



# YORKSHIRE GARDENS TRUST

## e-Bulletin

Issue 5

July 2021



*Aysgarth rock garden – see page 13*

### Notes from the Editor

As we begin to move back to normality, the extension of the lockdown restrictions to July 19<sup>th</sup> has again interfered with our Events programme, leading to the cancellation of our Summer Drinks Party at Scampston Hall, but we are looking forward to normal life resuming with our visit to Cantley Hall on 9<sup>th</sup> July. One visit has been held this year, to Fossgyll garden in York and Maddy Hughes has provided a report at p.3.

This e-Bulletin covers the activities of the Schools, Events and Conservation

Committees. There are some updates on activities in places which we have given grants. Helen Caffrey has supplied an interesting article on the “Fifth Kingdom” and we hope this will inspire contributions from other members.

The Events Committee has been busy organising a series of Autumn Zoom meetings with the Gardens Trust about Trees and further details can be found at p.14.

The Snippets section contains reports on a variety of topics and there are two new books

mentioned which may be of interest to members.

Our AGM was held successfully via Zoom on the 27th March and we are pleased to welcome two new trustees to the Council of Management – Christine Beevers and Roger Lambert. Council held a Zoom meeting on

April 27th. We hope that the next Council meeting in July will be able to take place in our normal home at the York Medical Society.

**Christine Miskin**  
**Editor**

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## 25th Anniversary Celebration Lunch

### Rudding Park, Harrogate

### Saturday 9 October 2021

The beautiful setting of Rudding Park is the location for a very special event to mark the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Yorkshire Gardens Trust. Rudding Park has played an important part in the history of the Trust over the years, and the park and gardens feature the work of two garden designers who have loomed large in our activities: Humphry Repton (1752-1818) and James Russell (1920-1996).

A three-course lunch will be served, accompanied by wine or elderflower spritz, and followed by coffee and petits fours. Our Chair, Chris Webb, will then say a few words and introduce our speaker.

On October 9, 1996, Stephen Anderton spoke to the newly formed Yorkshire Gardens Trust at Askham Bryan College.



*Stephen Anderton*

Twenty-five years to the day later he returns to Yorkshire, and in his erudite and entertaining way will give a beautifully illustrated talk, written especially for this event, entitled:

#### *What We Didn't Know 25 Years Ago*

Stephen will look at how gardens can change over 25 years, and how our attitudes to well-known gardens and to influential gardeners, and especially to our own cherished gardens, change with them; gardens, they say, never stand still, but then neither do we.



*Allt y bela*

Stephen Anderton is the long-standing Garden Correspondent for the *Times*. Formerly National Gardens Manager for English Heritage and biographer of Christopher Lloyd, he now lives and gardens in the Black Mountains near Abergavenny.

Tickets can be booked via Maddy Hughes, 2 East Avenue, Huddersfield, HD3 3LW, [madalynhughes@aol.co.uk](mailto:madalynhughes@aol.co.uk).

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## Visit to Fossgyll Wednesday 9 June 2021



*At Fossgyll. Photo Tony Cleaver*

The YGT Events programme for early 2021 was disrupted by the coronavirus pandemic and Government restrictions. It was therefore delightful that for the first visit of the year, and the first since 23 July 2020, around 40 members, split into two groups, could enjoy a warm afternoon at Fossgyll, the garden of Alastair Fitter. This was a follow on to a Zoom lecture which he gave on 26 March 2021 entitled – *When will it flower? Plants and climate change*.

In his lecture Alastair informed us about Phenology – the timing of biological events – which is one of the first things affected by a warming climate. Unusually early appearance of spring flowers is now commonplace, but the impact of climate change on flowering time is both more dramatic and more complex than is often realized. He examined what determines flowering time in a range of plant

species, using data collected over 50 years by his late father and himself, and what the implications of this and future changes might be. He left us encouraged to consider recording botanical events around us, and in our gardens and commended use of the Woodland Trust's Nature's Calendar, as a good starting point.

<https://naturescalendar.woodlandtrust.org.uk>

We enjoyed seeing the distinct areas of Alastair's long 1-acre garden, which is a former market garden backing on to the River Foss in Huntingdon, York.



*The river at Fossgyll*

The lower sections flood most years. He has gardened there for nearly 50 years, and whilst there have been many changes in that time, the fruit trees in the orchard are largely original and over 90 years old. He gardens organically and has over 1,200 species of plant, including over 250 natives.

