



Waterton Park Walk Thursday 8 September, 2022

Introduction

Our meeting place for the Waterton Park walk was the Visitor’s Centre at the adjacent Anglers’ Country Park. Approaching through the unprepossessing outskirts of New Crofton, the visitor is unprepared for the abrupt change to open countryside as the suburban road changes to a narrow lane, winding through Winterset towards the Centre. The area was previously the site of deep open cast mining but has now been transformed and returned to open fields and farming, with the Country Park and Lake at its centre.

Armed with raincoats, we were met at the Centre by Dave Mee, who was to lead our five mile walk round Charles Waterton’s adjoining Park. Dave, who had recently retired as the Countryside Officer for the area, had kindly agreed to return and act as our guide. We were indeed fortunate to benefit from his extensive knowledge, both of Waterton and of the surrounding area, which had been under his supervision for many years. As we set out, none of us could have guessed that, far from the anticipated rain, we were to spend the day in beautiful sunshine.

Our walk began at the nearby Anglers’ Country Park Lake, created from the ruins of the open cast mining, and now host to a quantity of waterfowl and a resident heron. Dave described how the Coal Board had gone to great lengths to ensure the lake was watertight, but that “Anglers” was a misleading name as the lake had only very briefly been fished. The derelict area surrounding the lake has been transformed into woodland under his supervision, culminating in a recently created wildflower meadow overlooking the lake. Dave stressed how he had been meticulous in planting only the species native to this part of the country, for instance favouring the pedunculate oak over the sessile, in the hope that co-existing wildlife would return. He took especial pleasure in the fact that the migrating Wigeon, so beloved

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by Waterton, still returned every year, now in greater numbers and enjoying the new larger lake.

Charles Waterton's life and death

Our walk continued through the woodland until we paused at a point where we could get a first glimpse of a surviving section of the wall originally surrounding Waterton's Park. Dave punctuated the walk with stops at places of interest as he gradually unfolded the story of Charles Waterton's life and the creation of the park. The first point, about which he was adamant, was that Waterton, always billed as "eccentric", was no such thing: there was always a reason for everything he did and, in many ways, he was ahead of his time. Here we heard about Waterton's early life and education as a Roman Catholic. The family are recorded as leading landowners near Wakefield from the Middle Ages and retained their land holdings during the Reformation, despite their faith. Following this tradition, Charles was educated in the Catholic tradition, first at Tudhoe School in Northumberland and then, aged fourteen, at Stonyhurst, both schools run by Jesuits. His fascination with wildlife and the outdoors was already apparent; at Stonyhurst he was appointed school rat catcher, a position he enjoyed, as he associated the brown rat with the arrival of Protestantism and the extermination of the black "Catholic" rat. He was to remain a devoted Catholic all his life.

As we were near to the site of his grave, we also heard about the end of his life, when his body was borne in procession across the lake created by his father. The funeral cortege was led by a bishop and followed by a procession of boats to the burial site he had chosen between two oak trees. His death had been precipitated by a fall from which he never recovered. In 1865, at the age of eighty-two, Charles was still climbing barefoot into the tree canopy to observe the wildlife. His death was brought about by a more mundane trip over a bramble. His grave was to be a place of pilgrimage for David Attenborough when he came to open the Waterton room in the new Museum, Charles being one of the figures who had inspired him as a young naturalist.

The Original Wall

Further along the path we found a larger section of the wall where it was plain to see that its construction had taken place in stages. On inheriting the estate and returning from his travels in South America, Waterton had decided to create a safe space for wildlife. He embarked on a project to enclose the park in a wall over three miles long and varying in height from nine to fourteen feet. It took five years to build and the construction, not in completed

sections but from the ground upward, was here plain to see. Completed in 1824, it cost £9,000 and Charles avowed that it was paid for from the wine he did not drink! Within the park he created numerous nesting sites for different species of birds and helped in the establishment of a heronry.



Here we also learnt something of Charles's travels in British Guiana, well documented in his "Wanderings in South America". Leaving the estate that he went out to help to manage, he travelled deep into the interior, always with bare feet and accompanied by a local guide. He was fascinated by the exotic creatures that he found. Dave entertained us with a graphic description of his capture of a huge snake with his bare hands, and later his encounter with the famous Cayman, currently to be seen in Wakefield Museum. The specimens he collected were never harmed in any way, hence his disdain for J.J. Audubon who shot the specimens he studied. Charles preserved his with a unique formula containing mercury which left the specimens hollow. His wonderful collection of preserved birds and animals reflects the success of his formula. Other more radical works reflect another side to his character, forming a human face from a monkey's bottom and mocking the government and Martin Luther.

The track now led us inside the park and, after a short climb, we had our first view of the lake and the Hall beyond. It was the perfect place to stop for our picnic lunch, looking across the lake to the site of Waterton's heronry. It was also a moment to absorb some family history. The present Hall on the island was built in 1767 by Charles's father, Thomas, who demolished the earlier Tudor house which had been moated and Thomas extended the moat to create the lake. This was the Hall and Park that Charles inherited and to which he brought his young bride.

At the age of forty seven, he arranged to marry the seventeen year old daughter of his friend Charles Edmonstone. She was sent to a convent in Bruges for instruction in Catholicism before the marriage and, tragically, died a year later after giving birth to a son Edmund. Charles never recovered from her loss and, as a penance, slept thereafter on the bare floor with one blanket and a piece of wood for a pillow.

Waterton Hall



After the break we continued downhill towards Walton, now Waterton, Hall. As ownership is now divided between the Waterton Park Hotel and the Waterton Golf Club, the area is complicated to visit, and we were fortunate to have Dave as our guide. Behind the new hotel building Dave pointed out the site of Waterton's farmhouse and the destroyed Grotto where Charles entertained, including workers from the local mills, school children and inmates from Wakefield Lunatic Asylum; he was ahead of his time in recognising the benefit of nature to the mentally disturbed. This area is now in private hands.

