



YGT Celebrates its 25th Anniversary



We met together in the warm and welcoming surroundings of Rudding Park for lunch and a lecture to celebrate our 25th Anniversary on Saturday 9th October 2021.

Guests were welcomed by our Vice President, Lady Caroline Legard and we enjoyed a delightful glass of prosecco kindly donated by our hosts, Simon, and Judi Mackaness, who joined us for the celebration



Lady Caroline Legard, Vice-President, welcoming everyone

This was 25 years to the day from the inaugural lecture at Askham Bryan College, which was given by Stephen Anderton, then English Heritage’s National Gardens Manager. We were delighted that Stephen, now gardening correspondent for The Times was able to accept our invitation to return and to provide us with another thought-provoking lecture, continuing his theme of managing historic parks and gardens, and the problems which needed to be addressed. Following an introduction from Val Hepworth he commented that, whilst there has been progress and increased awareness of historic parks and gardens over

the last 25 years, there are still many challenges ahead. He emphasised the importance of organisations such as our own in continuing current education, campaigning and research activities. Stephen was thanked for his excellent talk by Chris Webb our Chair.



Chris Webb, Chair, making the vote of thanks

Members who attended, including Malcolm Barnett, Marilyn Elm, Peter Goodchild, Val Hepworth, Caroline Legard, and Janette Ray who were all on the first Steering Committee, and many other long-standing members, enjoyed sharing memories of past events and visits prompted by very

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interesting information boards of photos put together by Val Hepworth. After lunch Simon led a tour of the hotel's kitchen gardens and roof top spa garden, where we were able to admire the contemporary designs of Matthew Wilson.



Win Derbyshire and Stephen Anderton in conversation

We enjoyed a delicious lunch together and it was so good to be able to meet up again, after the privations of the pandemic which caused the cancellation of both the March 2020 and March 2021 AGM lunches, and to have the chance, in lovely and relaxed surroundings, to catch up with old friends and get to know new ones. Grateful thanks are due to Karen Lynch for her efforts in organising such a memorable day.

Maddy Hughes



Notes from the Editor

The highlight of our last few months was the very successful 25th Anniversary Lunch, ably organised by Karen Lynch, which was held at Rudding Hall, courtesy of Simon and Judi Mackaness on Saturday 9th October. After the privations of the pandemic, it was heartening to see so many members happily gathered together in the splendid surroundings of Rudding Park. A report and photographs of the event appear on p.1 of this e-Bulletin.

The Events programme regained some momentum with several visits taking place in the last six months of the year and I am grateful to Moira Fulton for her report of the Summer Picnic at Norton Conyers on p.4, Chris Beevers and Kathryn Barnes for their reports of the walking tours of York Gardens, and Valerie Greaves for her report on the visit to Cusworth Park.

Details of what looks like an extremely busy Events Calendar for 2022 appear on p.14 & 15. Our first visit of the year is to Wentworth Woodhouse in February to see the snowdrops. Further information about the Galanthus Gala appears on p.3.

Catherine Thompson- McCausland reports that the grave of Charles Waterton has recently been listed by Heritage England as it has been deemed to be of special historic interest. This news ties in nicely with our proposed visit to Waterton Park next September.

We have the usual Committee updates, and notes of our October Council meeting, which was held at the York Medical Society after nearly two years of Zoom meetings. It was so good to see everyone in the flesh again. Two books, one on Capability Brown and the other on Humphry Repton have been published recently and details appear at p.19

I hope all members enjoy a happy Christmas and let's hope that 2022 will finally see a return to normality.

Christine Miskin

YGT Events Programme 2022

The Events Committee aims to send out the Events Programme in the New Year, with a booking form in the hope that these will be able to go ahead as usual. Meanwhile here are two dates to launch our events programme for 2022.



Galanthus Gala



Zoom talk by Michael Myers “Snowdrops - October to April” Wednesday 19th January, 7pm



Michael's talk will cover most of the snowdrop species and then look at the various different flower forms including pterugiform, poculiform, virescent and 'yellow' snowdrops. Whilst the majority of snowdrops flower from late

January to early March, there is increasing interest in snowdrops that flower earlier and later than normal. These also feature prominently in the talk since they extend the season for galanthophiles considerably.

Michael has a long association with horticulture in the North of England, particularly with Harlow Carr, Askham Bryan College, the Aysgarth Edwardian Rock Garden and currently as horticultural lecturer at Craven College Skipton. He describes his horticultural interests as eclectic and diverse. With a keen interest in winter colour, he grows over 400 varieties of snowdrops



This talk is free, but please can you contact Maddy Hughes at madalynhughes56@aol.com if you would like to join the talk and she will send you a Zoom link.

Snowdrop visit to Wentworth Woodhouse Thursday 10th February 11.30am

YGT's first garden visit of 2022 will be to Wentworth Woodhouse, near Rotherham, and is perfectly timed to enjoy their Snowdrop Trail – and much more, see below. Members who wish to join this event should meet at the Entrance Hall of the House by 11.00am. We are not issuing tickets for this event so you will need to buy a ticket from Reception in the Entrance Hall, £6.00 for National Trust members (please remember to take your NT card with you), £12.00 for non-members. Parking is signposted and is 300yds from the house. Well-behaved dogs on leads are allowed too. If you wish to have refreshments before the tour, there is a Tearoom on the ground floor of the house, but please leave enough time to meet at 11.00am for the tour start at 11.30.



This event is being organised by Chris Beevers chrisbeevers121@gmail.com or 07906152317 Please can you contact her if you are interested in joining the Snowdrop Tour, as she needs to know our numbers in advance for the tour guide/s, or if you would like more information.

Chris has also added suggestions if you would like to have a day out at Wentworth Woodhouse.

