed landscaping plan is essential but was not submitted. We do not consider the style of the proposed housing to be sympathetic to the views from the Park and have objected to this application in its present form. We heard in August that this planning application had been refused.

We have had two recent applications for the former **High Royds Hospital**, Menston, with the proposal to convert its Victorian covered reservoir into eight residential units being the more important.

The West Riding Pauper Lunatic Asylum, Menston was built on 300 acres of agricultural land formerly owned by the Fawkes family of



High Royds Reservoir (Photo credit: Anne Tupholme)

Farnley Hall and was designed to be totally self-sufficient; it opened in 1888 and by 1898 had 1,526 patients. To the west is the early to mid 17th century farmhouse High Royds Hall.

The covered reservoir is beyond, near Matthew Dike, its stream flowing down from Reva Hill close to Hawksworth Moor further to the west. The beautiful rural setting of this reservoir was described as "sublime" in a Consultation Draft - August 2017, *Aireborough Landscape Character & Value Report*. Though High Royds is on the HE Register (Grade II), the reservoir is not included in the registered area, nor is its associated Pump House. However, the reservoir remains part of High Royds setting regarding the western view across agricultural land to Hawksworth Moor and lies within the Green Belt.

In 2017, a pre-application enquiry based on a conversion scheme to four self-contained dwellings with associated car parking and amenity space, was notified that such a proposal would be over-development and intrusive in its rural setting, and impact on the openness and character and appearance of the Green Belt at this location. Subsequently change of use to a single dwelling was approved.

This application for eight dwellings would result in much structural damage to the original Victorian building, particularly due to doubling the height of the proposed windows in the east and west elevations. It would be far more prominent in the landscape, which is contrary to the original intended design. It would also result in considerably increased vehicle movements on a public footpath and the possibility of more domestic items in the curtilage. We objected to this application as we did not consider that it would protect the setting of High Royds.

We have heard recently that it has been refused, the reasons for refusal including inappropriate development in the Green Belt and harm to the character of a Heritage Asset and its setting.

At **Harewood House** we commented late last year on an application partially to demolish and rebuild Forge House, the former blacksmith's workshop, together with a single storey extension to form offices. Forge House lies within the Grade I registered park and garden and on the southern side of the Estate Yard at Home Farm, adjacent to the approach to Harewood House from Weardley. This approach, by way of Lady Bridge, the Menagerie, and then Home Farm at Stank, is part of Harewood's designed landscape by Lancelot (Capability) Brown and others with the "Tower"/ Granary just to the west of Forge-House, a principal feature. The Estate Yard was designed in the style of a courtyard farmstead and all its



buildings and Lady Bridge were designed by John Carr, the principal designer of Harewood House.

Home Farm has been described as "*one of the most extensive survivals of its type in England*" and the Estate Yard "*the first of its kind in a country house estate and showed a progressive attitude to the estate workforce*".

Forge House is clearly in a very poor state of repair and we would like to support sympathetic proposals that would ensure its repair and long-term use. However, we had some reservations about this proposal and in particular on the impact of the large extension, but also on the proposed new opening onto the historic approach to Harewood House.

We have recently commented on amended plans, but these have been only slightly modified and have not addressed our concerns that these proposals would cause harm to the setting and significance of the Estate Yard and in particular the imposing "Tower" building.

Also in West Yorkshire we have responded to an application for a shed and veranda for ice cream sales at the Mereside Visitor Centre, **Shibden Park**. Kath Gibson was involved with the excellent contemporary design for the Visitor Centre a few years ago, so to find an application for a poor utilitarian building alongside was most disappointing and we have objected. As you will know Shibden Hall House is a 15th Century and later manor house and is listed Grade II\*.

The landscape park is Grade II on the Register of Historic Parks and Gardens and was laid out for the owner Jeremy Lister in the 1830's when the estate was managed by his daughter Anne Lister. She employed the architect John Harper of York to remodel the Hall and provide proposals for structural works in the grounds which were implemented by William Gray of York who also worked at Clumber Park. It is of course the home and setting for "Gentleman Jack".



Shibden Hall. (Photo credit: Val Hepworth)

Geoff Hughes helped me with two applications in Huddersfield for properties on the boundaries of public parks: **Greenhead Park** and **Beaumont Park**. Ridgemoor, 64 Beaumont Park Road, was in the cluster of early properties built round the park in the late 19th century. It had been allowed to fall into disrepair to the extent that an applicant gained consent to demolish it. (Where have we heard that before?) GT/YGT objected to an earlier application but found the new application significantly better so that we did not object but gave advice on the elevation that overlooks the park and planting. Overlooking the monumental two-sided promenade terrace and War Memorial at Greenhead Park, 34 Greenhead Road had been subject to some unsympathetic alterations during the 20th century. In addition, the site has been left vacant since 2012 and had fallen into a poor state of repair. We thought that this was a sound application which should bring the buildings and grounds into good use whilst respecting the heritage assets.

### South Yorkshire

We have been pleased that the recent applications in Sheffield have not caused us any concern.

**Graves Park**, a significant and well-loved park, the largest public park in the City, forms the setting for Norton Hall (Grade II\*). The historic park retains much of the parkland character of the original grounds of the Hall and, with its varied topography, gives the community various recreational opportunities. This application was for changes to Graves Park Animal Farm.

**Hillsborough Park** is directly adjacent to the A61 Penistone Road and surrounded by residential and industrial and commercial areas with Sheffield Wednesday Football Club's Hillsborough Stadium nearby. The Park is a Conservation area and contains several Grade II listed buildings and structures and appears on the Local Register of Historic Parks and Gardens. The park is part of the original setting of Hillsborough Hall, (1779, listed Grade II), one of the few examples of a large 18th century classical house in Sheffield and designed by Robert Adam. The park is contemporary with the house and was laid out in the tradition of English landscape parks with trees planted in naturalistic groups in open parkland, a lime avenue from the Penistone Road Lodge and a tree belt lining the south and south east boundary of the park. The HE Risk Register listing for the park notes that the current condition of Hillsborough Park conservation is poor, its vulnerability is low, however its trend is deteriorating. This was a well-documented application for a bike track and further public facilities that would be desirable at the park and

we agreed that the proposed site is the best location that would not impose on the Conservation Area status and heritage of the park.

The planning application for 101 dwellings with associated infrastructure (Pennine Village) was the largest housing development that we have been consulted upon this year. It is on land opposite Manor Lodge with the registered **City Road Cemetery** to its south west. We suggested that some evergreen planting, such as holly, laurel, and Scots pine, could be incorporated into the deciduous belt of trees along the eastern boundary of the cemetery adjacent to the development.