From there we were able to visit the Hall on the island, crossing by the charming metal bridge. The Watergate, covered in ivy and surmounted by a cross, is the only survival from the mediaeval house. In Charles's day it provided shelter for numerous birds, now it is one of the few reminders of the earlier occupants of the modern hotel. The Waterton coat of arms, an otter with a fish in its mouth, still crowns the entrance and the two door knockers are a reminder of Charles's sense of humour: the smiling face was a dud knocker while the scowling face received the blow. Sadly, the hotel did not get the joke and now they both knock.

The hotel is beautifully appointed, and we enjoyed a break on the lawn, overlooking the lake in wonderful sunshine. Dave took the opportunity to share the books he had brought with him, giving us a chance

to see contemporary descriptions of the site as well as more recent publications. He also described the importance of a little-known aspect of Charles's travels, that of acquiring wourali, a poison used by the Indians to tip their arrows. Now known as curare, it is still used as an ingredient in anaesthesia today and, in acknowledging its importance, Charles was a pioneer. One of the asses who survived his early experiments with the substance was named Wouralia and given a home at Walton Hall.

The first victory against polluters?

After a welcome break we made our way round the northern tip of the park. This was the site of the specially built wall with nesting holes for the sand martins, now sadly destroyed, and further north Dave indicated the site of the Soap Works, the chemical discharge from which had damaged trees in the park and polluted the lake. Charles brought a court case against the owners which he eventually won – maybe the first victory against pollution. It was also further evidence of his social conscience that he arranged the purchase of a new site for the works, thus ensuring continuing employment for the workers.

The second part of the walk ran at first along the line of the old Barnsley/Wakefield canal. Charles refused to allow it to cross the park so it looped round the edge and necessitated cuttings through the rock which can still be seen. Now defunct and an S.S.I., it is home to a wide selection of wildlife of which Charles would have approved. After crossing the canal on one of the original stone bridges, we followed along the line of the park wall on the outside. Here the wall is largely intact, although unfortunately rendered in places. As we walked, Dave was delighted to point out a pendunculate oak with its distinguishing features, leaves with no stem and suspended acorns. He also showed us where he had repaired a section of the wall, cutting off the resident badgers from their latrine, but inserting a large pipe into the wall so they were not inconvenienced. The nearby plantation of Baltic pines had been originally designated for pit props and would in time be replaced by native species.

The restored Watch Tower

The walk finished at one of the most important features of Waterton's Park, the restored Watch Tower. This was one of several which Charles constructed in the park and the only one which survives, thanks to finance for restoration from the Rotary Club. These towers were constructed so that he could watch the wildlife unobserved and are of historical importance as the forerunner of the modern hide. It also gave his gamekeepers cover

to catch the local poachers! The heavy stone roof lies nearby and was not replaced in case of further collapse.



As the walk ended, Maddy expressed our warmest thanks to Dave with a token of our appreciation. We had enjoyed a wonderful walk and been given insight into the remarkable career of Charles Waterton by an expert in his life and work. It was indeed a day to remember.

The end of the Waterton story contains nothing but sadness. Charles's achievements were not understood or appreciated by his son Edmund who was disinterested in natural history. On inheriting, Edmund plundered the estate to pay the debts incurred by his extravagant lifestyle and even arranged shooting parties in the park. Eventually in 1877 the estate was sold. Happily, Charles Waterton's achievements are well documented in his writings and in what remains of his park. We were indeed fortunate to have such a knowledgeable guide to give us insight into the life of the man who David Attenborough saluted as a pioneer in many fields.

Catherine Thompson-McCausland
Images © Maddy Hughes

Gardens Trust News



New volunteers

The Gardens Trust held a workshop in Birmingham in early October entitled *Finding and Supporting Volunteers for your CGT*, which was their first in person training event since 2019. The day's presentations are now available on their [Resource Hub](#).

Buckinghamshire Gardens Trust

Around 70 members and guests attended their 25th Anniversary party which was held on 13 October 2022 at Hampden House. Speakers included their founder members and there were in fact 8 founder members present. The day ended with tea and their special anniversary cake taken on the terrace overlooking the extensive lawns.

Sussex Gardens Trust

During November 2022 the first issue of *The Sussex Gardens Trust Journal* will be published. This new annual journal will be an academic publication of

vibrant, scholarly writing to provide the opportunity to disseminate the findings of new research, notes on ongoing research and other Sussex-related topics and information on contemporary issues relevant to Sussex gardens and landscapes. The first issue includes articles on designed landscapes of the "Sussex Riviera"

National Trust Cultural Heritage Magazine

"Launched in October 2022 and published twice a year, the National Trust Cultural Heritage Magazine is a new online publication that showcases the latest curatorial findings, conservation projects and research initiatives; keeps readers up to date with relevant National Trust publications and events and shares interviews, news items and other insights into the houses, collections and gardens cared for by the Trust. If you would like to receive future issues direct to your inbox, please email the Cultural Heritage Magazine Team."

Visit to Gillingwood Hall

Saturday 10 September, 2022

As the weather turned autumnal members of the Yorkshire Gardens Trust and the Northumbria Gardens Trust met to explore the remnants of the landscape of Gillingwood Hall, near Richmond in North Yorkshire.

Tim Gates, Richard Pears and Martin Roberts have been researching the history of Gillingwood Hall and its pleasure grounds for some time. Tim was unable to be with us, but Martin and Richard started the day with an illustrated presentation in Gilling West parish hall.

They began by explaining that very few documents survive. A drawing of the house by Samuel Buck, sketched c.1719-23, is the only visual evidence of how it looked. Based on this image the team believe that the 17th century house was built on a double pile plan and probably looked a little like Gainford Hall, not far away in County Durham (although it is worth noting that a number of those present have proved Buck to be unreliable). Gillingwood was the seat of the Wharton family from 1609 when Humphrey Wharton purchased the estate. It is not thought that subsequent generations made major changes until the start of the 18th century.