- **Lunch:** bring your own picnic, the Tearoom café in the house, The Rockingham Arms pub in the estate village, or the Bothy or the Walled Garden Restaurant, both in Wentworth Woodhouse Garden Centre.
- **After lunch:** revisit the gardens accessed through the entrance hall, the South Terrace, the Forest of Bewilderment, the Ice House and the Mulberry Garden.
- Explore the Repton parkland from the car park. (Closes 4.00pm)
- Drive to the Wentworth Woodhouse Garden Centre (Closes 5.30pm) to visit the remnants of the Kitchen Garden and well-maintained ornamental gardens. A small charge of £1.75 is usually made, £1.25 Seniors Citizens, free to RHS members.
- Explore the local churches and estate village, using a footpath that leads from the garden centre car park.
- For more information about Wentworth Woodhouse Gardens, an Illustrated Guide by Joan and Mel Jones is excellent.

Summer Picnic at Norton Conyers

Thursday 9 July, 2021

On a fine, sunny but fortunately not too hot a day, 29 members and guests assembled in the 18th century stable block of Norton Conyers. Here we were welcomed by Sir James and Lady Graham and introduced to some of the people who look after the grounds and gardens, especially to Giles Gilbey, until recently the Head Gardener. Over a period of 20 years he has been responsible for transforming the Walled Garden from a weed infested site into one which is carefully maintained and full of interesting and unusual plants

Lady Graham first outlined some of the history of the house and its owners. The most influential was the 5th baronet, who remodelled the house,



rebuilt the stable block, created the walled garden, removed the medieval village and diverted the road which ran in front of the house. He was extremely wealthy, owning Nunnington Hall and several other properties, but unfortunately, some of his descendants managed to dissipate this wealth.

Members who were prepared to walk about a mile, were then led by Lady Graham on a track to the ice house. The track, a former Roman road, which later becomes the road between Ripon and Wass, runs very close to the front of the house and is separated from the park by a ha-ha. As the parkland is several feet below the track and the house, there was speculation as to whether there had been



considerable earth moving in the 18th century when the village was destroyed. We eventually reached the ice house which, looking through the barred doorway, appeared to be in remarkably good condition. On the way back some of us stood by the front door of the Hall and noticed that trees in the Park, in front of us, had been planted to guide our lines of sight into the landscape.

We then had a tour of the superbly planted Walled Garden with Giles Gilbey. The most stunning feature is the wide double border which leads up to the Orangery and Peach House. Giles explained that this had become overrun with pernicious weeds so 15 years ago all the plants were dug up, weed killer applied and there was no planting for a year. Now in mid-July the borders looked magnificent with tall and shorter plants intermingled. Many of the taller plants had been skilfully supported by hazel twigs. From there we passed to the peony bed, another tribute to Giles's gardening skills. The peonies had formerly been planted in some of the borders but had



become choked with weeds. They were dug up, sorted into species, the roots power-washed to remove the weeds and then replanted in rows where, Giles reckons, they will flourish for the next 50 years.

After our picnic lunch in various shady areas of the garden, followed by delicious strawberries and cream provided by the YGT committee, we were



taken by Giles and Lady Graham to explore the Wilderness. This woodland area, not open to the public, has been extensively studied by Stephen Moorhouse, the garden archaeologist, over a period of many years. He has discovered terraces and traces of an 18th century water garden, probably created by the 5th baronet, but Lady Graham has been advised that the remains would be difficult and expensive to restore. The Wilderness, enclosed by a massive stone wall, is sensitively managed to encourage wildlife with careful and selective felling. Our walk ended at a large, beautiful lake, full of water lilies, where several herons roost.

Giles and Lady Graham were then thanked by Maddy Hughes for providing YGT members with such an interesting tour, which had also given us a greater insight into the problems of running a large estate in the 21st century.

Photo credits: Maddy Hughes; Geoff Hughes – Icehouse

Moira Fulton

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Visit to Rowntree Park and York Gardens

Thursday 16 September, 2021

Rowntree Park

It was a lovely, warm September day for YGT's visit to York. The event had been arranged in two parts: a guided tour of Rowntree Park in the morning, followed by self-guided tours of up to five city centre gardens in the afternoon.



This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC BY-SA
The Park Keeper's House

Rowntree Park is on the west bank of the River Ouse, just a short walk from the city centre. It was, as the name suggests, gifted to the city by Messrs. Rowntree & Co in 1921. The company had acquired 17 acres in 1919 for the park, which was 'intended to serve as a perpetual memorial to the members of the Cocoa works staff that fell and suffered in the War'. Additionally, Rowntree wanted the park to provide 'rest and recreation from the turmoil and stress of life'. Rowntree & Co made a further gift of ironwork gates for the Terry's Avenue entrance following World War II as a tribute to their workers who had died in that war. The gates at this entrance were originally wooden but these were replaced in 1955 by the ironwork gates that are thought to be by Jean Tijou (d.1712) and are listed Grade II.

The Park, like most public amenities, has had a chequered history and, despite a £1.8m refurbishment supported by the HLF in 2003, maintenance of the now 30-acre park remains an ongoing struggle. In the past there have been up to 12 full-time staff, including a park keeper, but now there is only the council's travelling park maintenance team.

In the early 1990's the park's bandstand was demolished due to its derelict state and this loss galvanised the local community into forming a Friends group which was established in 1993. The Friends help with the gardening and litter control whilst the council remains responsible for the basic maintenance and health and safety issues. We were met in front of the café by Abigail Gaines, one of the volunteers of the Friends group, who led us on a very interesting and informative tour of the park.