**Post War Landscapes.** You will read in Kath Gibson's article (p.35) about the twenty landscapes and gardens that have been added to the National Heritage List for England and I would just like to mention **Cummins Engine Factory** at Darlington. I know that it is not in Yorkshire but living in the north of the County I fairly often drive past it; it has always stood out as an innovative design but I never knew its history. The landscape was designed between 1964 and 1966 by Dan Kiley, who is considered to be the father of modern landscape architecture in the United State and I have just learned that Roger Lambert's father was the landscape contractor for the work; so, a current Yorkshire connection. Mr Kiley worked closely with the factory architect Kevin Roche of Roche and Dinkeloo to create a deceptively simple

landscape of grass, with a rectangular reservoir at the front of the imposing factory building. Historic England writes that the design strips back the three principal elements of landscape design – trees, water and grass – to a minimalist and pure form to complement the main building which is listed Grade II\*. The reservoir is kerbed by the same blue brindle bricks used in the factory building and acts as a reflecting pond. The site is bounded by original Cor-ten fencing (listed at Grade II\*) of the same red coloured oxidising steel as the building. If you are going out of Darlington on the B6280 to the A66 ring-road near Morrisons, then you will pass Cummins Engine Factory on the right. It is stunning... and well-done to those who made the decision to build something outstanding here during the 1960s.

I am grateful to the YGT Conservation and Planning sub-committee for their efforts on our behalf and especially to Heather Garnett for taking our meeting minutes and to those who receive the GT weekly list and regularly advise on planning matters: Win Derbyshire, Geoff Hughes, Susan Kellerman, Roger Lambert and Anne Tupholme. Additionally, we call upon Jane Furse, Kath Gibson, Peter Goodchild and David Rhodes for their local expertise as appropriate.

**Val Hepworth**

**Trustee**

**Chairman, Conservation and Planning**

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## Research and Recording

### Update on Thomas White book

With research and recording largely on hold due to archives being closed and site visits impossible, it has been great that I have been able to work with Deborah Turnbull on a forthcoming book about Thomas White senior. We are grateful to Yorkshire Gardens Trust which has given us a small grant to get copies of the plans and other documents in order to complete the project. To date, we have copies of 27 (out of 32) of the plans and surveys done by White in England.

As I mentioned in a previous Newsletter, White was an important landscape designer in Yorkshire and is known to have worked at least 25 sites here and 13 in northern England (see p. 26). Deborah completed her PhD research on White in 1990 and since then more sites, such as Campsall, Busby, Scarisbrick and Kirkleatham, and further plans and archival evidence have come to light, giving us a greater insight into White and his work.

While he worked both in northern England and Scotland (on over 60 sites in the latter), we will be focusing on his designs in England to compare with others such as 'Capability' Brown, Humphry

Repton, Richard Woods and Adam Mickle II, who worked at the same sites. His work as an independent designer from 1765 is reasonably well documented, but we know little about him prior to this apart from being paid by Brown from April 1759. We know that this work involved surveying and other work at Chillington, Staffordshire (c.1760-1) and acting as a foreman at Sandbeck Park, Yorkshire (c.1762-5). He may also have worked as a surveyor for Brown at Temple Newsam, Yorkshire (c. 1762) and Glentworth, Lincolnshire (1762).

It would be interesting to know where White might have trained and also how he came to be working with Brown at a relatively young age (23 or 24 years). It had been thought that he came from Shifnal in Shropshire (not far from Chillington) but new evidence would seem to discount that theory. There are payments to a Thomas White senior from his bank account in 1775/6, so this may be his father. A Thomas White appears as a subscriber to the first edition of Philip Miller's *Gardeners Dictionary* of 1731 and

there are payments in 1753 to a Mr Thomas White as gardener and nurseryman in the accounts for Woburn Abbey but there is no obvious link to our man. If you have come across any payments or references to a Thomas White from c.1752 to 1765 as a gardener or surveyor, please let us know.

This week I had the rare privilege of seeing one of his original plans. It was at Norton Place in Lincolnshire, which the owner finally unearthed in his locked gun cupboard! It is six feet square with sheets of paper pasted onto a linen background. Seeing the detail up close was incredible and the colours were still bright even after 250 years. While the 'Red Books' of Repton have an

immediate appeal, these plans by White are undoubtedly beautiful. Up until now, most of the plans have been reproduced in black and white, which has not done justice to them. Part of our efforts over the last few months has been to acquire colour copies where possible, hence my trip to Norton Place, although photographing them with a standard camera is a major challenge!

If you have any detailed information on the sites listed below, or indeed any others where Thomas White may have worked, please contact me.

**Louise Wickham**

webmaster@yorkshiregardenstrust.org.uk



Cartouche of references from the Plan of Improvements for Campsall Hall by Thomas White 1796. (Image courtesy of the Borthwick Institute, York Ref. RBU/2/22/2.)



Detail from the Plan of Improvements for Burton Constable by Thomas White, 1768. Image courtesy of Burton Constable Hall

<b>White's landscapes in northern England excl Yorkshire</b>			<b>Total - 14</b>	
<b>Site Name</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>EH Status</b>	<b>Extant Plan?</b>	<b>Date of involvement</b>
Belle Isle, Westmorland	SD 393 967	Grade II*	Yes	1783-6
Blyborough, Lincolnshire	SK 934 945	NR	Yes	1767
Brocklesby, Lincolnshire	TA 136 114	Grade I	Yes - 2	c. 1780-1785
Chillington, Staffordshire	SJ 863 068	Grade II*	Yes [surveys]	1761 [with Brown]
Colwick, Nottinghamshire	SK 602 390	NR	No	1774-9
Glentworth, Lincolnshire	SK 943 882	NR	No	1762 [with Brown]
Gosforth, Northumberland	NZ 248 712	NR	No	?
Grove, Nottinghamshire	SK 737 798	NR	Yes	1773
Lumley, County Durham	NZ 288 510	Grade II	Yes	1768
Norton, Lincolnshire	SK 971 909	NR	Yes	1772
Raby, County Durham	NZ 129 218	Grade II*	Yes - 2	c. 1770 & 1774
Scarisbrick Hall, Lancashire	SD 392 126	NR	Yes	1785
Woodlands Hall, Durham	NZ 124 471	NR	No	1773 - 1811?
Workington, Cumberland	NY 008 288	Grade II	Yes	1783

**Other possible sites:** Chorley Hall, home of John Crompton (d1780), payments from Crompton, 1776-80. Grid reference – SD 583 185

<b><u>White's landscapes in Yorkshire</u></b>	<b>Total - 27</b>			
<b>Site Name</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>EH Status</b>	<b>Extant Plan?</b>	<b>Date of involvement</b>
Armley Hall/Gott's Park	W Riding - SE 264 342	Grade II	No	1781-91?
Birdsall Hall?	E Riding - SE 815 650	NR	No	1776-7
Burton Constable Hall	E Riding - TA 190 366	Grade II*	Yes - 2	1768 & 1797
Busby Hall	N Riding - NZ 515 041	NR	Yes - nd (1766)	1766-7?
Campsall Hall	W Riding - SE 544 140	NR	Yes - 1771 & 1796	c. 1771 & 1796?
Carlton [Towers]	W Riding - SE 654 237	NR	Yes - nd (c. 1773)	c. 1773-1781
Copgrove Hall	W Riding - SE 343 634	NR	No	1767
Fryston Hall	W Riding - SE 465 260	NR	No	1786-1802
Goldsborough Hall	W Riding - SE 385 560	NR	Yes	1766
Grimston Garth	E Riding - TA 284 351	NR	No	1782
Harewood House	W Riding - SE 311 446	Grade I	Yes	1765-8
Hawksworth Hall	W Riding - SE 168 417	NR	Yes	1769
Holme Hall	E Riding - SE 816 385	NR	Yes	1777
Houghton Hall	E Riding - SE 888 391	Grade II	Yes	1768
Kilnwick Hall	E Riding - SE 994 497	NR	No	pre 1780?
Kirkleatham Hall	N Riding - NZ 595 219	NR	Yes	1769-?
Melbourne Hall?	E Riding - SE 751 432	NR	No	1793
Mulgrave Castle	N Riding - NZ 845 126	Grade II*	No	1785
Newby Hall	W Riding - SE 348 675	Grade II*	Yes	1766
Owston Hall	W Riding - SE 550 110	NR	Yes	1785
Sandbeck Park	W Riding - SK 544 898	Grade II*		1762-6 [with Brown]
Sedbury Hall	N Riding - NZ 198 051	NR	No	1775-84
Skelton Castle	N Riding - NZ 652 203	NR	Yes	1775
Sledmere House	E Riding - SE 931 647	Grade I	Yes	1776
Stapleton Hall	W Riding - SE 507 191	NR	No	1783?
Temple Newsam Hall	W Riding - SE 357 320	Grade II		1762? [with Brown]
Welton House	E Riding - SE 961 271	NR	Yes	1769