Closer to the house there are perennial borders, an alpine bed and a new alpine house, followed by a peat-free 'peat' bed, a woodland garden, the traditional orchard with the original fruit trees mixed with more recently planted specimen trees and shrubs, a meadow with buttercups, pignuts and orchids in flower at the time of our visit, wet woodland by the river, and a large, recently excavated wildlife pond fringed with primulas, irises and native wetland plants.



*Looking back to the house*

Alastair led us through each area, sharing his extensive knowledge regarding the plants and their cultivation and answered our numerous questions, regarding both challenges and successes in the garden, particularly regarding the establishment and maintenance of the meadow. In addition to theoretical detail regarding the complexity of establishing a meadow, several members enjoyed a demonstration of a scythe mower, which Alastair regarded as an essential element to success, whilst others enjoyed watching the antics of the goats, who thrive on what must be amongst the tastiest organic hay in Yorkshire. Our visit concluded with tea and cake on the lawn.



*Orchard and meadow at Fossgyll*

In lieu of a lecture fee and fee for visiting the garden, at Alastair's request, donations have been made to Yorkshire Wildlife Trust which is, of course, a charity dedicated to conserving, protecting and restoring wildlife and wild places in Yorkshire.

<https://www.ywt.org.uk/about-us>, of which Alastair is a trustee.

*Text and photos: Maddy Hughes*

## Snippets

### Historic Gardens Foundation

We have received the following letter from the Historic Gardens Foundation, if any members would like to obtain a copy of their journal or more information about the organisation itself:

“Is Yorkshire Gardens Trust aware of the work of the Historic Gardens Foundation?

This international heritage and educational charity was set up in 1995 to support and promote the cause of historic parks and gardens worldwide. Through our magazine *Historic Gardens Review* and our newsletters we explore garden history, celebrate garden restoration and campaign for gardens threatened by neglect or development.

If you would like to see a copy of *Historic Gardens Review* you can read one on our website ([www.historicgardens.org](http://www.historicgardens.org)) – or contact me at the email address above and we’ll send a free copy by post.

A number of County Gardens Trusts work with us and we wondered if you are aware of any projects in Yorkshire that would benefit from worldwide publicity. We would love to hear from you.

With best wishes,

Sophie Rutledge  
Historic Gardens Review”

34 River Court  
Upper Ground  
London SE1 9PE

[secretary@yorkshiregardenstrust.org.uk](mailto:secretary@yorkshiregardenstrust.org.uk)

### Ripley Castle

Historic England has awarded a grant of £343,000 to [Ripley Castle](#) to carry out a series of much-needed repairs to its garden buildings. The money will go towards restoring the Grade II listed Orangery and several adjoining buildings in the grounds of the 15th century country house including the Fire Engine House, pavilions, bothies and shelters.

This group of garden buildings are thought to have been designed in around 1785 by York-born architect William Belwood for Sir John Ingilby.

It is hoped, once completed, the works will ensure the buildings are removed from [Historic England’s](#) Heritage at Risk Register. The owners say that this money will secure the buildings for future generations. Specialist craftsmen and contractors will be used to complete the works. Once repaired, the buildings will be used for educational and leisure activities.

Sir Thomas Ingilby, owner of Ripley Castle, said:

“The restoration of these buildings will be a big step forward in the ambitious programme to restore the walled gardens at Ripley Castle to their former glory. We are enormously grateful to Historic England for their help and support for this project which will, when completed, help a lot of people to overcome the financial and mental trauma of the Covid-19 pandemic”.

## Yorkshire Museum Garden Visit 2020

This photo shows Steve Williams, Garden Manager at the Yorkshire Museum and Peter Hogarth, YGT member and one of our guides on the day, planting the *Viburnum carlesii* which we gave them as thanks for our visit

Photo: Sylvia Hogarth



## Percy Cane Garden – opening of the restored Rock Garden

Broomhill community library is located in a Victorian Villa, which was purchased in the mid 1950's to become a library in a Sheffield suburb. As a residential property during the 1920's the then owner commissioned Percy Cane to design the garden. The library and garden are now managed by Broom Hill Community Trust, and they have development plans for the building, and restoration plans for the garden. To start the garden restoration, they uncovered a very overgrown rockery aided by financial support from the Pocket Park fund and with a grant from Yorkshire Garden Trust. To celebrate the

completion of the excellent project an opening event was held. The rock garden was formally opened by Baroness Bennett of Manor Castle (pictured). The plans for the garden were previously reported on in some detail in an article by Jill Sinclair: *YGT e-Bulletin, December 2020.*