William Wharton (1698-1750) succeeded to the estate in the early years of the 18th century and probably remodelled the house and grounds, although again, evidence is scant. Sometime towards the end of 1750 he died in the south of France, where he was staying for the recovery of his health. Only weeks later on 26 December 1750 a terrible fire at Gillingwood 'entirely consumed that magnificent building'. Only the 'bare walls' were left standing, and a servant was blamed for 'carelessness'. Wharton's estate passed to his two sisters who chose not to live at Gillingwood. Instead, a farmhouse was constructed, and the estate let to tenant farmers, an arrangement which continues today.

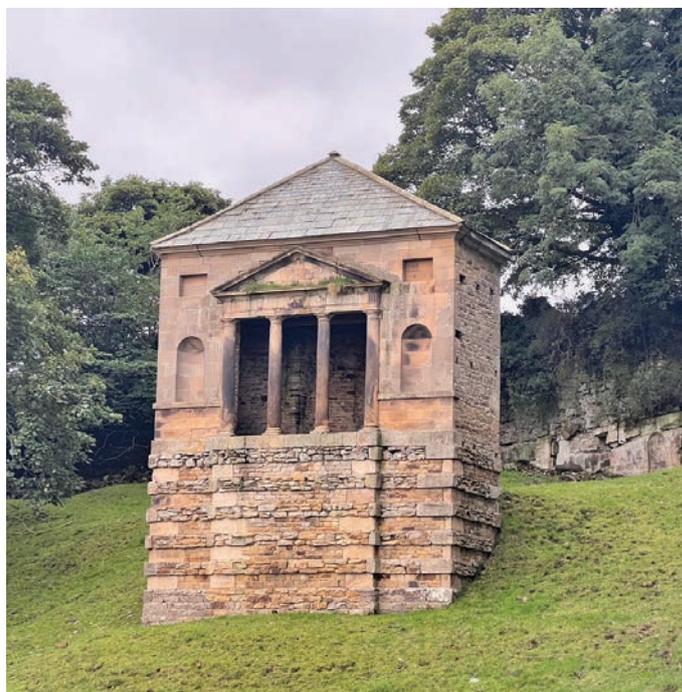
Moving on to the landscape, Martin and Richard produced Ordnance Survey maps and lidar images showing a clearly defined approach to the house: a straight line which follows a drive up towards the site of the house, through a sunken garden, to terminate at a Palladian door surround. This now stands, rather precariously, as a garden feature, supported by short stretches of masonry. We were also shown views of Bell Park Pavilion and the Summerhouse, two ornamental pavilions.

We were then left to ponder these curious structures, and the history of the site, whilst we enjoyed our

packed lunches. Members then drove or walked to Gillingwood Hall (a public footpath passes through the farm), ready to investigate the site.

At this point we were divided into two groups and set off in different directions to explore. I am grateful to Susan Kellerman for sharing the thoughts of her group, so the following account draws on the lively discussions of the whole party.

The Summerhouse



The Summerhouse (Grade II*) certainly got people talking. No archival information has been found, and the only clue to an architect is the fact that Daniel Garrett is known to have visited Gillingwood in 1741, which would appear to be the right sort of date for the building, and he certainly designed a number of garden pavilions. But only that tiny snippet stating that Garrett was visiting has been found, so it was up to those present to offer their own hypotheses.

Currently there is no access to the Summerhouse, the small door at the rear having been blocked up by the tenant farmer some years ago. But even if there had been access, the pavilion is extremely unusual in that there is a sheer drop from the portico. One tongue-in-cheek suggestion was that the building had been home to a very early use of decking, and that a wooden platform had once stood in front of the building. Chris Mayes of Historic England, reflecting the prevailing view of Tim and colleagues, argued that the building had never been intended for use, but was simply an ornament to be viewed from across the valley, and in particular the important highway now known as the A66. Others pointed out that it was unusual for a summerhouse to face north. Further thoughts were that the niche inside the pavilion once held a statue which was illuminated at night; that the

section at the rear was a later addition, but without evidence this remains a supposition.

In front of the Summerhouse, but far below it, is a grass terrace and members wondered if this had been a parterre or had perhaps had a sporting purpose such as a bowling green or an archery ground. In that case the Summerhouse could have been a viewing station. It is quite a scramble up the steep slope to the pavilion, and members pondered how it was reached by polite society in the 18th century.

Bell Park Pavilion



At the end of this lawn stands another pavilion, known as the Bell Park Pavilion (Grade II), although the origins of this name are now lost. The pavilion can be dated to around 1718, as this was the year that nearby Sedbury Hall was completed, and the windows of the two buildings are identical. Other than that, nothing is known, and members surmised that the two-storey tower (the floor has long ago collapsed) may have been a belvedere with views across the valley, and they also discussed what kind of activity took place on the levelled grass terrace. The whole landscape feels Jacobean in character and Chris Mayes questioned whether Bell Park Pavilion was a Georgian building on the site of an earlier belvedere/banqueting house. The pavilion now serves as a rather elegant cow house.

We saw some curious stone walls with bastions which encased the earlier Jacobean terraced garden. The walling here had striking rock-faced limestone rustication, contrasting with the adjacent smooth sandstone walling, the latter originally limewashed. This rustication matched that on the base of the Summerhouse strongly suggesting it was work of c.1730-40, probably by Garrett.

The Door Surround

We then moved on to the final curiosity, the door surround (Grade II), which led to a further lively exchange of ideas. Martin and his colleagues are convinced that the door is in situ, ie it was the



entrance to the house and stands in the position in which it was built sometime before the fire. As evidence they point out that the surrounding stonework is a mix of masonry from both the 17th and 18th centuries, with some stones showing evidence of fire damage right down to the 'shadow' of the front door that protected the stonework in the reveal from fire damage. Others queried if the door had been re-erected on this site as a folly, or garden ornament, perhaps with a room behind as a summerhouse, but the strong argument that it is in situ seems conclusive. Sadly, the door surround has a pronounced skew and requires rapid intervention to ensure its survival.