# Research and Recording

## “Seek and ye shall find” ..... or perhaps not?

### Introduction – High Melton

Having joined YGT’s Research and Recording group in mid 2019, guided by Louise Wickham, High Melton was my introduction to the South Yorkshire landscapes and gardens near Doncaster. Louise had warned that the archive material was rather thin on the ground and so it proved to be. However, often it is the merest snippets of information which come to light that are a cause of either much frustration or occasional celebration, as I have experienced in course of the High Melton research.

### Frustration

The early complex history of the ownership of High Melton (unravelling by Louise) becomes easier to access when it passes into the Fountayne family in 1651. The first high profile family member was John Fountayne (IV) (1715-1802), who inherited the estate in 1739 on the death of his elder brother. John later became Dean of York and he inherited an already established designed landscape both immediate to the hall and in the wider estate (earlier than suggested by previous research). The following fleeting reference in a letter suggests that the Dean had some interest in horticultural matters:

*“York Dec 20<sup>th</sup> 1749*

*I hope you will give me leave now to thank you .... for your cuttings of your vines, of which I have given notice to my Gardener at Melton. I hope to entertain you and Lady Anne there with some of your fruit of them”*

(Northampton Archives, F (M)G/797)

Whilst the lack of any further detail is frustrating what is interesting is who John Fountayne is writing to – Francis Godolphin (2<sup>nd</sup> Baron Godolphin) of Baylies, Buckinghamshire and his second wife Lady Anne (Fitzwilliam) who later developed the gardens on that estate. Were there any other exchanges of plant material or design ideas? Also, the Dean’s interest in improving the garden pre-dates his remodelling of the Hall (by James Paine in the 1750s). This reference is frustrating in being one of the **very** few specific horticultural references in High Melton’s long history.

Another more tantalising connection emerges with the fact that William Mason (1724-1797), a poet and garden designer, had professional and personal links to John Fountayne over a period of 40 years through the Dean’s marriage to Ann Montagu of Papplewick, Nottinghamshire. The Historic

England listing information describes Papplewick (which passed to the Fountayne family in 1800) as *“an C18 landscape park and pleasure grounds forming the setting of a late C18 house. The design for the parkland was possibly influenced by the owner’s friends, William Mason, Thomas Gray, Horace Walpole and Mrs Delaney”*.

It is tempting to speculate that the Fountayne-Mason link may have offered the potential for William Mason to discuss and even influence John Fountayne’s plans for High Melton Hall and gardens but, frustratingly, research to date has not been able to confirm any such involvement. Any information anyone may come across on their garden research travels relating to this would be greatly appreciated.

### Celebration

The Temple is a feature of the wider Melton estate beyond what would have been the pleasure gardens. It is in the hillside wooded area known as Melton Warren, at the western end of the village of High Melton. Information about who, when and why the Temple was built has not survived.

No reference is made to the Temple in either the 1840 tithe map records nor on the first edition 1854 OS map, although a long walk or ride through Melton Warren is clearly marked. It is not until the 1892 OS map (surveyed in 1890) that the Temple’s precise location is recorded and identified for the first time.

Therefore it is only possible broadly to speculate that the Temple was built between 1849 and 1890.

One of the highlights of the High Melton research was one of those “happy accidents” which the British Newspaper Archive frequently provides. The uninspiring search term ‘High Melton Woods’ generated a tiny nine line report buried in a column of editorial fillers in the *Hull Daily Mail* published Friday 23 March 1928. It reported an extraordinary discovery made during the demolition of High Melton Woods for building purposes, which

*“brought to light an old building standing high up on the hillside which for centuries has been hidden from view by the surrounding trees. It is in the form of a small church, though it is hardly large enough to hold a dozen people. The entrance is a Gothic Arch”*. (*Hull Daily Mail*, 23 March 1928)

This eye-witness account is the only surviving physical description of the Temple which has come to light before its further deterioration and remains noted by Klemperer in 2010. (Klemperer,

M. (2010) *Style and Social Competition in the Large Scale Ornamental Landscapes of the Doncaster District of South Yorkshire, c.1680-1840*, (BAR British Series 511)

Whilst its history remains elusive, this tantalising “glimpse” of the Temple is a prime example of the power and value of these serendipitous research snippets.

### Postscript

“Seek and ye shall find.....”. A month after submitting this article to the editorial team, whilst completing the High Melton report, I decided to have one final search of the British Newspaper Archive for any information about the Temple and hit the jackpot. A letter from a Mr Worsley, the land agent for the Melton Estate, appeared in *South Yorkshire Times and Mexborough and Swinton Times* 6 April 1928, which began “Referring to the photograph and comment which appeared in the current issue of your paper”. After trawling through the previous week’s edition of this weekly publication there it was, a