Part of the restored rock garden



Photos by Brendan Mowforth and Christine Beevers

**Brendan Mowforth**

## The Schools Group: Covid-19 and us

There are several of us on this Sub-Committee – Nicola Harrison, Lucy Porritt and myself, Sue Lindley, ably supported by the Trustees, Penelope Dawson Brown and Val Hepworth. But also this year we have been pleased to welcome a retired Primary headteacher, Christine Wood, who offers insights the rest of us do not have. We exist to support, advise and channel funds to our member schools and are pleased to report that since November 2020 we have gained three new members.

This year, as for all of us, has been rather different, but despite school closures we have been busy. We cancelled our plans for the Summer Term and at our June Zoom meeting, we thought carefully about how we could support our members, as our usual offers would not necessarily be suitable. School visits to places like the Yorkshire Arboretum were not possible and we had heard that school libraries were out of bounds. So, in September as a welcome back to school, we gave all our members an elaborate bee hotel and had some enthusiastic responses. Then in October we sent out carefully selected broad bean seeds which can be grown either outdoors, or indoors, where they can be easily observed by the children despite the Covid restrictions. This gift, like the bee hotel, was given to all our schools as we felt that the teachers would be too busy dealing with the new reality to apply for something. We hoped that we were supporting the teachers, making their lives easier, rather than more complicated. Christine, our new committee member, created two worksheets to accompany both gifts and in time we hope to add these to our webpage for all to use.

In November we held our second Zoom committee meeting. We carried out a brain storming session on how to proceed with Covid, as we were all aware that life was not going to be returning to normal anytime soon. Schools were handling the situation quite

differently, bubbling differently, using volunteers, not using volunteers, just teaching maths and English, or having an enrichment hour where gardening could feature. We decided that what schools might want from us would vary so we needed to be flexible. Also, we realised that we should not make hard and fast decisions, as we had no idea of what the future might hold and with January 2021 came the lockdown.

By then, we had offered a Perspex birdfeeder, which could be attached to the classroom window, plus bird food. As birds are an essential part of the garden ecosystem, we felt this a simple but relevant contribution. Christine wrote an information pack on garden birds which accompanied the gift. Although schools were technically closed during this last lockdown, we discovered that actual attendance was between 40% and 70% so were glad that the feeding birds had an audience.

During the Spring term, we offered three sets of 30 children's gardening gloves as equipment is always popular, but our main contribution this year has been the Grounds Development Awards, which we offer every year and feel that they are an especially important part of what we do. Schools apply for them, demonstrating their commitment to their project, its viability and usefulness, the involvement of the children in the planning and use, and the provisions for aftercare.

We felt it highly likely that because of Covid, schools would want to make more use than before of their outside spaces, so it was great to be able to offer more awards than the usual two. Thanks to Council increasing our budget this year, we were able to offer £300 to each successful school.

We had roughly double the usual number of applicants. The projects varied from the creation of a reading circle in a village school

field to the making use of a south-facing wall by planting espaliered fruit trees and I would like to tell you about three of the successful entries.

### **Linton-on-Ouse Primary**

This school serves the families from the nearby RAF base as well as the local civilian population. We were extremely impressed with their application and particularly liked the fact that the children were, and will be, included in every stage from planning to creation and maintenance. They wanted to create a sensory space where the children could be quiet and where those from different backgrounds could mix. We were very keen to support a project with inclusivity at its heart. Amongst the plants suggested by the children were poppies, because of the RAF connection. The school's response was:

"That's wonderful news, thank you so much. We absolutely will keep you updated and we're very excited to go ahead with the project. Many thanks."

### **Oxspring Primary**



*Oxspring Primary's garden, showing fruit trees in a mini-orchard area, veg patch beyond with rhubarb, a shed and greenhouse. Photo: Sue Lindley*

The second school was Oxspring Primary, a small village school near Penistone. They wanted to turn an unused area into an intriguing space with varied opportunities for gardening, artwork and reading. It was a

beautiful design with children at its heart. We also liked the fact that many of the materials were local, or already on site, and will be re-used for this project. The school's reply was:

"Oh, this is magnificent news, thank you so much. The children are going to absolutely love this peaceful, healing, fun space. I will send photographs as we create and when it is finished...".