York, as we all know, is regularly subject to serious flooding and, as the park is on the river's floodplain, it can be under water for as much as three months of the year. The serpentine lake in front of the café was designed to help accommodate the flood water and to hopefully relieve the effect on local housing. In the past there have been paddle boats on the lake but currently it is home to a large flock of Canada geese, whose numbers the Friends are trying to manage. Any new planting by the Friends is designed to deal with the problems caused by regular flooding. Beyond the lake is an arts and crafts Grade II listed lychgate with a dovecote in the roof area. Within the lychgate are plaques listing the Rowntree employees who died in both World Wars. From the lychgate there is a rill and then the long herbaceous borders, which the volunteers were working on during our visit. The Friends also maintain other garden areas such as the sensory garden and the memorial rose garden, with its maze of mosaic footprints created from actual people's footprints. They have to be selective as they simply do not have the resources to maintain the whole site. For instance, a rock garden with a waterfall cascade that appears to have been a very attractive feature behind the café is now overgrown and unlikely ever to be reinstated. Some facilities in the park have had to be demolished or given up due to the flooding; the swimming pool and bowling greens were too costly to maintain in the face of the annual inundation. However, there are tennis courts, a basketball court and skate park, along with an events space and a woodland story circle for young children.



This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC BY-SA
The lake with the Lych Gate and Dovecote in the distance

The Friends not only maintain the gardens, but they also organise events for the benefit of the community, to raise funds for their maintenance work and to finance new projects such as the wildlife garden they are in the process of creating. They are doing a brilliant job in helping to maintain this space and, on the evidence of our visit, the park remains much used and loved by the local community.

Kathryn Barnes

Gray's Court Hotel

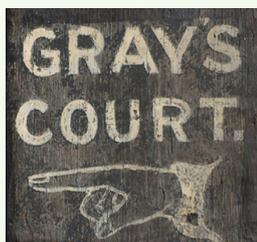
Chapter House Street, York

Introduction

The 300m stretch of the city walls which bounds Gray's Court was donated to the City of York in 1878 by Edwin Gray (c.1847-1929), the Lord Mayor of York. His wife, Almyra Gray wrote a history of her family in this building *Papers and diaries of a York family 1764-1839*. The book includes details of the family. Almyra died here in 1939. Composer Alan Gray (1855-1935), was the brother of Edwin Gray and grew up in the house. The house became "Gray's Court" when William and Faith Gray moved into it 1788. Life at the house was recorded by Faith Gray who was a keen diarist, but she also worked, with Catharine Cappe et al, to establish a school for poor girls. She helped transform the Grey (now Blue) Coat School and she started a Friendly Society. Faith died at Gray's Court on Boxing Day in 1826.

<https://archive.org/details/papersdiariesofy00gray/page/n543/mode/2up>

Walking down quaint and peaceful Chapter House Street, a small sign points the way to the enclosed courtyard which is the main entrance to what is now Gray's Court Hotel.



This Grade 1 listed building is described as "the oldest inhabited house in York", formerly known as 1, Minster Yard. Part of it dates from 1080 when it was the official residence for the Treasurers of York Minster.

Even older are the remains of a Roman gate - the Porta Decumana - which lay buried just inside the grounds.

John Aislabie (1670-1742) of Studley Royal and a Chancellor of the Exchequer was a former resident. Gray's Court is the only privately owned building in York with direct access to York's City walls, which form an imposing north-east 300m boundary to the gardens.

Across the courtyard through a formal avenue of trees, passing on the right, the garden gates, and stone piers (Grade 1 listed) and on the left the Dutch style gable end of the Treasurer's House (National Trust), visitors enter the 11th century building, now the reception area for the privately owned elegant hotel. Since development as a hotel in 2005, the gardens have been redeveloped and planted in keeping with the history of the house.

The gardens are divided into three sections:

- The Ornamental Garden
- The Kitchen Garden
- The Upper Terrace

Access to the gardens is from the dramatic height of the upper floors of the hotel, descending a staircase to the ornamental part of the garden.

The ornamental garden is an outside seating area for hotel guests.

The Upper Terrace - the white metal safety barrier of the city walls can be seen just above the summerhouse. Visitors walking along the walls have a bird's eye view of the gardens.

From the gardens, the walls are reached along a raised terrace, and then a stone flight of steps. There is planting against the city walls of evergreen plants such as cotoneaster, to soften the impact of the stone.

The 300m stretch of the city walls which bounds Gray's Court was donated to the City in 1878 by Edwin Gray (c.1847-1929), the Lord Mayor of York.

The Kitchen Garden was an interesting design intended to be aesthetically pleasing for hotel visitors and, as importantly, to supply produce for the kitchen and restaurant. Traditional herbs,



unusual vegetables and edible flowers are grown organically. A variety of fruit production methods are employed including espaliered trees against walls, standard forms, and the unusual method of growing fruit along ropes hung between short posts at the front of a border. (Above right). Wherever possible heritage Yorkshire cultivars are grown e.g. *Ribston Pippin* apples and Rhubarb *Brandy Carr Scarlet*.

At the time of our visit a member of the chef's team was picking green beans, nasturtiums, and marigold flowers for the evening menu. He explained how plans about what was grown in the



Facing the summer house there is a mixed island bed, including some elegant grasses. A circular bed with a central urn is planted with lavender.



Island beds with mixed planting, including grasses in the Ornamental garden



Entering the Kitchen Garden with roped support on short wooden posts for training fruit.

kitchen garden was a collaborative effort between the chef and the head gardener.

It would be interesting to re-visit Gray's Court garden, and perhaps meet the head gardener and chef to understand more about the purpose and principles of managing and developing this garden

from the hospitality industry perspective.... and, of course, to taste the fruits of their labours with an alfresco lunch or afternoon tea in this unique setting.

Chris Beevers

23 Stonegate, York

Of the five York City Centre gardens available for YGT visitors, 23 Stonegate certainly deserves its 'secret garden' accolades and its capacity to surprise. From the busy thoroughfare of Stonegate, squeezed between two shops, entrance is via a long narrow paved walk, passing the decorative brass business plate of former resident Dr Tempest Anderson. Crossing the entrance hall, the door to the beautiful walled garden immediately invites visitors into a haven of peace and tranquillity, a welcome relief from the bustle of Stonegate.