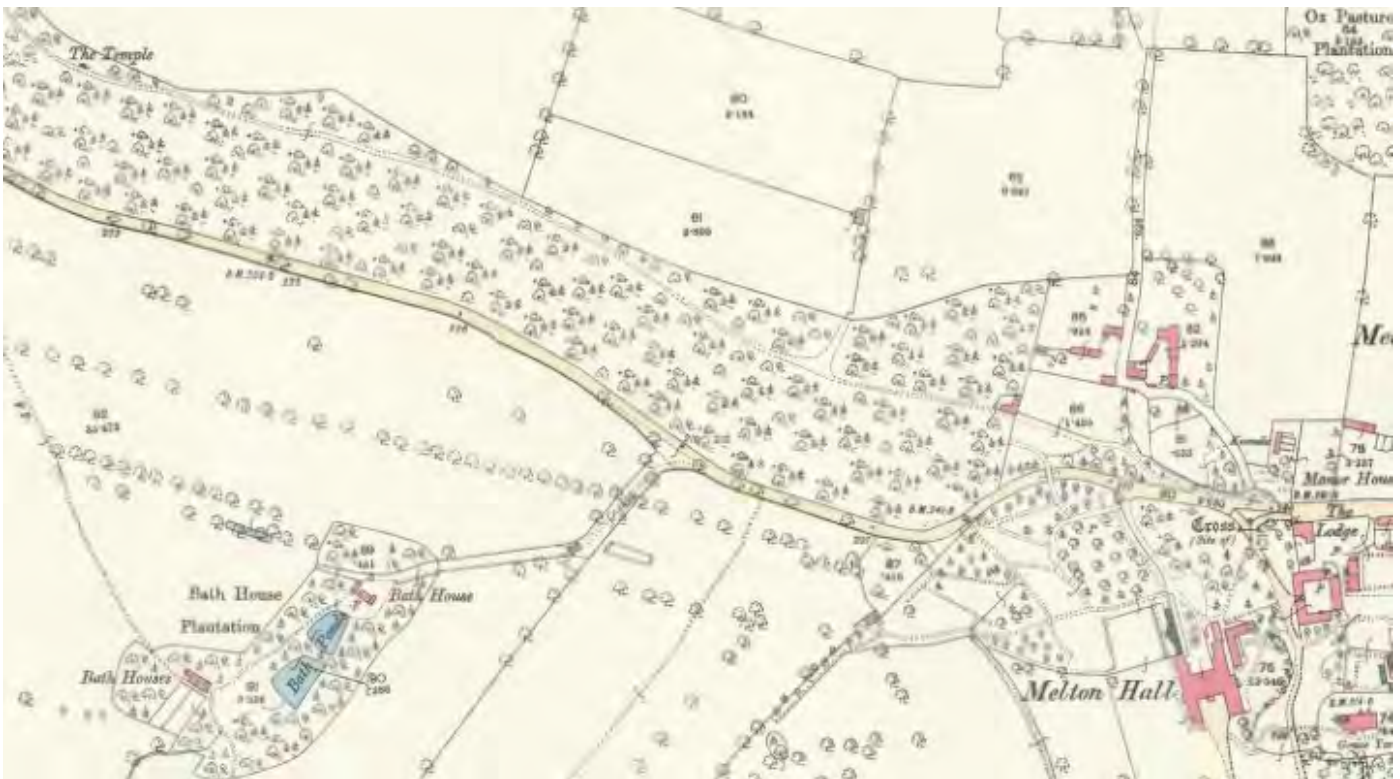
grainy, poorly scanned image of the Temple, its first sighting for almost a century. Along with other information from the land agent, the mystery of the Temple’s possible history is now a little clearer. (See the High Melton Report, soon to be published). The valuable research lessons to be learned were:

- Keep trying different permutations of search terms
- The British Newspaper Archive response to the above can be unpredictable
- Never give up and be patient

Undaunted by the apparent dearth of archive material relating to High Melton and its history, the belief that there is more information out there somewhere, just waiting to be discovered, is sufficient motivation to continue the search, to weather the frustrations and to relish the celebrations along the way.

**Chris Beevers**

**Research and Recording Team**



1892 OS map (surveyed in 1890)

(Reproduced by permission of the National Library of Scotland)

# Wydale Hall Refugee Visit

Thursday 29 August 2019

## Introduction

Blessed with a gorgeous high-summer day, our group of YGT helpers greeted the coach bringing refugee families living in Scarborough, to Wydale Hall for a special day out. Everything was ready. We had set up the dining area in the Emmaus Centre (previously the old stable block) with tables and chairs and prepared the food we had brought. There was definitely a buzz of excitement in the air as we wanted everything to be just perfect!

Travelling with the families were volunteers deeply committed to helping refugees settle in Scarborough, attending to their basic needs, schooling, hospital appointments and language lessons. The families were all Syrian and had been granted asylum in the UK. Many were unwell, some awaiting urgent hospital treatment, others recovering from serious illness but all carrying the burden of trauma which comes from fleeing a war-torn country. Later on, we would have the opportunity to hear about their personal stories which were heart breaking. Over the course of the day, we would forge friendships, share traditional food, play games on the terrace lawns and above all, enjoy their company. Of all good things born from Yorkshire Gardens Trust, hosting these special Refugee Days is something we should be extremely proud of.

After coffee, we settled everyone into the large recreational area where Ray Blyth warmly welcomed our guests. This was followed by a short talk about the Hall from Wydale's resident manager Mark Rance. Thankfully we had an accomplished interpreter on hand, a young Syrian girl aged 10 who had learned excellent English at her school in Scarborough.

## Wydale Hall

Then it was time to explore the walled garden which, at this time of year, was exploding with colour. The mass of buddleia booms dripping in butterflies proved irresistible to the children. Soporific Red Admirals, Peacocks and Tortoiseshells, decorated each purple panicle with their vibrant colours and patterns. What fun the children had in trying to cup them in their hands. Some did! The adults and older children were drawn to the Labyrinth constructed to symbolise the ancient spiritual path of prayer.

Wydale Hall was originally built for the Cayley family around 1780. They were important landowners in the area. Sir George was the acclaimed aeronautical engineer who instigated

the first ever manned flight in Brompton Dale in 1853. During the first World War, after the house had been sold to the Illingworth family, the Hall was turned into a hospital for convalescing soldiers. It was also used in the second World War, first as a base for the Northumberland Hussars and eventually as a prison-of-war camp for Italian prisoners. After the War had ended, the Hall was leased to the Sisters of the Order of the Holy Paraclete from Whitby as a Convent School. In 1962, the Diocese of York bought the Hall as a Retreat and Conference Centre and today it receives over 3,000 guests a year, fulfilling its purpose as a prayerful community renewing the Church's mission.

## Lunch at the Emmaus Centre

Lunch back at the Emmaus centre could only be described as a feast. Our Syrian friends had prepared an exquisite array of their traditional dishes which they especially wanted to share with us. Everything looked (and tasted) delicious as if leaping from the pages of a Mediterranean cookery book, especially the Tabbouleh. This staple Levantine dish is beholden to finely chopped fresh herbs and spices: parsley, tomato, cucumber, mint and bulgur wheat, knitted together with olive oil. Food is so deeply ingrained into their middle-eastern psyche that it is the one constant which binds them to their homeland.

After lunch, we regrouped on the terrace where our Syrian friends delighted in the sweeping views towards the Yorkshire Wolds and the majestic trees in the park including two Cedars of Lebanon brought here in 1850.

The children laughed and played ball games on the lawns which turned out to be a lot of fun whilst the adults enjoyed a tour of the main reception rooms of the house, especially the original ballroom which was converted into a chapel by the notable architect George Pace. In later years some of his alterations were removed to make the room more multi-purpose and expose the exquisite plasterwork, a fine example of its time. The ceiling moulds were created from the original ones of Neoclassical architect Robert Adam (1728-1792).

One man I spoke to, recently recovering from a serious operation, wanted to show me images on his phone of the city of Damascus. Tears welled in his eyes as he showed me the devastated area which was once his home, and where he too had been the proud owner of a beautiful garden with fruit trees.

## Some facts and figures

It is hard to express in a short article the sense of gratitude these families feel to be given legal status in our country. Here are a few stark facts about the Civil War in Syria which started in 2011 which help explain just why:

- 50% of all Syrians have fled their homes.
- 5.6 million have fled abroad, mostly to neighbouring countries - Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey.
- 6.2 million are displaced within Syria.
- An estimated 500,000 people have been killed, including more than 55,000 children.