Martin, Richard and Tim hope to be able to further research the site and conduct some archaeological investigations. Members of both organisations wished them the best of luck, and thanked Martin and Richard for their time and a most fascinating day. Thanks were also extended to Mr & Mrs Metcalfe, the tenant farmers, who accompanied us around the site and shared their knowledge. With few mysteries solved, but a great hope that further archival and archaeological evidence might in due course be found, we departed for home after an excellent day.

Karen Lynch
Images © Karen Lynch

Notes from the Editor

We have experienced our first taste of real winter in the last couple of days, making the heat of summer seem a distant memory and grimly reminding us that now it won't be possible to move any more plants this autumn.

This issue starts with reports of our final visits of 2022. As we walked the five miles around Waterton Park, Catherine Thompson-McCausland told us about the astonishing life of Charles Waterton, who is credited with establishing the world's first nature reserve here. It is a fascinating article and tells us that Charles Waterton was still climbing trees barefoot at the age of 82!

Karen Lynch reports on our exploration of the enigmatic landscape and structures of Gillingwood Hall near Richmond, which was a joint visit with the Northumbria Gardens Trust and led by Martin Roberts (of Durham Gardens fame) and Richard Pears. There was much animated discussion about what we saw but, with little documentary evidence in existence, maybe we finished with more questions than answers.

Our final visit of 2022 was to Cannon Hall near Barnsley which is owned by Barnsley Borough Council. It has very recently been the subject of a £3.8 million restoration project completed

in September 2021. The day started with a talk by Sharon Sutton the project manager and the afternoon was spent touring the gardens and grounds to see how the improvements have been implemented. It was an impressive day and thanks to Kathryn Barnes for writing the report.

We have our customary updates from our Chair, the Research and Recording Committee, our Schools Group, the Gardens Trust and the Bursary Scheme together with new book notices and various snippets which may be of interest to you.

We are again reviewing our publication schedule in the light of the experiences of 2022. It has been decided that we were a little too ambitious in the number of e-Bulletins we planned to produce, as there was insufficient copy for the June issue. We are therefore planning to reduce their number from four to two a year. We will be dropping the February issue and amalgamating the June and August e-Bulletins into one July issue.

Finally, as usual I am grateful to all our authors and photographers for their sterling efforts and to Kathryn Preston, our new typesetter, who does a magnificent job in turning my disparate files into this professional-looking e-Bulletin.

Christine Miskin

Snowdrop visit to Fairview, Smelthouses, Pateley Bridge Thursday 25 February, 2023 11.00am



YGT's first garden visit of 2023 will be to Fairview, Smelthouses near Pateley Bridge, and is timed to enjoy some of Michael Myers extensive collection of over 400 snowdrop varieties. The half-acre garden has been gardened by Michael and his family for the last 45 years. Michael is, of course, well known to Yorkshire Gardens Trust, having spoken to us on Zoom in early 2022 on Snowdrops: October to April and previously on his restoration of Aysgarth Rock Garden.

This event is being organised by Maddy Hughes, madalynhughes@aol.co.uk, 07449-185430.

Please contact her if you wish to join this visit, or if you would like more information.

The cost will be £10 per person for members; £12 per person for non-members.

It will include an introductory talk from Michael, and tea/coffee and cakes.

Visit to Cannon Hall

Thursday 22 September, 2022

Restoring Glory: Revealing Secrets

Cannon Hall is an historic house, garden, and parkland, owned since 1951 by Barnsley Council. The Hall, thought to be named after the original medieval owners of the site, is now a museum. In the park Richard Woods (1715-1793) was commissioned by the then owner, John Spencer to improve the gardens, park, and water features in the early 1760s but, surprisingly for a YGT visit, we were not there to view his designed landscape. Instead, we had gone to see, and hear about, the *Restoring Glory: Revealing Secrets* project.

Our day started, after tea and biscuits, with a talk by the project leader, Sharon Sutton. The project started in 2017 and lasted for four years. Funding of £3.9m was secured, with £2.9m from the Heritage Lottery Fund. At the beginning of the project the park had about 390k visitors annually and these were mostly people walking their dogs. The park suffered from poor drainage and what Sharon termed some 'disrespectful' behaviour.



The walled garden

What was striking about the project was how it tied together respect for the historic landscape with the needs of a twenty-first century local amenity. Sharon has a background in horticulture and renovating historic parks, along with project management. The work undertaken had a strong underpinning in research, with twelve volunteers working in the archives looking for evidence of plants used, dates work was done and any other relevant information relating to the landscape. In addition, there was an archaeologist on site throughout the project

and there was an emphasis on getting to know and understand the site before any work was done.

Much thought and planning went into creating the best outcomes for the site, much of which is not evident to the general public but learning about how and why decisions were made was fascinating.

Some of the points covered were as follows:

- Pathways were made to encourage people to use these, rather than create their own 'desire' paths, and to try and keep them away from sensitive areas. The pathways also help spread people throughout the park and to highlight all the onsite attractions, so that hopefully people will stay longer on the site. A very attractive wildflower meadow has been added so that it too helps to keep people on the designated paths.
- Undergrowth was cut down and repurposed as dead hedges, and again these were used to guide people on their way through the landscape.
- Palisade fencing was used to keep dogs out of certain areas for the benefit of wildlife – biodiversity was another constant consideration.
- Dead trees were left as monoliths rather than being felled – again to encourage biodiversity.
- Japanese knotweed was identified and is now under control.
- Regular weddings were held on site for a nominal charge of £800 per event. These had caused extensive damage to the historic landscape. Now, far fewer weddings are held and an appropriate commercial charge is made.

The project has been incredibly successful, to the extent that Sharon has been retained by the Council after its completion and further funding has been obtained. The visitor numbers for 2021 were 665k and are possibly nearing the maximum the site can comfortably cope with.