One of the larger surviving timber framed houses (c.1590) in York, 23 Stonegate is a tapestry of earlier and later architectural changes and it is remarkable

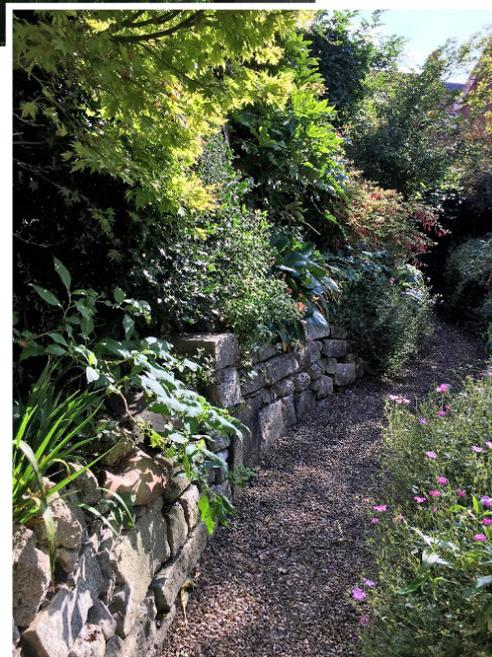


that that this small green space has survived. The property's medical connections began from the early 1800's onwards when it was home to three generations of Anderson medical practitioners, and their association with the York Medical Society. At the end of YMS's official ownership of the house and garden from 1944 to 2018, the York Conservation Trust took over its care and restoration.

The garden is private and for the use of residents of the seven flats on the upper floors, all of which have a garden view. It is a very well-planned garden, making the most of a small space, with gently rising levels towards to the back of the garden, nothing too strenuous.

The small lawned area is surrounded with borders full of mixed planting to provide year-round interest. A gravelled path meanders round, with a raised border planted with with shrubs to the left, leading to a seat below the rear boundary, an ideal view point from which to survey the building's history.

It certainly is a garden which invites people to stop, sit and enjoy its atmosphere and the interesting use of plants creates that special stillness and sense of calm that gardens can provide, either under cover or out in the open.



From earlier deeds pre-dating 1590, a low narrow wing of the building was known as "Little Paradise", a fitting description for the special qualities of 23 Stonegate's garden, so carefully maintained and still thriving centuries later.

Chris Beevers

Visit to Cusworth Park

Wednesday 22 September 2021

On a warm and sunny day about 30 members visited Cusworth Hall for the third visit in YGT's history. The previous visits were in 2000 and 2008 so we were looking forward to seeing what had changed. In some ways it was a case of two steps forward and one back. We were disappointed not to be able to go inside the Hall which is currently closed because Doncaster MBC has withdrawn almost all the indoor staff so that it is impossible to get a fire certificate. It would, however, have been difficult to do justice to the interior when there is such a lot to see in the grounds. The Assistant Manager David Shore gave up his whole day to take us round and give us the benefit of his knowledge of the grounds and his experience of running them, with a very small team.

The hall, a Grade I Listed Building, was built by William Wrightson in 1740, to replace a smaller house in the village. It was designed by the Rotherham architect George Platt but was altered and extended by James Paine between 1749 and 1755. It was home to the Battie-Wrightson family until 1952 and opened as a museum by Doncaster MBC in 1967. Between our two previous visits the hall and the grounds underwent extensive restoration with Heritage Lottery funding which makes its current closure and uncertain future all the more distressing.

Our visit started in the Walled Garden of the original house in the village. David outlined its history, starting with a plan from 1719. The house overlooked a sloping walled garden which William Wrightson developed between 1724 and 1740, with limestone outer walls and brick inner walls, a bowling green, a kitchen garden, a flower garden, an orchard, two glasshouses and facilities for growing peaches, cucumbers and pineapples. The glasshouses and other buildings can be seen on the 1904 OS map. The small square pavilion in one corner, known as the Bowling Pavilion, predates the Bowling Green. It was restored in 1992 with charming paintings depicting the surrounding gardens. In 1952 about two thirds of the walled garden was sold off for development, including the orchard. All that remains now are about five acres and the outer walls, the terrace and stone steps leading down to the bowling green. The Lottery funded restoration did not cover the walled garden, but it has been cleared of vegetation by volunteers



"Pavilion"

over three years. A new orchard has been created on the lower part of the garden using Yorkshire varieties of apples, and other fruit trees. It is hoped that further restoration may be carried out, but the walls are in need of work to make them safe.

As William Wrightson could not extend the house in the village, he decided to build a new, modern house on high ground in the existing deer park with a view of Doncaster and the River Don. He employed a local architect, George Platts but within a few years James Paine added side wings and stairwells. The road which passed in front of the house was moved further away and an avenue created leading to the new entrance, with plantations on either side. The gatehouse dates from the mid-19th century. After William died in 1760 his daughter Isabella and her husband John Battie employed Richard Woods to create a more impressive setting for the hall, in the manner of Capability Brown. Woods' commissions tended to be for less grand clients and sites than Brown's but still of a high quality. He also worked at Cannon Hall, Goldsborough, and Bretton, with which most of us are familiar, but Cusworth is considered to be his best work in the North. He created a landscaped park of 250 acres, sloping down from the house. Its main feature is a chain of three lakes, created from a small natural watercourse, and a

rather inadequate supply of water. The upper lake is the largest, the middle lake the deepest. The lower lake required a basin pond to maintain the water level but is now topped up by a borehole. There is a cascade between the upper and middle lakes. The restoration of the lakes between 2004 and 2007 accounted for most of the £7.5 million Lottery funding, but only the 1760s linings needed to be repaired.