So, what have we done in this country? Under the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme (VPRS), it was agreed that 20,000 refugees would be resettled during September 2015 to May 2020, specifically for candidates who were classified by UNHCR (The UN Refugee Agency) as “having pressing humanitarian or security needs”. The Home Office granted these people Refugee Status for 5 years “to ensure that those resettled under the scheme could lead independent lives as quickly as possible, including having access to education or employment as appropriate”.

238 refugees were resettled under this programme in North Yorkshire (50 families, including those we befriended). This is only a tiny drop in a very large and cruel ocean but for those who have settled here, it is their Utopia, giving them hope and security.

Since that day, a small group of us have met regularly at Ray’s house in Scarborough seeking ways to help Syrian families in the town. It is blessed with some dynamic and dedicated people representing Scarborough Borough Council, The Refugee Council and the Church. A great deal has already been achieved which hopefully will result in Scarborough being granted the status of City of Sanctuary.

Sadly, with current COVID-19 restrictions, we have postponed this year’s YGT sponsored Refugee outing until 2021. With the support and enthusiasm of YGT, we can be sure it will prove to be another great event giving joy to Syrian families.

*Penelope Dawson-Brown*

*YGT Trustee*

## The Gardens Trust News



### **New TGT Chairman takes over**

After five years as the first Chairman of The Gardens Trust, Dr James Bartos stepped down at the AGM in early September and Peter Hughes has been elected as the new Chairman.

James Bartos led the charity from its formation five years ago and helped to establish it as the leading body for the conservation and protection of our historic gardens and parklands.

Peter Hughes was a senior barrister and judge and, since his retirement, he has studied for a

Masters Degree in Landscape and Garden History. He lives in the Lake District and looks after an Arts and Crafts garden.

### **New Research Symposium and AGM 2021**

Following the cancellation of this event in 2020, it has been rearranged to take place between Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> and Sunday 5 September 2021 in and around Richmond and Wensleydale and will again take place at the Holiday Inn at Scotch Corner. They are hoping to hold the prices at the 2020 level.

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The Gardens Trust has been hit by the COVID-19 virus like everyone else, but its officers have worked hard to keep things going. The obvious casualty has been the meetings and get-togethers which became impossible, but Zoom meetings have filled the gap.

The weekly list of planning applications affecting important parks and gardens has continued unabated. An average week has 30 such applications, of which 2 or 3 are for the Yorkshire Gardens Trust area. Val Hepworth then responds

to these with help from other members of the Conservation Committee.

The Gardens Trust has also been busy during lockdown producing remote learning packages for training purposes. These include understanding the threats, designations, settings, and significance of designed landscapes and how to understand planning legislation and policy to write a persuasive letter of response. These training packages are available on The Gardens Trust website, plus a useful list of information resources.



Following the Brown and Repton projects, the Trust is keeping up the momentum with the theme of “Unforgettable Gardens” from 2020 to 2022, to raise public awareness of the value of historic open space. Members of county gardens trusts are invited to nominate sites they would like to feature. The important role of open spaces has been highlighted during lockdown.

The Gardens Trust also circulates the newsletters of CGTs so that information on activities in other areas is available to all. David Marsh, co-chair of the Education and Events Committee, has given several on line talks on topics including “Little Men in Red Hats: the History of the Garden Gnome” which I found irresistible, although the other topics were also interesting.

The Gardens Trust is concerned about changes to the National Trust revealed in its paper “Towards a 10-year vision for Places and Experiences” which has worrying implications for the heritage sector. The Gardens Trust has responded, as will the YGT. The Gardens Trust continues its invaluable work in looking after landscapes and gardens and supporting the County Gardens Trusts.

*Win Derbyshire*

*TGT Liaison member*



## Online Winter Lecture Series 2020/21



organised jointly by

**The Gardens Trust and The London Gardens Trust**

### 2020

- 5 October: *Hyde Park: A History of Trees* - Greg Packman, Senior Tree Inspector, London Borough of Islington and former Tree Officer, Royal Parks
- 19 October: *George London and the Brompton Park Nursery* - Dr Sally Jeffery, garden & architectural historian
- 2 November: *The Use of Plants in the Home in the Seventeenth Century* - Margaret Willes, former publisher and author
- 16 November: *To promote his Majesties purpose': Joseph Banks and his Global Botanical Projects, 1770-1820* - Professor Jordan Goodman, University College, London
- 30 November: *Pulhamite in London, 1820-2020 – How one man’s rocky creation became the fashionable garden feature of the Victorian and Edwardian era* - Valerie Christman, The Pulham Legacy
- 14 December: *Wentworth Castle and Wentworth Woodhouse: Georgian rivals* - Dr Patrick Eyres, Editor, New Arcadian Journal (and YGT member). See page 34.

### 2021

- 11 January: *Biodiversity & the Wild West End Project: Encouraging Birds, Bees & Bats into the Heart of London* – Tom Gray, Senior Ecological Consultant, Arup
- 25 January: *The Integration of Derek Jarman’s Garden* – Professor Michael Charlesworth, University of Texas
- 8 February: *Too Young to be Loved? Post-war designed landscapes of London and environs*– Karen Fitzsimon CMLI, landscape architect and garden historian
- 22 February: *Transatlantic slavery’s long reach: The impacts of direct and indirect slavery connections on eighteenth century estate gardens and parks* - Professor Susanne Seymour, University of Nottingham
- 8 March: *Dinosaurs, Italian Terraces and Future Sustainability: Crystal Palace Park* – Kathryn Whitmore, Associate Landscape Architect, AECOM and others
- 22 March: *What is Wild?* – Dr Kim Wilkie, Landscape Architect

### All lectures and booking online.

**Tickets:** £4 for Gardens Trust/all County Gardens Trusts members, £6 for non-members; season tickets £40/£60 via The Gardens Trust [thegardenstrust.org](http://thegardenstrust.org) Events or London Gardens Trust

**[bookwhen.com/londongardenstrust/e/ev-sg7x-20201005180000](http://bookwhen.com/londongardenstrust/e/ev-sg7x-20201005180000)**

**Online Winter Lecture Series 2020/21**  
organised jointly by  
**The Gardens Trust and The London Gardens Trust**



**Monday 14 December 2020, 6.00 -7.00 pm**

**Wentworth Castle and Wentworth Woodhouse: Georgian rivals united through 21st-century restoration and public access.**

Dr Patrick Eyres, Editor of the New Arcadian Journal

The family rivalry was both dynastic and political. Until the mid-1740s, the Wentworth Castle dynasty was superior in aristocratic rank and cultural display. It was once the Hanoverian monarchy was securely embedded, that the Whigs at Wentworth Woodhouse began to eclipse their Tory cousins in social status and estate embellishment. We are fortunate that the rivals are being united by the endeavours of charitable trusts to conserve as a public amenity this magnificent legacy of competitive country house building and landscape gardening.