### **Oak Primary School**

This school in Huddersfield serves a very mixed and different community from the previous two. They are in the process of creating a forest school where the children can be taught outside, amongst trees, and were hoping for funds to provide children's gardening equipment. We were impressed by their application and felt that this was a project that we believe could be transformative for the children, the school and the environment, and that it is something the YGT would very much like to support! Here is part of the head's email:

"We would just like to say a massive thank you to the YGT. This is just what we needed to give us a positive start to our project. This is such an exciting time for us and we cannot wait to get the children involved in the preparation of our grounds. At present I am in the process of emailing local businesses for any donations of resources which we need to help us along. Also we will be doing some fund raising of our own e.g. non uniform day. When the saplings arrive we are hoping to have an event day and invite the local community to come in and help out. Thank you. We truly appreciate your support."

So, despite Covid-19, we are happy to report that we have continued to be able to successfully support our member schools over the last year. Thank you to all you who make that possible.

**Sue Lindley**

## Celebration and launch of Friends of Whirlow Brook Park, Sheffield Wednesday 23 June 2021

The newly formed Friends of Whirlow Brook Park (FOWP) in Sheffield and the Sheffield University of the Third age (SU3A) held a prestigious event on Wednesday 23 June in Whirlow Brook Park, in Sheffield. The event celebrated 70 years since the park was opened to the public in 1951, as well as 10 years of dedicated work by SU3A in establishing a Commemorative Garden. The event also marked the opening of a new shelter in the park, as well as officially launching the Friends group. A lot to celebrate!



*The rock garden. Photo Shelagh Wolliscroft*

Sir Jamie Benton Jones, the 5<sup>th</sup> Baronet of Treeton, attended the event, as well as his mother, Lady Margaret Benton Jones. It was Sir Jamie's great grandfather and grandmother, Sir Walter and Lady Madge Benton Jones who lived at Whirlow Brook in the 1920s and 30s and established the lovely gardens there with the help of the RHS. When Madge died in 1938, Sir Walter moved to the family seat at Irnham Hall, in Lincolnshire. The house and gardens at Whirlow were acquired by Sheffield Corporation in 1946, through the generosity

of the Graves Trust and Sheffield Town Trust, for £15,000, with a view to making them a public park. Much work needed to be done before it opened to the public in 1951.

Sir Jamie lives at Irnham Hall, Lincolnshire and had never visited his family home at Whirlow. On arrival, Tom Smith, manager of Whirlow Brook Hall (which is managed by Vine Hotels) gave Sir Jamie and family, along with members of the Friends Group, a tour of the house. When the Lord Mayor arrived, lunch was laid on for the guests in the Oak Room. Afterwards, all guests walked down to the Commemorative Garden where the new shelter is situated and were welcomed by Brian Cave, Chair of Sheffield U3A. The Lord Mayor said how delighted she was to be there and to launch the Friends Group. She thanked the SU3A for all their hard work over the last 10 years. She commented on how the park was a bit neglected these days, but the SU3A Commemorative Garden is an indication of what can be achieved when communities work in partnership with Sheffield City Council (SCC).



*The secret seat. Photo Shelagh Wolliscroft*

Next came the opening of the shelter. The Lord Mayor and Sir Jamie untied the ribbon

and Sir Jamie spoke about the history of the Hall and his ancestors, and how pleased he is with all the work that SU3A have done, and that the new Friend's group has been launched.

Having never visited the Hall he said:

"So having never been here before, we have found it today and I have to say I have been totally blown away. I had no idea that it was so beautiful and so well looked after by the volunteers. Thank you also for asking me to be Patron of this merry gang of gardeners. I am very flattered and would like to accept that. I do have my cheque book with me to give you a small donation today."

Shelagh Woolliscroft, Chair of FOWP, who has been the driving force behind the SU3A Commemorative Garden and now the Friends Group, acknowledged the interest and support shown to date and stressed the importance of working in partnership with SCC, in cooperation with Vine Hotels and in collaboration with any agency that wishes to use the park for the good of the public. She thanked honoured guests for coming, thanked all the donors for making the shelter possible, and explained how FOWP will be landscaping the area around it. She outlined some of the plans that FOWP and SCC have for the park and invited people to join the Friends Group.