After lunch in the café, thankfully still open, David gave us a tour of the parkland and pleasure grounds. He explained that the slope, known as the hanging lawn, involved some complicated earthmoving to create a concave/convex slope, and of course was all done with hand tools after removal of the old ridge and furrow ploughing. Between the hall and the boundary of the walled garden Woods created a shrubbery walk with exotic trees and shrubs from around the world. This was expanded in about 1850 and surrounded by a deer-proof fence. There was originally a rose-arched walkway from the walled garden to the shrubbery and the 1783 gates were replicated with the Lottery money. The whole area was restored to its 1909 appearance, this being the date when Lady Isabella created her rose garden outside her new dining room. It has been replanted by David, but



not as a rose garden. The shrubbery walk was very overgrown and needed a great deal of clearance and replanting. Over the whole site about 500 trees have been cleared, mainly sycamore, and

the planting restored to something closer to its 18th century design, augmented by more recent memorial trees. The Lottery bid had included plans to acquire more land, but the owner was asking too much for it.

Our visit ended at the rock arch on the upper lake, this is a boat house made of artificial rock topped with earth in the form of a cave. As we walked down to the lakes David shared with us



his problems of managing the site with only two other gardeners and about five volunteers, and no-one permanently on site, leading to incidents of trespass and vandalism. In the circumstances he and his team are doing very well, and their efforts are clearly appreciated by the many visitors, some of whom visit every day. We were all impressed by his knowledge and enthusiasm and grateful for his time. We suggested that Cusworth apply for a grant under YGT's Small Grants Scheme. Thanks too, to Chris Beevors for organising such an enjoyable and interesting day.

Images by Chris Beevors and Valerie Greaves – Pavilion

Valerie Greaves

Latest news

We have heard from David Shore "I am pleased to be able to report that after a few letters of support reaching the Mayor and Chief Executive resulting in a subsequent 1:1 meeting with our Head of Service that my job role as Cusworth Park Manager has at this stage been put back into the proposed re-structure. Final details to come and formal consultation to go through now".

This is excellent news for both David and the future safeguarding of Cusworth Park.

Charles Waterton

Historic England has recently advised that the grave of Charles Waterton has been deemed of special historic interest and has been listed Grade 2. It will therefore join the other listed structures at Waterton Park. While it has not been possible to visit the grave site in recent years, it is hoped that designated status will improve access. It was a place of pilgrimage for David Attenborough when he visited Wakefield to open the Waterton Room in the new Museum in Wakefield One in 2013. YGT are hoping to plan a visit to Waterton Park in the near future.

Charles Waterton (1782- 1865), writer, adventurer and naturalist was born into a leading Roman Catholic family established near Wakefield since the Middle Ages. While the family lost influence during the Reformation, they retained their property part of which, Waterton, was to develop in the 1920's into this country's first nature reserve.

After education at Stoneyhurst, at the age of twenty-two, Waterton went out to British Guiana (now Guyana) to help to manage the sugar plantations belonging to his family. He was encouraged by Joseph Banks to obtain samples of the Indian blow pipe poison curare, so that any possible medical properties could be ascertained. He was successful in doing this and it is still used in anaesthesia today. From 1812 he embarked on a series of four journeys of exploration into the interior of the country, documented in his book *Wanderings in South America*. He travelled barefoot, accompanied by a few Amerindian guides, immersing himself in the natural history of the country and gathering

a large collection of birds and animals for the Museum he was to create at Walton Hall. These were preserved by his unique method of taxidermy leaving the specimens hollow.

When he returned from his travels in 1821, Waterton was distressed by what he considered to be the barbaric treatment of local wildlife. He conceived the idea of a safe space to protect wildlife, and to keep poachers out, which was to lead to the creation of the first nature reserve in the U.K., perhaps in the world. He began to enclose his park with a high wall over three miles long, which took five years to build. Within the park he created numerous nesting sites for different species of birds, while the lake attracted quantities of waterfowl and helped in the establishment of a heronry.

He also built several towers from which he could watch the wildlife unobserved, the forerunner of the naturalists' hide. Later he was to fight one of the first pollution battles by bringing a case against a soap works close to the estate that was damaging his trees and polluting the lake.

Squire Waterton, as he was known locally, welcomed all to the park free of charge provided they came without dog or gun. He particularly welcomed the mentally ill from the local asylums, as he discerned the calming effect of the natural world. His wider influence is attested by the naming after him of the Waterton Lakes National Park in Canada, now part of a World Heritage Site.

In 1865, at the age of eighty-two, Waterton was still climbing trees barefoot to observe and record the wildlife in his park but was

to die in May of that year as the result of a fall. He had planned his funeral carefully and chosen the burial site, between two oak trees at the far end of the lake from the house. The grave vault was to be surmounted by a simple cross with an inscription written by himself. The cast iron railings were a later addition by his sisters-in-law.

He was buried on his birthday, 3rd June, and details of the fine ceremony survive. Thirteen priests, four canons in purple cloaks and a bishop in mitre and robes officiated at the Requiem Mass in the Hall, followed by a solemn procession of barges across the lake. Barges containing the clergy and family were followed by the coffin in a little coal boat and then Waterton's own boat *The Percy*, empty and draped in black. It was said that as the coffin was lowered, a linnet began to sing. David Attenborough salutes the memory of Charles Waterton as "writer, eccentric, adventurer and naturalist" but claims him as much more than all those put together.

Wakefield's Festival of the Earth has a tribute to Waterton in a special exhibition and video presentation in the Museum. This is in addition to the room which contains his collection of preserved birds and animals, including the famous captured Cayman, on loan from Stoneyhurst. It is difficult to find the Museum as there are no directions: it is tucked away in the basement of the Council Offices, a large modern building called Wakefield One.