For over a decade, the Wentworth Castle Heritage Trust restored the splendour of the mansion, estate buildings, gardens, park and monuments, and the future of Wentworth Castle Gardens is now secure in the care of the National Trust. At Wentworth Woodhouse, the Fitzwilliam Wentworth Amenity Trust has restored the Georgian fabric of the landscape monuments and the four serpentine lakes, while the Wentworth Woodhouse Preservation Trust is undertaking the Herculean task of re-roofing the gargantuan Palladian mansion.

**All lectures and booking online; see instructions at bottom of previous page.**



Edwardian Gardens  
Continuing Professional Development  
event at Lotherton Hall

Lotherton

Wednesday 7 July 2021

We are delighted that in association with Leeds City Council and Lotherton Hall, we have been able to re-arrange the event for next July. The programme will remain the same with experts: Mette Eggan, landscape architect from Norway; Dr John Grimshaw, Director of the Yorkshire Arboretum; Jane Furse, landscape architect and historic garden specialist and Chris Flynn, Head Gardener, Dyffryn, NT of Wales.

In the autumn I will be in touch with everyone who has already booked and will also publicise the event. There will be further information on the YGT website and on the GT website. Do get in touch with me if you are interested. (Tel: 01748 822617 or e-mail [val@hepworthskeeby.co.uk](mailto:val@hepworthskeeby.co.uk))

# Some Reflections on Post-War Landscapes in Yorkshire

## Historic England adds new landscape sites to the National Heritage List for England

At the end of August 2020 Historic England published a significant new document in their Introduction to Heritage Assets series to accompany the addition of twenty-four new 20th century sites to the National Heritage List for England. Entitled *Introduction to Heritage Assets: Post-War Landscapes* it succinctly summarises the types of designed landscape developed after the Second World War in England.

Many important landscapes designed between the mid-1960s and 1990 (the current 30-year cut-off date for registration) have up to now been overlooked, but increased awareness of the need to recognise and protect them led the Gardens Trust to launch a crowd-sourced campaign, *Compiling the Record* some three years ago. It was launched in June 2017 at the Garden Museum, London, with a stimulating symposium entitled *Mid to Late C20 Designed Landscapes: Overlooked, Undervalued and at Risk?* The day brought together a range of expert speakers who outlined the types of sites that deserved protection, their significance and their vulnerabilities. The campaign ran until early 2018, by when it had received over one hundred detailed nominations from Gardens Trust members, the public and professionals. Historic England then developed this work as their Post-War Landscapes project and, after undertaking a thorough assessment of the nominated sites, twenty-four additions were made to the National Heritage List for England, twenty being historic landscapes.

Post-war reconstruction and enthusiasm for designing and planting gardens gave rise to many opportunities to create new landscapes. Private gardens, large and small, remain important throughout the twentieth century, seeing a revival from the mid-1960s after two decades of austerity. The owners of country houses and villas sought new gardens, while people of more moderate means took up gardening, thanks to greater leisure time and a growing focus on hobbies around the home. The Arts and Crafts movement had an impact still apparent today and a growing interest in history and travel encouraged the exploration of older traditions such as those of the Italian Renaissance. In parallel, the emerging profession of landscape architects also began to shape and develop spaces not previously thought of as requiring design. These ranged from university campuses to public housing estates and commercial landscapes. Most notable were

Sir Geoffrey Jellicoe (1900-1996), Dame Sylvia Crowe (1901-1997) and Brenda Colvin (1897-1981), as celebrated for their writing as for their design work.

The term “outdoor room” was popularised in Britain by the designer John Brookes (1933-2018), following the success of a very practical town garden he created for the Chelsea Flower Show in 1962. His book *Room Outside: A New Approach to Garden Design* (1969) was influential in promoting the garden as a place to be used by both the family and for entertaining, where hard structures such as a patio and sheltering pergola for sitting out were at least as important as the planting.

In the 1980’s Piet Oudolf inspired a new generation of garden designers. His early “New Perennial” movement plantings use bold drifts of herbaceous perennials and grasses, chosen at least as much for their structure as for flower colour. More recently he has experimented with plantings which are more naturalistic, often using blends of species informed by ecology, which is a trend being carried forward today.

### York Gate Garden, Adel, Leeds



York Gate Garden. (Photo credit Val Hepworth.)

As a result of the Post-War Landscapes project, York Gate Gardens in Adel, to the north of Leeds, is now included on the *Register* at Grade II<sup>1</sup>. Developed as a small private garden between 1951 and the 1980’s by Frederick and Sybil Spencer and their son Robin, as a series of garden rooms in an Arts and Crafts style, the garden is now vested in a charity and open to the public. The design of York Gate Gardens was influenced by the great Arts and Crafts gardens, notably Hidcote.

The Spencer’s scaled down this style to suit a suburban setting and created a series of fourteen structured garden spaces, each with its own

<sup>1</sup> YGT visited in 2011, see *Newsletter*, 29 New Series 10, Summer 2011

character but interconnected by deliberate vistas and paths of differing materials. The whole form is an intricate and rich tapestry of spaces and plantings, with a feast of details throughout. Added interest is provided by the quirky, eye-catching, and pleasingly shaped structures and objects acquired, constructed or designed by Robin Spencer and carefully placed in vistas or within particular gardens. Historic England are of the view that York Gate Garden is also of historic interest. This is because its opening as part of the National Gardens Scheme made it easily accessible and inspirational to those of more moderate means looking for ideas in garden design and planting which could be transposed into their smaller, post-war suburban gardens.

### **Friarwood Valley Gardens, Pontefract**

York Gate Gardens joins two other very different post-war landscapes in Yorkshire that are registered in their own right. Friarwood Valley Gardens<sup>2</sup> in Pontefract (Grade II, first registered in 2001) is a post-war public park where the fundamental layout and design as described in the 1949 development proposals remains intact and visible. There was a friary on the site of the present gardens until the dissolution of the monasteries in the mid-16th century. After this the site was used as a cemetery until orchards were planted in the 18th century. The area was laid out as private gardens towards the end of the 19th century, but it was a 1930's road improvement scheme for Southgate which led to proposals for the land in the Friar Valley to be developed for pleasure ground purposes. The Parks and Allotments Committee approved the scheme in 1949 and work started in 1950. Principally designed by R.W. Grubb, the Borough of Pontefract Parks and Cemeteries Superintendent,



Friarwood Valley Gardens Sensory Border  
(Photo credit: Val Hepworth)

the land was planted to take advantage of the site's horticultural conditions. The layout provided for many different kinds of garden, with terraces, rockeries, a winding stream and lily pools, and lawns running down to the water's edge.

As with many parks, in the 2000's Friarwood Valley Gardens was not in the best condition but a "Friends" group was formed in 2012 and they still actively support the maintenance, regeneration and promotion of the park for the enjoyment of the people of Pontefract.