A local resident has left Friends of Cannon Hall £400,000 to be split equally between the museum and the park. Sharon already has plans for the park's share of the money: urgent repairs to a collapsing wall in the plunge pool, repair of the vinery and lower cascade and to create a sensory garden.

Tour of the Park

After the talk we broke for our individual lunches and then regrouped in the early afternoon for a tour of the park led by Sharon.

We started by viewing the privy midden that Sharon thought would have originally been used as a place to empty chamber pots and was later made into a male and female lavatory. The interior can only be viewed through an open doorway. We then headed off to the *Ice House*, which can be entered through a small tunnel to see the structure where the ice was

deposited. The Icehouse was large enough to enable two years' worth of ice to be stored in case of a mild winter – it is an impressive structure. Sharon has arranged for lights to be installed in both the midden and the Icehouse so that visitors can see them properly.



The Ice House

We then walked through the west side of the parkland which contains the striking forms of old rhododendrons from the Americas, which were planted over 200 years ago. In this area they have designed a monster trail for families, the monsters themselves are based on drawings in a scrapbook created by one of the daughters of the Spencer Stanhope family in the late nineteenth century. Where possible, they try to keep a link between the new attractions and the history of the site.



Refurbished northern range glasshouse

We progressed to the walled garden designed by Woods and built in 1766. Inside this area are three houses, two have been refurbished for residential use and a third is the volunteers' hub, which includes an attractive second-hand bookshop with an

honesty box. A dipping pond, which was found by archaeological research, has been recreated on the site of the original pond. On the internal walls of the walled garden are 36 different varieties of pears. The Victorian glasshouses have been reinstated and the northern range glasshouse and mushroom house has been refurbished and is now used as a training and activity area.



Refurbished dipping pond

Outside the walled garden is a magnolia tripetala dating back to 1770 and thought to be the oldest in England. We then walked through some of the pleasure grounds where there are more old rhododendrons. There is also a monna ash tree, which was grafted on to another ash tree and which also dates back to around 1770 and, again, is thought to be the oldest example in England.

From here we walked past the plunge pool and saw the wall that needs repairing. There is also a mirror pond which is full of bullrushes, and further funds are needed before this can be cleared. Around these ponds are odd pieces of church architecture, acting as follies or eye-catchers, apparently repurposed in the nineteenth century when some of the local churches were refurbished.

This fascinating day ended just after 3pm, which allowed time for a few of us to have a quick look round the museum, which has glass and ceramic displays and rooms furnished as in the time of the Spencer Stanhopes. It also houses the de Morgan Collection (Evelyn de Morgan, William's wife, was related to the family) but this part of the museum was unfortunately closed for redecoration at the time of our visit but will have now reopened.

If you have not already been to Cannon Hall, I can thoroughly recommend it for a visit – with the gardens, park and museum there is plenty to do and see. Finally, I would like to thank Chris Beevers for organising such an enjoyable visit and Sharon Sutton (who was last seen heading off to wash cups and saucers) for an informative and inspirational look at the old and new landscapes of Cannon Hall.

Kathryn Barnes

Images © Valerie Greaves and Chris Beevers

On Line Zoom talk hosted by the Yorkshire Gardens Trust

Wednesday 25 January, 2023 at 7.00pm

Women of the Welfare Landscape

Uncovering women's contribution to post Second World War landscape architecture in Britain
by Dr Camilla Allen, Research Associate

Free tickets may be booked via Eventbrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/women-of-the-welfare-landscape-online-talk-by-dr-camilla-allen-tickets-487102766487>

There is also a touring exhibition based on the research project

Women of the Welfare Landscape

23 January – 7 February 2023

Department of Landscape Architecture, The Arts Tower, Floor 11

The University of Sheffield, Western Bank, Sheffield, S10 2TN

Please note: the exhibition will be open on weekdays between 10am-4pm

If you miss the exhibition in Sheffield, it has a few more stops coming. It will be in the Liverpool School of Architecture in March; Garden Museum and Bartlett School of Architecture in London in April; Birmingham University in May; Oxford in June (TBC) and Styal Village in Cheshire in July, before ending at the Museum of English Rural Life in Reading. Exact dates to follow.

Manchester School of Architecture's research project **Women of the Welfare Landscape** commemorates the roles and achievements of women landscape architects and their collaborators, who shaped the post-war designed landscapes of the British Welfare State.

Through *projects of the everyday* such as public housing, parks, and industrial environments, these women created landscapes to be shared by all, and which served diverse communities and social contexts.



Brenda Colvin
(*Journal of the Institute of Landscape Architects*, 1951)

Brenda Colvin (1897-1981) is central to the **Women of the Welfare Landscape** project which marks key milestones in her distinguished career including:

- the centenary of her independent practice started in 1922.
- her election as the first woman President of the Institute of Landscape Architects in 1951 when she was described as *probably having done more than anyone in the profession to foster a recognition of the organic basis of landscape architecture*.
- her lasting impact on landscape architect education.

Colvin designed and advised on many gardens, such as Sutton Courtenay and her own garden at Little Peacocks; public institutions such as Aberystwyth University, and municipal parks and open spaces such as in East Kilbride. She also worked on industrial landscaping, e.g., around power stations.



Little Peacocks (Colvin's garden), (Image: Colvin & Moggridge)



Dr Camilla Allen

The **Women of the Welfare Landscape** project also explores questions of female leadership, the changing profession of landscape architecture, and the role of these landscapes in the current debates around accessibility of green spaces.

Dr Camilla Allen is a landscape architect and historian, and editor of *The Politics of Street Trees* with Dr Jan Woudstra (Routledge, 2022). She completed her doctorate, *The Making of the Man of the Trees*, on the forester and conservationist Richard St. Barbe Baker (1889–1982) in the Department of Landscape Architecture at the University of Sheffield.