Catherine Thompson-McCausland

Schools Group Report

YGT for Schools: Autumn Term Update

In this edition of the e-Bulletin I thought I would give you an idea of what we do during a school term so here goes:

We begin with a welcome-back-to-school email sent to our members, briefly outlining what will be on offer during the term. This term we attached a flyer to this email, listing various venues offering good workshops for children such as RHS Harlow Carr and The Yorkshire Arboretum. That was followed by an offer of financial support for a school visit or a visiting workshop. We feel that such experiences can be a significant part of a child's school life. Ingleby Greenhow Primary won a visit to their school by Wack's Wicked Plants who run workshops about carnivorous plants – definitely child-popular.

Most terms we offer gardening equipment to our schools but in this year of the Queen's Green Canopy planting initiative our main event this term has been the offer of an apple tree to all our schools. Our committee member, Lucy Porritt, has worked with Mark Gerrand-Jones of Rogers of Pickering to supply 'Bush' form trees (with stakes, ties and protective stem guards), 3 to 4 years old, where next year's flowers will appear on branches easily seen by primary children; hopefully, apples too! Mark chose apples that are particularly suited to the areas of Yorkshire that the applying schools come from: Balsam, Ribston Pippin and Fillingham Pippin. We are very grateful for Mark and Rogers of Pickering for their help.

To accompany the apple trees, we will send out a leaflet for use in school full of information about apples, written by our committee member, Christine Wood. Here is an excerpt that you may enjoy:

Apple Facts and Figures

Did you know.....?

 That China, the USA and Poland are the top 3 apple producing countries!



 That the heaviest apple weighed 1.849 kg (4 lb 1 oz) and was grown and picked by Chisato Iwasaki at his apple farm in Hirosaki City, Japan on October 24, 2005. It grew on a forty-year-old apple tree!

 That the smallest cultivated apple in the world is called the *Tiddly Pomme* and is roughly the size of a golf ball. It weighs just 40g and comes from New Zealand.

 That New York is known as 'The Big Apple'. This nickname began in the 1920s when sports journalist John J. Fitz Gerald wrote a column for the *New York Morning Telegraph* about the many horse races and racecourses in and around New York. He referred to the grand prizes to be won as "the big apple," meaning the biggest and best that could be achieved.



 That the first apple pie recipe was written over 630 years ago in England in 1381. The list of ingredients included good apples, good spices, figs, raisins, pears, saffron, and cofyn (a type of pastry crust). Early English apple pies had no sugar because sugar was very expensive.



References: Information about the history of the apple came from an article in the October 1990 issue of the *New Internationalist*.

Christine Wood and Sue Lindley

Conservation and Planning Committee

The Conservation and Planning Committee remains very active – as revealed by their meeting in October:

- We have offered statutory comments on 73 planning applications affecting registered parks and gardens, between 18 May and 19 October i.e. almost four consultations every week.
- We are investigating the preparation of an analysis of the impact of our comments, with a view to developing an on-going schedule of results. The brief table below provides an illustration. We are investigating whether such an exercise might be shared centrally with GT.

App ref no	Site address	Authority	YGT comments	Planning decision	YGT impact
21/03171/REM	Utlely Cemetery	Bradford	YGT opposed due to no heritage assessment	Refused – as 3 yr date was missed and planning officer noted missing heritage assessment	positive
21/05400/FU	Wharfedal Fold (High Royds)	Leeds	YGT opposed due to dormers	Approved – after applicant removed front dormers and altered rear dormer	positive
21/05321/LI	Bewerley Mews (High Royds)	Leeds	YGT supported on cond'n of app'd details	Approved – with cond'n to submit details for app'l	positive
21/01277/FUL	Oakes Park	Sheffield	YGT supported on con'd of app'l of external details	Approved – with cond'n to submit details for app'l	positive
21/02164/HOU	Selbourn Grove (Lund Park)	Bradford	YGT opposed due to non-compliant dormers	Approved – planner agrees that dormers do not comply with SPD but that PD rights over-rule.	positive
20/05548/HOU	Park Drive (P of W Park, Eldwick)	Bradford	YGT opposed due to over-bearing impact on carriage drive	Approved – planner notes that house design is good and boundary trees in Park will veil drive.	over-ruled
R/31/22P	Marske Hall	York Dales	YGT sought to support despite many detail concerns but could see no solution to vehicle parking	Application withdrawn	positive

- We continue to work on developing opportunities to share expertise with other professionals, and the proposed Edwardian Gardens Day at Lotherton Hall, 22 June 2022 is designed to provide such an opportunity. (See p.16).
- Our committee continues to benefit enormously by retaining its close relationship with both Natural England (Margaret Nieke) and Historic England (Chris Mayes).
- We are co-operating with the Website Manager in revising and refreshing our web pages.
- We regret to have learned that Whinburn, in Utlely above Keighley has been placed on Historic England's At Risk Register. Members of YGT had invested an immense amount of work in achieving registration for this garden, and we shall offer support to strive to get this wonderful garden back to health.



*The derelict gatehouse at Whinburn
(Image: Roger Lambert)*

Roger Lambert

Events Committee – Calendar for 2022

The Events team has been busy organising a full programme for 2022 with visits to historic gardens. Some of the events have been postponed for two years, like the visits to Boynton and Waterton; others are brand new. To celebrate the 25th anniversary of the YGT, we have been generously invited by Diane, Lady Harewood, YGT's President, to have an evening party there, with drinks on the terrace, a talk by the head gardener and a chance to wander in the garden.

Our AGM will be held at Bramham Park, with grateful thanks to Nick and Rachel Lane Fox, as this has already been postponed twice. The talk after the business of the AGM will be given by David Jacques and is entitled *The Great Formal Layouts of Gardens and Parks, 1610-1749*.