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## Conservation and Planning Committee Report

The Covid pandemic does not appear to have reduced the demand for YGT's expert opinion by planning authorities across Yorkshire regarding planning applications affecting the setting of a registered park or garden or within its boundary. In the six months since the beginning of the year our opinion has been formally consulted just under 100 times. The Gardens Trust nationally has been consulted almost exactly 1000 times in the same period. Thus, Yorkshire's share of these consultations is nominally pro rata compared to the area of Yorkshire as a fraction of England, approximately one tenth. Our responses to these consultations make full use of the breadth of remarkable expertise held by members within our group but are always submitted through the inexhaustible hands of our chair, Val Hepworth.

In parallel to the consultations as part of the planning process, the Trust has also been consulting in some cases ahead of the formulation of applications and perhaps the outstanding example of that would be our discussions with National Trust regarding their

ambitions at Studley Royal, and another would be in connection with the development of a management plan for the Harewood Estate.

Additionally, we have been trying to keep abreast of the Government's extensive draft proposals to radically revise planning law by contributing to submissions through the GT. We have also contributed to a submission to the National Trust regarding their potential future countrywide strategy. YGT's chair, Chris Webb, has nimbly led the way through these submissions.

In connection with most consultations our members typically both acquire and generate considerable quantities of documents, which potentially constitute an invaluable archive for future consultation and research. We recognise that such documents should not gather dust in PCs, nor perhaps even getting lost on private bookshelves. They should be identifiable and accessible, and we have been considering options regarding their storage and archiving. These on-going discussions are much dependent upon the combined energy

and expertise of member, Geoff Hughes and YGT chair, Chris Webb.

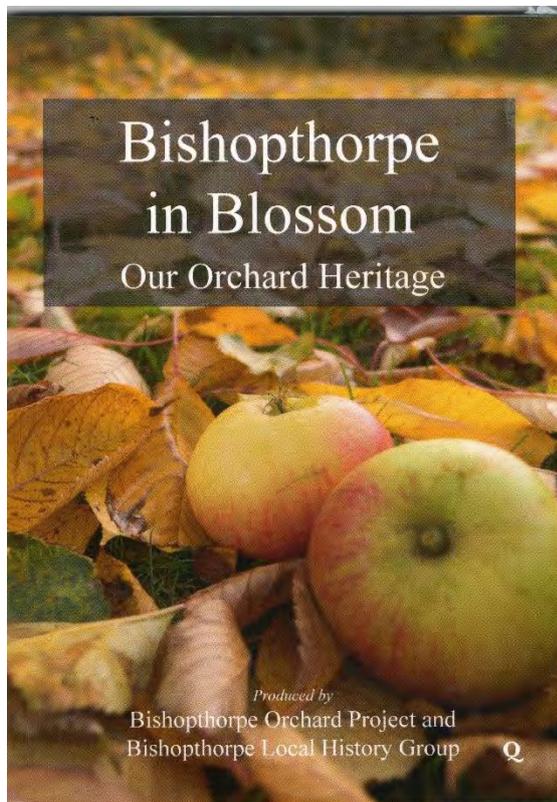
**Roger Lambert**

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## **Bishopthorpe in Blossom: Our Orchard Heritage**

***Bishopthorpe Orchard Project and  
Bishopthorpe Local History Group,  
2019***

ISBN 978 1 912728 16 9



Several members have an interest in fruit heritage and have been involved in various research and recording projects over the years. This new booklet is an exciting new resource for such studies. Described by the authors as follows:

*Bishopthorpe, on the outskirts of York, was once a village of orchards – evident in the many orchard- related street and house*

*names remaining today. This booklet explores the historical significance of orchards and fruit growing there and describes the remaining fruit varieties that mark the old orchards of the village.*

*Bishopthorpe is also home to the Archbishop of York's Palace. The walled kitchen gardens that supplied the Palace were once the pride and joy of successive archbishops. This booklet also brings together the history of the archbishop's kitchen garden for the first time, from its creation in 1767, through its heyday in Victorian times into the present day.*

*The booklet was produced as part of the Bishopthorpe Orchard project, funded by a grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund and supported by Bishopthorpe Parish Council.*

There is so much more to this story: the delightful picture of Bishopthorpe as a day tripper's paradise in the late 19th and early 20th centuries when pleasure boats ran to the village from central York. The attractions included pretty cottages and gardens, the Archbishop's Palace and gardens, not to mention the fresh produce and tea gardens.