### **University of York Campus West**

The University of York Campus West designed landscape (Grade II, first registered in 2018) was developed between 1963 and 1980 and incorporates a late 17th century/early 18th century formal landscape and an early 19th century fishpond relating to Heslington Hall. One of the principal reasons for the campus's registration is that it is a physical manifestation of the University of York Development Plan, which was heralded as the beginning of contemporary university planning in Britain. Designed by Andrew Derbyshire and Maurice Lee of Robert Matthew, Johnson-Marshall & Partners (RMJM), assisted by David Rendle and Alfred Hoffman, with Herbert Francis (Frank) Clark (a co-founder of the Garden History Society, now The Gardens Trust) as landscape consultant, its refined concept successfully integrates a series of status buildings within a carefully designed landscape and was praised by the contemporary architectural press. The RMJM landscape complements and enhances the 17th/18th century designed landscape of Heslington Hall and combines both hard and soft landscaping to striking effect with formal and informal spaces, water courts, lawned areas, paths with contrasting straight edges and winding lines, and covered walkways, all drawn together by a large sinuous lake that acts as a key focal point within the campus site. Despite some later alterations and the introduction of new buildings, the landscape survives well overall and retains its character and features.

Several other examples of post-war garden design can be found as elements within wider registered sites. At Rudding Park (Grade II, first registered 1989) part of the garden was redeveloped in the 1950s by Sir Everard Radcliffe who, with the help of James Russell (1920-1996), built a terrace and garden room. Russell was essentially a plantsman, with personal enthusiasms for the larger shrubs, especially rhododendrons and the old shrub roses that his Sunningdale Nursery in Surrey specialised in. Throughout the 1950's and 1960's Russell's garden design and nursery business boomed, many of his clients being known to him from his days at Eton, but in 1968 he sold up the nursery

<sup>2</sup> YGT gave a grant 2013/14 for the restoration of the Sensory Border, see Small Grants Scheme Report, *Newsletter*, Issue 33, Summer 2013, Issue 34 Winter 2014, and Issue 37 Autumn 2015. We visited in 2016, see *Newsletter*, Issue 38, Spring 2016

and moved to the Castle Howard Estate (Grade I, first registered 1984). He effectively took the entire nursery stock and began to form it into a series of magnificent ornamental gardens. In the 1970's the Rose Garden at Castle Howard was completed, arranging a collection of old shrub roses (his favourite was the moss rose *Chapeau de Napoléon*) into an elegant formal arrangement with his trademark hostas, lavender hedges, pergolas and arbour seats. Ray Wood was filled with flourishing rarities as a woodland garden, big specimens of *Fitzroya cupressoides* and many species of eucalyptus looming over great drifts of terrestrial orchids on an apparently unpromising north-facing slope. The new arboretum, of incredible extent, was mainly planted as tiny specimens in the (justified) hope that they would thrive better than larger trees planted as standards. At Beningbrough Hall<sup>3</sup> (Grade II, first registered 1984) small formal gardens enclosed by low walls and clipped hedges were laid out in existing enclosures flanking the south front in 1977.



Beningbrough Hall. (Photo credit: Val Hepworth)

At Thwaite Hall in Cottingham (Grade II, first registered 1992) late 19th century villa grounds were modified in the 1950's to form a hall of residence for the University of Hull and are partly used as a botanical garden. At Endcliffe Park in Sheffield an earlier entrance was reconstructed in the 1950's because of a major road scheme, creating a new formal entrance and planting beds. At Bretton Hall the 1960 gym building, part of the former Bretton College, sits on a raised platform jutting into a small lake, a design concept unifying the architecture and its immediate landscape setting into a satisfying whole.

### **Eggborough Power Station, near Goole**

One important Yorkshire landscape which has not been included with the additions to the register is the landscape surrounding Eggborough Power Station near Goole, which was designed by Brenda Colvin. I am unsure whether this is an omission or whether it was not included because the power station has been decommissioned and the site is in



The gym building at Bretton Hall. (Photo credit: Kath Gibson)

the process of major redevelopment. Colvin set up her own practice in 1922 and, while she had advised on possibly six hundred gardens by the time she reached 50 in 1947, her belief that the landscape at large was more beneficial than a garden itself, led to a series of commissions for urban and industrial landscapes. Her notable publications included *Trees for Town and Country* (1947) and *Land and Landscape* (1948,) a seminal work within land-based professions. She made her post-war reputation in transforming landscapes for power stations, reservoirs, industrial sites, new towns, national parks, new universities, hospitals, factories, and mineral workings, coming up with innovative solutions with ecology and conservation in mind. At Eggborough she framed the huge buildings with long shelter belts on raised banks within which, near the cooling towers, she placed recreation landscapes for the power station staff. On a smaller scale, she also worked at Old Sleningford Hall after James and Juliet Ramsden inherited the estate in 1953. Elected President of the Institute of Landscape Architects in 1951, she was the first woman to be a president within the environmental engineering professions. While the new additions to the Register throw a spotlight on the importance and quality of post-war designed landscapes and have effectively doubled the number of post-war gardens and landscapes that are protected, it still means that there are fewer than fifty such safeguarded sites in England. Undervalued post-war designed landscapes are particularly vulnerable to redevelopment pressures. Their significance can also be easily obscured or lost by neglect, lack of maintenance or unsympathetic changes. We, as a Gardens Trust, need to remain vigilant.

**Kathryn Gibson**

**Former Trustee and Former Chair of  
Conservation Committee**

<sup>3</sup> YGT gave a grant in 2011 for replanting the parterre/borders see *Newsletter* Issue 29, New Series 10, Summer 2011  
Page 37

# An Update from the YGT Events Team

Including news of the Events Programme for 2020-2021

A small group of the YGT Events Team has been meeting and organising events in the hope that life will become more normal by the New Year and we will be able to gather for visits.

Fortunately, nearly all of the events are outside and so social distancing, if it continues, should not be a problem. Depending on what happens, we may find that we are unable to hold our usual introductory talk in the nearby village hall, which might also mean no cakes and cups of tea – sorry! Events which were cancelled this year because of lockdown have now been rescheduled for 2021, though not necessarily in the same month, and we are very grateful to the owners for this. We have also added new events which you can see from the calendar.

One of the good things to come out of the pandemic has been the proliferation of talks, events and home learning on Zoom and other platforms, and I expect many of us have enjoyed talks from The Gardens Trust. So too, Yorkshire Gardens Trust will be presenting six talks on Zoom over the winter period in collaboration with The Gardens Trust; there will be a charge for each of these. We are also putting on a joint Zoom talk with the Friends of Roman Aldborough. For those who are unfamiliar with Zoom, access to a talk is through a link which will be sent in an email to all those who wish to attend, and you will then be invited to join the meeting. All the talks will need to be pre-booked and we will be sending out details later about how to do this.

Finally, October 2021 marks the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Yorkshire Gardens Trust and to celebrate this we are holding a celebratory lunch at Ridding Park on 9 October when Stephen Anderton, who writes for *The Times*, will give a talk. He gave the inaugural talk at Askham Bryan College exactly 25 years ago to the day. We hope to plan further celebrations in the following year.

## YGT Winter Talks on Zoom: Help Required

In order to manage each of the Zoom talks we require two volunteers – one to chair and introduce the talk and one to handle the Q&A session at the end. The Gardens Trust is offering a training session for the volunteers; this lasts approximately 90 minutes.

If any of you would like to be involved in this, Pat Gore would be delighted to hear from you; she can be contacted at: [patriciogore@btinternet.com](mailto:patriciogore@btinternet.com)

## Calendar of Events

### 2020

**December 4<sup>th</sup>:** Mark Newman will give a Zoom on-line talk to celebrate the 350th anniversary of John Aislabie's birth in 1670.