Please also note that we will be putting on five Zoom on-line talks in conjunction with the Gardens Trust for their series of Unforgettable Gardens, and these will be about Yorkshire gardens. They will take place during the dark evenings of March so we do hope that you will sign up for them.

JANUARY

Wednesday 19th: 7.00 Zoom on-line talk by Michael Myers 'Snowdrops - October to April'.

For details of how to access this talk please see separate entry in this e-Bulletin, 'Galanthus Gala' on p.3

FEBRUARY

Thursday 10th Feb: 11.30am YGT's first garden visit of 2022 to Wentworth Woodhouse, near Rotherham, is perfectly timed to enjoy their Snowdrop Trail, and much more. See separate entry in this e-Bulletin, 'Galanthus Gala' at p.3

MARCH

Unforgettable Yorkshire Gardens Zoom on-line talks

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

All talks will take place at 18.00

- Wednesday 2nd: Dr Chris Ridgeway 'Castle Howard - Gardens'
- Wednesday 9th: Tom Stuart Smith 'Yorkshire Gardens'
- Wednesday 16th: tba
- Wednesday 23rd: Mark Newman and Gail Falkingham 'The Aislabies, Hackfall and Kirby Fleetham'
- Wednesday 30th: Dr Chris Ridgeway 'Castle Howard - Landscape'

Saturday 26th: YGT AGM at Bramham Park.

APRIL

Saturday 9th: An exclusive day-long visit to the historic buildings, gardens and landscape park at Boynton Hall, not usually open to the public, by courtesy of the owner Mrs Marriott.

Wednesday 27th: A visit to Renishaw Hall, Derbyshire home of the Sitwell family for nearly 400 years. There will be tours of the house and gardens, including a display of garden history archive material, a visit to the Vineyard sited in an 18th century former horse paddock, and the Edwardian Kitchen Garden not usually open to the public.

MAY

- Saturday 14th:** Aldborough Manor, for a private visit to the Roman Site and Garden, managed by English Heritage, ending with short visit to Sir Andrew Lawson-Tancred's private garden.
- Thursday 19th:** Goddards. A tour, led by the head gardener and Gillian Parker, of the five acres of garden rooms of the former Terry family home with views over York racecourse towards the iconic Terry factory clock tower.
- Wednesday 25th:** The biennial Yorkshire Philosophical Society/Yorkshire Gardens Trust lecture to be held in the Tempest Anderson Room at the Yorkshire Museum. Louise Wickham will give a talk *Thomas White (c. 1736-1811): Redesigning the Northern British Landscape*.

JUNE

- Tuesday 14th:** The Summer picnic will be held in the garden of Clemens and Johanna Heinrichs at Lastingham in the North York Moors.

JULY

- Thursday 7th:** A visit to Thwaite Garden, once part of the estate of Thwaite Hall, an important survival of a 19th century villa with a Grade II garden of Special Historic Interest, containing a superb collection of specimen trees, more recently becoming the Botanic Gardens of the University of Hull. The day will also include a visit to Bishop Burton Walled Garden.
- Thursday 14th:** An evening at Harewood House to celebrate Yorkshire Garden's Trust 25th Anniversary.

SEPTEMBER

Friday – Sunday, 2nd - 4th:

The Gardens Trust AGM will be based around Richmond, North Yorkshire.

- Thursday 8th:** Waterton Park, near Wakefield. Join a walk to explore the world's first ever nature reserve, and to hear of the extraordinary life and exploits of its founder, Charles Waterton. See also the note about Charles Waterton at p.11.
- Saturday 10th:** Gillingwood, a few miles north of Richmond. A visit with Northumbria Gardens Trust.
- Thursday 22nd:** Cannon Hall, a country house and garden five miles from Barnsley, home of the Spencer family and later the Spencer-Stanhope family. The parkland was landscaped in the 18th century by Richard Woods. Restoring the Glory, Revealing the Secrets is the £3.8 million project completed in September 2021, which gives Cannon Hall so much more to offer its visitors and has secured its future for the 21st century. A talk and tour led by the Project Manager Sharon Sutton will give a unique insight into how this has been achieved.

This list is a taster of the 2022 programme and full details of all the events and a booking form will be sent out to members in January.

Vicky Price

Lotherton Hall Event June 2022

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

We are hoping that it will be third time lucky for our Edwardian Gardens Study and Training Day at Lotherton Hall, near Aberford. Like so much else the pandemic has really scuppered our plans but we remain hopeful that the event will go ahead as we planned it for 2020 but this time in June 2022. I will be getting in touch with all those who booked for 2020. The programme remains the same. Please see programme and booking form on pages 16 and 17.

Val Hepworth

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

This is a Continuing Professional Development Event

9.30 am **Coffee and Registration**

10.00 am **Welcome and Introduction**

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

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

10.10 **Lotherton: a Garden in Time:**

- **The Wider World Context of the late 19th century**

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

Mette Eggen, Landscape Architect, Historic Research and author of 'The Edwardian Garden at Lotherton Hall'

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

John Grimshaw, Director of the Yorkshire Arboretum

11.10 **Break for Coffee/Tea**

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

- **Frederick and Gwendolen Gascoigne at Lotherton**

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

Mette Eggen

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

Jane Furse, Landscape Architect, Historic Park and Garden Specialist

12.35 **Questions**

12.45 **Lunch in the Stableyard Cafe**

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

Chris Flynn, Head Gardener at Dyffryn, National Trust of Wales

14.30 **Rebirth - the Economic case for Garden renovation and renewal**

Chris Flynn

14.45 **Questions**

15.00 **Guided Visit to Lotherton's Gardens and Parkland**

16.30 **Summing Up**

Meet in the Stableyard Café courtyard for Afternoon tea and cake

How to Book

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

Places are limited.