From the Chair

As I write COP27 has just ended, and the leading UK environmental organisations, the National Trust, the Wildlife Trusts and the RSPB, are pleading with the government not to ditch the EU-derived environmental laws that we helped to create without first putting in place sensible and effective replacements. The outcomes of both these initiatives will influence our activities immensely over the short and long terms.

COP27 obviously, because global warming and its impact on our climate will control the plants we can grow. As things stand it seems there is still a narrow path to 1.5 degrees of warming, but even that will bring unwelcome and difficult change. If it goes higher, albeit for a short time, we might find that many of our most important landscapes and gardens will be unable to adapt. Certainly, a changed climate will bring with it new planting opportunities, but at the same time some of our most recognisable species will disappear, culled by different growing seasons, new diseases, higher and lower rainfall, and drought and flood where they were not present before. Our historic gardens, and the advice we give to their custodians, will have to change, too, if they are to adapt to their new environmental circumstances. What advice should we offer to a custodian whose ash woodlands are infected; how do we deal with horse chestnuts, also succumbing to disease; and what of oak? If we advise a custodian to adapt a landscape planted with characteristic native trees by replacing them with Mediterranean species, will it still hold its historic value? These are live questions, tricky questions, with no obvious answers.

Similarly, there are dangers inherent in removing statutory environmental protections before adequate (or improved) replacements are in place. The huge memberships of our leading environmental organisations, up to 10 million people by some counts, give us some hope that the apparent bonfire might not, after all, be lit. But what happens if it is? If we have no tools to argue against a proposed development which would, under present laws, be refused, then we face the prospect of losing some of the features that make some of our landscapes so valued. Who would not want to live close to, say, Fountains and Studley Royal, or Rievaulx Terrace

and Temples?

Additionally, the UK's economic prospects are less rosy than we would wish. That is likely to mean fewer and less generous funds to support garden development, restoration, and routine maintenance. It could also imply falling memberships for organisations like YGT, and lower income from our events.

YGT Development Plan

What can YGT do in the face of these problems? We can plan, and we can act. Our Business Plan 2018-2022 is at its end, and Council has been working hard on a replacement Development Plan that we hope will be effective and adaptable enough to prepare us to face some of these eventualities: to mitigate them and, in some cases, to derive advantage from them. We will circulate the Plan shortly, and we want your comments on it. What have we missed? What have we included that should not be there? What do you think we should spend most of our energies on?

One of the most important parts of the Development Plan is to make sure that YGT continues to be active in proselytising for historic gardens. To do that, we need to secure a stream of volunteers who can give time to us. We have many interesting, fulfilling and worthwhile opportunities. We have knowledgeable, experienced and skilled volunteers, but there are not enough of us, and some of us are reaching the point where we might not want (or be able) to continue much longer. One of the consequences of Covid has been an increase in the numbers of people who have retired early, and who might thus be interested in volunteering with YGT in the time they have rescued from working. Do you know anybody like this? If so, YGT will be pleased, delighted, to hear from them. There is always something that needs doing, and the more people who volunteer with us, the more likely we are to be able to continue to spread the understanding that historic gardens are part of the weave of life; and that to lose them by damage, neglect, carelessness or otherwise would materially diminish our lives, and those of our successors.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Chris Webb



Schools Group Report

News from a Successful School

Feedback: Osbaldwick Primary were awarded a Grounds Development Award in Spring 2022

“At Osbaldwick Primary Academy, we have managed to build upcycled planters out of old climbing frames, renovate our old sandpit into a veg bed, brightened up the area with lots of lovely bee-friendly flowers, planted apple and pear trees, and fostered a real love of caring for the environment with our Key Stage 1 pupils. We have also bought new tools and procured a pop up greenhouse. Our highlight this year was a very successful tomato harvest!

The children have loved being involved in the gardening club and we will be continuing to run it next year with more upcoming projects. We hope to establish a wildflower meadow, grow new types of fruit and veg, get a compost bin going, and build a bug hotel.

We are so grateful for the YGT funding so may I take the time to once again thank you for your support. We would not have been able to renovate our area without your help”.

Sue Lindley



Introducing our new Administrator

Following the departure of Louise Amende as reported in the *Autumn Newsletter* at p.21, Lucy Bennett has recently joined us as our new part-time administrator. Lucy will be working from home for

us every Monday. A full profile of Lucy will appear in our *Spring Newsletter*, 2023. Lucy can be contacted via: secretary@yorkshiregardenstrust.co.uk

Snippets

OBE for David Jacques

David, who delivered the keynote lecture at our AGM in March, has been awarded an OBE for “*Services to Garden History and Conservation*” in the Queen’s Jubilee Honours. He was the first permanent Inspector of Historic Parks and Gardens at English Heritage, and a past Chairman of the Garden History Society. He is a specialist in 17th and 18th century garden history. He taught at the University of York and has written many books on historic landscapes.

Garden History

The journal of The Gardens Trust has recently published a special 50th Anniversary Special Issue which contains some very interesting articles. “It has established itself over five decades as the leading scholarly journal on the subject, attracting both established and young garden historians, not just from the UK but from across the world who prize the opportunity to have their work included in the journal”.

The issue includes an article by our own Peter Goodchild entitled “*No phantasticall Utopia, but a real place’. John Evelyn, John Beale and Backbury Hill, Herefordshire*” published in *Garden History*, 19/2 (1991) pp.105-127. This is followed by a response to Peter’s article by John Dixon Hunt, pp.66-68 which praises aspects of Peter’s work and provides an update to some of the issues discussed by Peter.

Harrogate at Yorkshire in Bloom

There were some excellent results for Harrogate in the Yorkshire in Bloom Awards, 2022. The town was awarded a gold medal and is the category winner in the ‘small city’ division. Although Harrogate is a town, it was entered in the ‘small city’ category due to the size of its population and it took first place at a ceremony in Tadcaster on October 6th. Harrogate BID also won a gold medal and was category winner in the BID division and Harrogate received a discretionary award for the Best City. Harrogate’s Valley Gardens received a platinum award and Starbeck received a gold medal and was category winner.