The walled garden is tantalising and now, with the scene well set, deserves more research. It is much more than a kitchen garden. It had an elaborate tree-lined access drive which led into the larger walled enclosure which was planted as a display garden. In 1827 it was visited by Prince Hermann von Puckler-Muskau, a German nobleman and renowned

landscape artist. He commented on both the fruit trees and the hot houses, and their crops of pineapples and grenadillas. He also mentioned that the gardeners excelled in the management of flowers. Between 1908 and 1928 Archbishop Lang employed a new gardener, Budden, a Dorset Man, who came from Bramham Park. He created an herbaceous border which became famous in Yorkshire.

The Bishopthorpe villagers are not alone in investigating their fruit heritage. Recent work by a group in nearby Cawood has made similar discoveries, including a number of houses still retaining their apple stores and lofts – architectural features very vulnerable to conversion and loss. In Cawood gooseberries were an important crop, shipped by rail into the markets of the West Riding

rather than York. Clearly there is more to investigate and record across Yorkshire (and beyond) and I am currently in discussion with the University of York to see if they have a research student who might like to take the topic further.

The Bishopthorpe group are to be commended for their skill and efforts. Their booklet is available in Bishopthorpe Library; a few copies are also available for a small donation which will be used to help them create and manage their new community orchard.

Drop me an email [margaret.nieke@btinternet.com](mailto:margaret.nieke@btinternet.com) if you are interested in a copy.

***Dr Margaret Nieke***

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## News from Aysgarth Edwardian Rock Garden



Maddy Hughes writes "In *YGT Newsletter No. 47 - Autumn 2020*, Rosemary and Adrian Anderson wrote of having left the garden and gifting it into the care of Aysgarth and District Parish Council.

I hope that the pictures will encourage members to visit. Whilst I know that there will be interest through the year - my recommendation - put a date in your diary for mid-June next year!"

*Photos by Maddy Hughes*



*Photo: Maddy Hughes*

We were delighted to visit on 10 June 2021 and to report that the community's care for the garden is excellent, and that it is attracting a good number of visitors.

In addition, Rosemary's excellent and well-illustrated book, *Aysgarth Edwardian Rock Garden*, is for sale at Hamilton's Tea Room, with all proceeds going to the Rock Garden.



# Events Committee

## Save the dates - for the next series of YGT/GT lectures on Tuesdays 7/14/21/28 September 2021

YGT is delighted that, in association with the Gardens Trust, we are hosting another set of Zoom lectures, on Tuesday mornings in September, from 10.00am-11.30am.

### Tree Talks: a series of lectures about our relationship with trees

The series will feature YGT members Dr Jan Woudstra and Dr Camilla Allen who are both based at the Department of Landscape, University of Sheffield

#### 1. Trees in the urban environment

Jan Woudstra's first lecture provides a general background on the contributions of trees to urban environments, looking at their benefits, now popularly referred to as ecosystem services: how they contribute to our health and wellbeing. He then looks at how trees have been used to structure cities, to express physical thresholds, providing distinct areas with distinct characteristics, but also contribute by creating safer environments. They help to reduce traffic speed, guide and forewarn drivers. This is put in the context of our perception of trees, with cultural and natural values versus the way we monetise trees.

#### 2. The 'Right to Plant': a political history of roadside tree planting in the Netherlands

Next Jan shares with us one aspect of tree planting that has determined the characteristic appearance of the Dutch landscape. The Netherlands have been

celebrated for their roadside tree planting since they were incorporated into sixteenth century landscape paintings; it is noted by seventeenth century visitors and has continued to inspire visitors to adopt the practice elsewhere. Yet why it occurred, who was responsible for this, and who was thought to benefit has rarely been discussed. The origins can be traced to an ancient feudal right, *pootrecht*, or Right to Plant, which was applied differently in the various regions and was sometimes an obligation rather than a right. This talk explores some of the policies and politics that have led to tree planting practices in the Netherlands being termed unprecedented and providing some of the most compelling examples of urban tree planting.