### 2021

#### January

We are arranging a series of Zoom talks, to be held in conjunction with the Gardens Trust, on **Tuesdays 5/12/19/26** as follows:

- **5 January:** Professor Michael Charlesworth: 'Reginald Farrer (1880-1920), Botanist: a Centenary Lecture'
- **12 January:** Dr John Page will talk about Farrer's botany and rock gardening
- **19 January:** Michael Myers will speak on the history and restoration of Aysgarth Rock Garden (see article on p. 6).
- **26 January:** Alisdair Moore, from The Lost Gardens of Heligan, will talk on the rock garden restoration there and Farrer's influence.

#### February

Snowdrops at **Wentworth Woodhouse** details tba.

**Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup>:** We are joining with the Friends of Roman Aldborough for a Zoom on-line talk to be given by Dr Twigs Way entitled 'Ruins in the Landscape'.

#### March

**Thursday 11<sup>th</sup>:** Alastair Fitter is Professor Emeritus of Ecology at the University of York, where he worked on the ecology of plant roots and their fungal symbioses and the impacts of climate change on ecosystems. His Zoom on-line talk is entitled *When will it flower? Plants and climate change* which will look at Phenology - the timing of biological events -one of the first things affected by a warming climate.



The Museum, Bramham Park. (Photo credit: Louise Amende)

**Saturday 27th:** AGM at **Bramham**, by kind permission of Nick and the Hon Rachel Lane-Fox. After the AGM, David Jacques will give a talk entitled *The Great Formal Layouts of Gardens and Parks 1610-1740*. There will then be lunch followed by a guided walk through the geometrically laid out pleasure grounds of paths running between high clipped beech hedges, water gardens and ornamental garden buildings.

#### April

**Saturday 17th: Boynton Hall.** An exclusive visit to the gardens and landscape park at Boynton Hall, not usually open to the public, by courtesy of the owners Mr and Mrs Marriott. Preference will be given to those members who booked to go on this visit in 2020.



Boynton Hall. (Photo credit: Vicky Price)

**Sunday 25th:** A visit to Professor Alastair Fitter's Garden, 533 Huntington Road, York.

#### May

**Wednesday 5th:** A bespoke visit to **Cusworth Hall**, which is run by Doncaster Council, its parkland and gardens. The Hall, listed Grade 1, was designed by George Platt of Rotherham for William Wrightson 1740-45, and remodelled by James Paine 1750-1753. Following William's death, Richard Woods was commissioned 1761-1765 to transform the designed landscape to create a new setting for the Hall. The majority of Woods' plans were implemented and many key features survived. Our visit to Cusworth will be led by David Shore, the Head Gardener, who will outline the history of Cusworth and its park and gardens. After lunch David will lead the afternoon tour where many of the key features of Woods' design can still be seen. The tour will conclude with a special visit to the Walled Garden which is being restored and is not usually accessible to the public and which will include a delightful '*end of tour surprise*' to our visit.

**Mid May, tbc:** A visit to **Hare Spring Cottage** Plants at Alne, near York, where Stella Exley specialises in Camassia, Sidalcea and Uvularia.

#### June

**Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup>: Cantley Hall, Doncaster**, is a mainly Georgian house with Victorian additions set in approximately one hundred acres of parkland containing many fine specimen trees. As well as retaining many of the historical features of the garden, the restoration and development project has been ongoing since the purchase of the property in 1990 by Lord Graham Kirkham and has allowed Lord Kirkham to embrace his passion for contemporary art which is in evidence throughout the pleasure grounds. The gardens retain many Victorian features, such as the Fernery, Pineaetum, Arboretum and two acre walled kitchen garden, with melon pits, forcing house and heated wall, as well as the restored Foster & Pearson and Messenger Glasshouses. It will be fascinating to contrast this house and garden with Cusworth Hall, just seven miles apart, one owned and maintained by the Council, the other in private ownership.

**Wednesday 16th:** Our venue for the Summer Party this year is **Sion Hill Hall**, thanks to the generosity of Mr Michael Mallaby. We will be free to wander at will in five acres of gardens which have been beautifully restored by Michael, accompanied by the peacocks, perhaps in person, certainly by their cries. In front of the house is a formal parterre, there is the long walk with herbaceous borders, a charming woodland walk overlooking the River Wiske, as well as a rose garden and a traditional kitchen garden.

**Wednesday 23rd:** A day in **Durham City**, planned and led by Martin Roberts, Northumbrian Gardens Trust member. Whilst not all details are finalised this will be an interesting day exploring the "Peninsula", visiting college gardens and more, finishing the day at Old Durham Gardens

#### July

**Wednesday 7th:** "*Valuing our historic garden heritage: Lotherton Hall's Edwardian Gardens*". A study day organised by Yorkshire Gardens Trust with Leeds City Council. Further details are available on p. 34.

**Thursday 15th or 22nd:** Our Summer Picnic at **Norton Conyers**. After refreshments in the stable courtyard, (designed by architect William Belwood 1748), the head gardener Giles Gilbey will take us on a tour of the beautiful 18th century walled kitchen garden with its paeonies and herbaceous borders, followed by picnic lunches in the garden.

**A guided tour of Valley Gardens**, in the centre of Harrogate. What is now the Gardens was once simply a footpath beside a stream leading from the Royal Pump Room to Bogs Field where there are 36 different mineral springs. The Valley Pleasure Grounds was opened in 1887 as an attractive walk for visitors to the Spa town, part of their health regime between taking the waters. A further acquisition of Collins Field enabled the laying out of sinuous paths, exotic tree planting and ornamental borders with planting displays supported by a new greenhouse. The Grade II listed garden still wins awards with its with floral displays, but there is much more to see, with a New Zealand Garden and a Japanese Garden, the Sun Colonnade and art deco Sun Pavilion – date tba.

### September

**Friday 3rd to Sunday 5th:** Gardens Trust AGM and Conference. Based in North Yorkshire, and visits are being arranged to gardens and historic landscapes around Richmond.

See further details on page 32.

### Waterton

A 5-mile guided walk to explore the world's first ever nature reserve and to hear of the extraordinary life and exploits of its founder, Charles Waterton. The walk will be undertaken at a leisurely pace with opportunity for a coffee stop, and picnic, part way round - date tba

Possible visit to Rowntree Park, York. To celebrate the centenary of the park next year.

### October

**Saturday 9th:** 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Lunch at Rudding Park

### Please note

Details of all events, except the talks, which will need to be booked separately, will be sent out in the New Year along with the booking form as usual. **Although most of the Events Calendar dates are fixed, some are still tba.**

**Also, please remember anything may change!**

*Vicky Price*

*YGT Events team*



Norton Conyers in high Summer. (Photo credit: Susan Kellerman)

## Forthcoming YGT Publications

Publication	Copy deadline	Publication date
Winter e-Bulletin	1 December 2020	21 December 2020
Spring Newsletter	31 January 2021	21 March 2021
Summer e-Bulletin	1 July 2021	21 July 2021
Autumn Newsletter	22 August 2021	28 September 2021

**Please send items for inclusion to Christine Miskin: [c.miskin@btinternet.com](mailto:c.miskin@btinternet.com)**