Gwendolen Gascoigne and granddaughter in the rose garden, Lotherton.

Photo credit: Lotherton Hall archive, Leeds City Council.

Lotherton Hall Event June 2022

BOOKING FORM Cost: £40 per person

(see below for subsidised rates)

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

Speedy booking is advised.

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

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

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

Yorkshire Gardens Trust

Account number: 25555237

Sort Code: 05-09-94

Reference: LHEG xxxxx (your surname)

Bookings will only be confirmed once payment has been received.

YOUR DETAILS

Name

Occupation

Tel. Number

Address

.....

Post code

Email address

This is a Continuing Professional Development (CPD) event.

Closing date for booking 31st May 2022

Bookings will only be confirmed once payment has been received.

In case of queries, telephone 01748 822617

Garden Trust News

In its latest e-Bulletin (November) the GT has introduced a new feature entitled CGT of the Month, which will feature the conservation work carried out by individual CGTs which they hope “will give members a deeper understanding of how CGTs undertake this vital work”. The first victim is Avon Garden Trust.

Heritage Alliance

The GT has recently circulated the local county gardens trusts with the Heritage Alliance’s Fortnightly Members’ Email, which they receive. The Alliance was established in 2002 and is a membership body which represents the independent heritage movement in England. Its members range from large bodies like the National Trust to specialist charities and community organisations. It aims to protect our cultural heritage by monitoring government plans for the sector and making representations on new initiatives. They also write briefings, summaries and consultation responses and endeavour to bring the myriad organisations within this sector closer together.

Council News

The Council of Management met in person at the York Medical Society’s offices in Stonegate for the first time for almost two years. This was the first in person meeting to be both chaired by Chris Webb and attended by Gillian Parker, our new Company Secretary, who was welcomed by us all.

Val Hepworth has stated her intention that she wishes to resign as Chairman of the Conservation and Planning Committee but will continue with the planning work. It was agreed that the forthcoming Development Plan for 2022-26 would contain provisions for ensuring that key roles in the organisation would be covered for the future.

Louise Amende has confirmed that she has obtained a full-time job and will be resigning as soon as plans have been put in place to appoint her successor.

A Working Party of Chris Webb, Maddy Hughes and Gillian Parker will convene to organise this.

The Events Committee is proceeding well on finalising a good programme for 2022 and details can be found elsewhere on p.14 & 15.

The Website renewal project is going well. It has been agreed that there will no longer be a Members only section.

Because the Gardens Trust has set up a new Lottery funded project to enable it to grow for the future and attract a much broader membership base, it has been decided to try and benefit from its market research, which includes an online survey very similar to the one we were planning, rather than continuing with our own Rebranding project. The latter will therefore be put on hold.



Recently Published Books

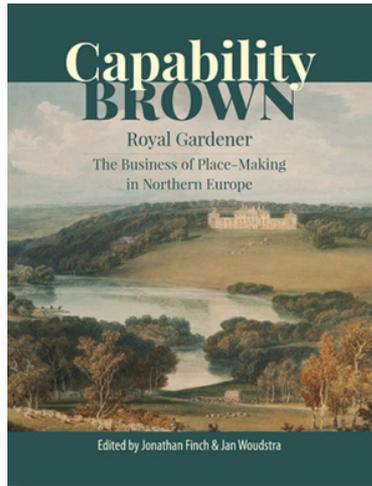
Capability Brown, Royal Gardener: The Business of Place-Making in Northern Europe

Edited by Jonathan Finch and Jan Woudstra

York: White Rose University Press (Universities of
Leeds, Sheffield and York), 2020

ISBN 978 1 912482 24 5. £23.23

This book is also available under the Creative
Commons Licence.



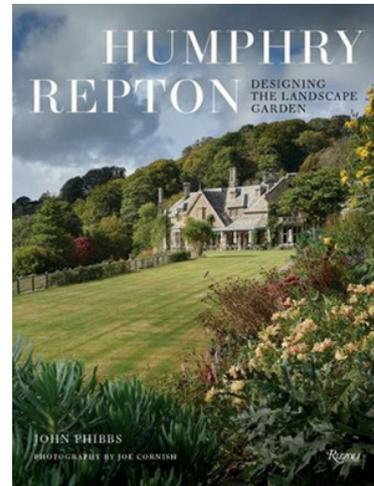
“It brings together for the first time several perspectives from a varied range of authors, with contributors drawn internationally from archaeology, art history, history and landscape architecture, from scholars and expert practitioners. It provides new insights

into both Brown and his career, as well as shedding new light on his landscape practice, and his way of working, in a national and international context”.

Humphry Repton: Designing the Landscape Garden

*By John Phibbs with photographs by
Joe Cornish*

ISBN: 978-0-8478-6354-9. New York, Rizzoli, 2021.
288p. Hardback £55.00



“This book explores 15 of Repton’s most celebrated landscapes including Mulgrave Castle that would point the way toward how we envision parkland today. With photography by Joe Cornish commissioned specially for the book and including reproductions of key

illustrations and plans for garden design from the famous red books that shed light on Repton’s vision and process, this book illuminates some of Britain’s most beautiful gardens and parks—and the masterful mind behind their creation”.

Forthcoming YGT Publications

The new pattern of publications will commence in 2022 and will be as follows:

Publication	Copy deadline	Publication date
February e-Bulletin	1 February 2022	21 February 2022
Spring Newsletter	28 February	21 April 2022
June e-Bulletin	1 June 2022	21 June 2022
August e-Bulletin	1 August 2022	21 August 2022
Autumn Newsletter	1 September 2022	21 October 2022
December e-Bulletin	1 December 2022	21 December 2022

Please send items for inclusion to Christine Miskin: c.miskin@btinternet.com

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

YGT Contact Details

For general and membership queries: email secretary@yorkshiregardenstrust.org.uk.

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

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

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