#### 3. A Man of the Trees: the life of Richard St Barbe Baker (1889-1982)

In this lecture, Camilla Allen will share her research on the life of Richard St. Barbe Baker, founder of the Men of the Trees (now the International Tree Foundation) in anticipation of the organisation's centenary in 2022. Camilla had unique access to the Baker Papers at the University of Saskatchewan in Canada, which formed the basis of her thesis and allowed her to rework the established narrative of Baker's early life, whilst creating a new point of engagement for his environmental philosophy. As a society, the Men of the Trees put the planting and protection of trees at the forefront of their activities and were decades ahead of their time in calling for international strategies for forest protection and landscape restoration.

#### 4. Commemorating with Trees: three forms, three stories

Alongside her research on Richard St. Barbe Baker, Camilla has been exploring the act of commemoration through the planting or protection of trees in different sites around

the world. In this lecture she will weave together the story of Britain's three cathedrals of trees, California's Redwood groves, and some of Sheffield's street trees, all of which in some way or another have an association with commemorating the Great War. The trees in these three typologies will be explored in relation to their spatial, symbolic and spiritual context, as well as opening a discussion about long-term care for both the trees and places.

Booking will be via Eventbrite/Gardens Trust website and should be open in August. As

with previous talks the lectures will be available to watch up to one week after the "live" date.

***Maddy Hughes***

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## **Brodsworth Hall**

Work has been completed in restoring a folly known as an eyecatcher at Brodsworth Hall.



*The Edwardian Garden and the folly. Photo: English Heritage*

It was built in the 1860's and was used to draw the eye down the garden's target range. At the opposite end of the range is the Target House, which was thought to have been used for refreshments during archery practice.



*The Target House. Photo: English Heritage*

The original planting of the banks of the eyecatcher has been reinstated with 800 ferns, including *Dryopteris affinis* and *Polystichum lonchitis* – greatly adding to the garden's collection of native British ferns.

Additionally, the Target House has been restored and contains interpretive panels and an interactive archery target for children.

# The Folly Flâneuse



## Carnaby Temple, Boynton Hall, near Bridlington, East Riding of Yorkshire

*Reproduced with permission from The Folly Flâneuse (also known as Karen Lynch).*



‘An ill-treated folly’, wrote folly supremo Barbara Jones of the Carnaby Temple in 1953. The late 18th century landscape ornament, on high land above Boynton Hall, was by then disused and dilapidated, but remarkably intact considering the years of neglect.



Photos of the folly from Barbara Jones’s research files.

No date or photographer noted, but probably early 1970s when she was updating *Follies and Grottoes*. Courtesy of a private collection.

The temple was built in the early 1770s by Sir George Strickland, 5th Bart (1729-1808) of Boynton Hall near Bridlington in the East Riding of Yorkshire. The design is attributed to John Carr of York, who worked at Boynton in

this period. Contemporary accounts note that it was called the Temple of Aeolus, or the temple of the winds, after the original in Athens, but Barbara Jones thought it had ‘absolutely no resemblance to it’. That’s perhaps a little harsh, as the tower is octagonal in form, and the lantern was originally topped with a weather-vane, but it does not carry the carved decoration so admired in Athens. The name may have been partly in homage to the antique, but was probably also an erudite family joke, as the site is exposed to the winds coming in off the North Sea. The name did not stick, and the building became known as the Carnaby Temple, or just ‘the temple’.

The basement housed a kitchen, and the upper floor was a ‘beautiful Octagon room’ with extensive views of the Boynton estate and out to sea. The Strickland daughters decorated the room with Grecian figures after the antique. Transparent figures, painted onto tissue paper, decorated the windows, and the furniture featured figures cut from black paper or drawn in Indian ink. The walls were painted with trophies, foliage, and grotesque heads in oil paint, and one visitor in 1801 thought she had never seen a room ‘so completely pleasing’. Sadly, no trace remains today.

The pleasure house was used for picnics, and as a retreat for the ladies of the house. It was also a belvedere with an extensive vista across the Wolds and Bridlington Bay – the reverse

view also became important and 'Carnaby Temple' soon became an official landmark for mariners.