For full results see <https://www.yorkshireinbloom.co.uk/results>



News From Wentworth Woodhouse November 2022

Following several recent visits to Wentworth Woodhouse for walks, talks, and tours, YGT members may be interested to hear and “see” what is happening, since several ambitious projects are now well underway. Their development plan is finally coming to fruition.



South Pavilion Restoration

Scaffolding disappearing is always an encouraging sign and the restoration of the exterior of the South Pavilion is now complete. The beautifully ornate wrought iron railing on either side of the bridge to the pavilion is now back to its former glory.

Beyond the South Pavilion, the 1500 ft retaining wall for the terrace built from 1735 onwards has been cleared of ivy. However, part of the wall has collapsed and is awaiting repair. Visitor access to the wall is restricted for obvious safety reasons.



Terrace Wall

At the western end of the terrace, the Ionic Temple is covered in scaffolding and major repairs are taking place.



The Ionic Temple

Turning right after the Ionic Temple the Camellia House is now totally “off limits” hidden behind a wall of scaffolding, sheeting, and temporary site buildings.



Camellia House



Fountain in the Stable Courtyard

A special tour of the Stables for Wentworth Woodhouse members was an interesting opportunity to venture into the impressive Stable Courtyard not normally open to the public.

The restoration of the Stable complex is a key feature of Wentworth Woodhouse's development plan. This will be the main visitor entrance entering immediately through the gardens.

Car parking will be nearby with other visitor facilities sited within the Stable Courtyard.

There are plans to restore the now ruined fountain and circular pool in the centre of the courtyard in due course.

The Riding School (once a sports facility for Lady Mabel College) is going to be a multi-purpose events space for 600 and a wedding venue with attached visitor accommodation.



Riding School

Meanwhile back in the garden Mother Nature quietly continues her work, surprising visitors with a rhododendron in flowering in mid-November.

After the difficulties of the last few years, it is encouraging to see the next phase of Wentworth Woodhouse's revival in full swing, fully deserving all possible support with the challenges they face.



Rhododendron flowering in November

Christine Beevers
Images © Chris Beevers



Pat Gore

Sadly, our colleague and YGT member Pat Gore died on September 19th. Pat had spent the previous two years battling with Motor Neurone Disease, though she continued to correspond with YGT friends and maintain her garden in Leeds with the help of her daughter Jessie, who put her own life on hold to look after her mother. In the short space of time that Pat was involved with the Gardens Trust, she had been an enthusiastic member of the Events Committee, organising several events including the Gotts Park Study Day. Together with Maddy Hughes she set up the Student Bursary Fund, and she had become a Trustee. She will be missed for her intelligence, good humour, and boundless enthusiasm. A longer obituary for Pat will appear in the next *Newsletter*.

Research & Recording Report

With the new YGT website and database, we are now able to provide much more information on the sites we are researching. As well as our standard site reports, we have a new blog section <https://www.yorkshiregardentrust.org.uk/research/blog> where our volunteers can publish short articles on anything or anyone related to their research that takes their fancy. However, it is not reserved just for our volunteers. If you have something related to garden history that you would like to share, then please get in touch with me. It should be about 500–1,000 words and include some nice images (though please ensure we can publish them on the website).

As ever, we are looking for new volunteers and with our new Instagram page @YorkshireGardensTrust, we are trying new ways to reach potential recruits. Gail Falkingham has posted two recently highlighting our work.

The first was a general invitation to get involved - <https://www.instagram.com/p/Cktn0NYqzXo/?hl=en>

The second was about the blog looking at the work of the 18th century designer, Adam Mickle junior - <https://www.instagram.com/p/CkrC6WQK23U/?hl=en>

So, if you know anyone interested in garden history, please pass on these links to them.

Louise Wickham

research@yorkshiregardentrust.org.uk

The screenshot shows the website's navigation bar with 'RESEARCH' highlighted. Below the navigation are two large historical illustrations: a tree plan on the left and a landscape plan on the right. The main content area features two blog posts. The first post, dated 31st October 2022, is titled 'Adam Mickle, landscape designer' by Louise Wickham, introducing Adam Mickle and his work. The second post, dated 23rd February 2022, is titled 'Seek and ye shall find...or perhaps not?' by Chris Beevers, discussing clues to the history of a designed landscape. A sidebar on the right lists 'In this section' with links to 'Research overview', 'Database of sites', 'Research at the YGT', 'Become a research volunteer', and 'Methods of research and recording'. A 'Research blog' button is also present in the sidebar.

The screenshot shows an Instagram post from the account 'yorkshiregardentrust'. The main image is a detailed historical landscape plan showing a large estate with various buildings, paths, and wooded areas. The post text reads: 'yorkshiregardentrust • Follow Balderstey, North Yorkshire'. The caption asks 'Have you seen our latest blog?' and introduces Adam Mickle junior, the designer who shaped many of Yorkshire's designed landscapes between 1787 & 1811. It mentions that the research blog has been written by Louise Wickham, the Head of Research & Recording at YGT. The text also notes that while 18th-century landscape designers like Lancelot 'Capability' Brown, Richard Woods, Thomas White & Humphry Repton are well researched, Adam Mickle remains largely unknown. It states that few of his plans survive and he often followed other designers. In a career spanning over 30 years, he is thought to have been involved in at least 21 sites, with 16 of these in Yorkshire. Trained by his father, Adam senior, he started his independent practice in 1778 & was working until at least 1809, latterly with his son. A link is provided to read more about Adam Mickle junior and his work. The post includes a list of hashtags: #YorkshireGardensTrust #YGT #AdamMickleJunior #ResearchBlog #GardenHistory #HistoricDesignedLandscape #LandscapeDesign #HistoricLandscapeDesign #OldMaps #HistoricMaps #GardenDesign #18thCentury. The post has 29 likes and is dated NOVEMBER 7.

YGT Bursary Scheme News Autumn 2022

Re-Connecting with Askham Bryan College

YGT was delighted to receive an unexpected invitation to establish contact with Askham Bryan College's Horticultural department.

Steve Bassford is the new Curriculum Manager for the Horticulture courses offered by the College. During an interesting and welcome tour of the glasshouses on site, he outlined his plans to attract more students to choose horticulture as a career, at a time when student numbers for many providers are declining.

The temperate house has recently been renovated to benefit its plant collection, although Steve commented that the “tidier, less jungly look” was less appealing to students!



Monstera Deliciosa

Steve was particularly proud of the *Monstera deliciosa* fruiting this year – with what he described as its interesting “tutti-fruity” flavour.

The large cactus on the right shed a large branch, which students were then able to use to learn about propagation.

Steve is reaching out to other partner organisations. He contacted YGT, which in its early days had strong links with Askham Bryan and which it is delighted to re-establish them. The obvious links would be through the YGT Student Bursary Scheme and there is an open invitation for YGT to organise a visit to the College to see first hand the work of students and staff in promoting the next generation of horticulturists.

Christine Beevers



Large Cacti

Events Programme for 2023

This is the complete list of events which have been organised for Yorkshire Gardens Trust members and their guests for 2023. It also includes the talks which will be on Zoom for you to watch during the cold winter months. I apologise that so many events are happening on Wednesdays – that is just the way it panned out, but I do hope that you can find something to interest you: a historic landscape or a delightful, more modern garden, and buy a ticket for the visit. The detailed Events Programme and booking form will be sent to all members in the New Year.

JANUARY

Wednesday 25th 7.00 pm.

YGT Zoom talk by Dr Camilla Allen

‘Women of the Welfare Landscape - Uncovering women’s contribution to post Second World War landscape architecture in Britain.’ This lecture is free; to book a ticket please email events@yorkshiregardenstrust.org.uk See separate notice for more details about this and its companion touring exhibition.

FEBRUARY

Saturday 25th

Snowdrop visit to Michael Myers Garden

Tickets £10.00 or £12.00 non-members from Maddy Hughes, madalynhughes@aol.co.uk 07449-185430. See separate notice for more details

MARCH

A series of five Zoom talks in The Gardens Trust series Unforgettable Gardens

Starting on Wednesday 1st March for 5 consecutive weeks. See separate notice for more details.

Saturday 25th

AGM at Sledmere with talk and tour led by David Neave

APRIL

Saturday 15th

Londesborough visit

“Gardens laid out in the late C17 wholly or partly by Robert Hooke for the first Lord Burlington, with alterations and additions by the third Lord Burlington in the early to mid C18.” From the Historic England list entry.

Wednesday 26th

Visit to Valley Gardens Harrogate

MAY

Wednesday 3rd

Study Day at Burnby Hall and Gardens

Thursday 18th

Thirsk Hall – half day visit

JUNE

Wednesday 7th

Summer Evening Party at Sion Hill Hall, near Thirsk

Wednesday 21st

Talk at North Yorkshire County Records Office, Northallerton

Followed by a visit to Newburgh Priory

JULY

Monday 3rd

Visit to Bowcliffe Hall

Wednesday 19th

The Summer Picnic at Jervaulx Hall near Masham

SEPTEMBER

Wednesday 20th

Visit to Brodsworth

Tuesday 26th

Ledston near Castleford

“Walled gardens and terraces probably of late C17 and C18 date, elements of a gardens designed by Charles Bridgeman of 1716 and a park with C17 origins”. From the Historic England list entry.

Recently Published Books

A Guide to the Trees of Valley Gardens, Harrogate, 2022

by Jane Blayney & Simon Hill,
with a foreword by Martin Fish

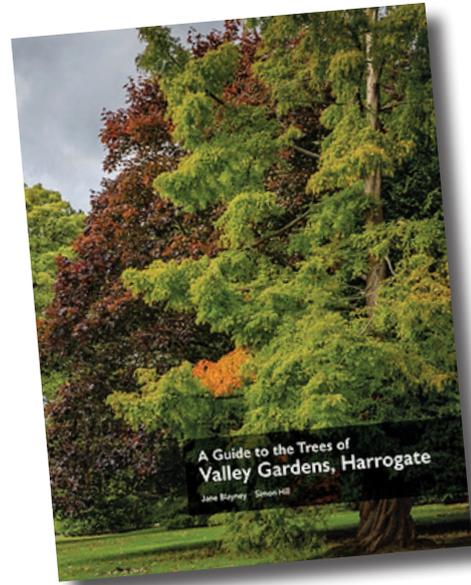
Next year there will be a visit to Valley Gardens, Harrogate. Jane Blayney, who was chair of the Friends of Valley Gardens for eight years, has written a guide to the trees there, which is informative, well thought out and has great photographs by Simon Hill, a widely-published photographer, who is currently President (2021-2025) and an Honorary Fellow of the Royal Photographic Society of Great Britain.

“An essential guide to the trees of Valley Gardens Harrogate has just been published. Opened in 1887 in celebration of Queen Victoria’s Golden Jubilee, the special character of this 17-acre park is provided by the vast variety of trees; some are native to the British Isles while others are examples from more exotic places. Many of the trees in Valley Gardens are now well over 100 years old and this wonderful new guide describing thirty different species will help more of

us to explore these trees and the wider Gardens with far greater insight than was previously possible”.

Price: £7.50. If you would like to buy a copy now for £10.00 to include post and packing please contact jane.blayney23@gmail.com

For more information, please visit <http://www.friendsofvalleygardens.co.uk>



Forthcoming YGT Publications

Publication	Copy deadline	Publication date
Spring Newsletter	28 February 2023	21 April 2023
July e-Bulletin	1 July 2023	21 July 2023
Autumn Newsletter	15 September 2023	21 October 2023
December e-Bulletin	1 December 2023	21 December 2023

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

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

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