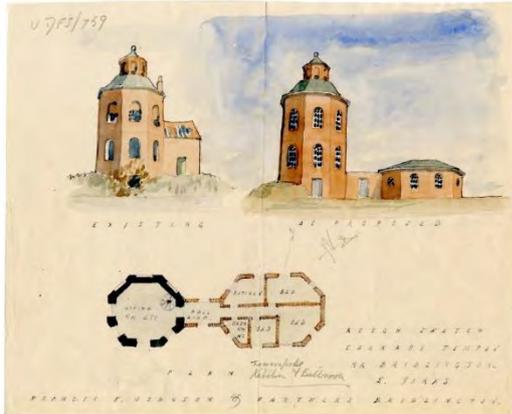
The tower was originally surrounded by a freestanding arcade, but this was gone by the middle of the 19th century when the temple was extended to form a dwelling for workers on the estate: the census returns show families living there until early in the 20th century. It was a popular attraction, and visitors walked across the fields to explore the curious structure visible from the road. In 1890 one group of rambles were disappointed to find it had been converted into a labourer's cottage and 'with a sigh for its departed grandeur' retraced their steps.



Rough sketch of the temple by Barbara Jones. Courtesy of a private collection.

By the time Barbara Jones was researching the temple for the 2nd edition of *Follies and Grottoes* in 1972, the temple had been sold by the Boynton estate, and the new owner was said to be 'not really interested in it'. Raymond Fieldhouse, a Scarborough historian and artist, wrote to Jones about the temple: 'I think it will stand for years deteriorating only gradually'. He was spot on: the temple does indeed still stand strong and creates a very picturesque backdrop to the nearby farm's giant muck heap (bottom).

In 1975 a campaign began to get the temple restored. There was support from the Bridlington MP The Rt Hon Richard Wood, as well as from the Georgian Society for East Yorkshire and the Bridlington Civic Society. The owner, Mr Watts, was keen to see it restored, and offered to lease it to a charitable body for a 'v small rent', but he was understandably reluctant to meet the substantial costs of renovation himself. The Landmark Trust was approached in 1975, but it declined to take the building on.



Francis Johnson's proposal for converting the temple into a holiday home, undated but 1977. Image © Francis Johnson & Partners, Bridlington and in the collection of Hull University Archives at Hull History Centre, U DFJ/759.

Things dragged on, and in April 1978 the local authority, the Borough of North Wolds,

served Watts with a Repairs Notice. By this stage the Bridlington-based architectural practice of Francis Johnson and Partners had been asked to help, and in 1977 Francis Johnson had drawn up plans to convert the temple into a holiday home. As he wrote 'if they got the place in order, they could get a good little rental for holiday use every summer. In any case it is far better to have the building in use than merely standing idle with consequent inevitable deterioration'. But Johnson remained sceptical and ended the letter 'We shall see'.

And as we can indeed see, only essential repairs to protect the building from vandals

and the elements were carried out. There is still potential to restore the temple for residential use, and just think how fertile the garden would be...



The temple is on private land but stands beside a public footpath.

<https://www.francisjohnson-architects.co.uk/projects/garden-buildings/>

Although the Carnaby Temple plans did not come to fruition, Francis Johnson & Partners has designed or restored many lovely garden buildings. You can see a selection here

Visit [www.thefollyflaneuse.com](http://www.thefollyflaneuse.com) where this article first appeared, to find further stories about follies and landscape buildings.

# Hopefully Third Time Lucky!

## Edwardian Gardens Continuing Professional Development Event at Lotherton Hall on Wednesday 22 June 2022

We are delighted that in association with Leeds CC and Lotherton Hall, we have been able to re-arrange this event ... again ... for next June!

The programme will remain the same with experts: Mette Eggan, landscape architect from Norway; Dr John Grimshaw, Director of the Yorkshire Arboretum; Jane Furse, landscape architect and historic garden specialist and Chris Flynn, Head Gardener, Dyffryn, NT of Wales.

In the Autumn I will be in touch with everyone who has already booked and will also publicise the event. There will be further information on the YGT website and on the GT website.

Do get in touch with me if you are interested. (Tel: 01748 822617 or e-mail [val@hepworthskeeby.co.uk](mailto:val@hepworthskeeby.co.uk))

**Val Hepworth**

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## Gardens Trust News

The Gardens Trust has launched a new project which is designed to grow its resilience for the future, particularly by improving its ability to reach new people from a broad range of cultural backgrounds. The total project cost is £95,700, of which £75,700 is a grant award from The National Lottery Heritage Fund. It will run until Winter 2022.

“Work will include market research so we better understand our place in the sector, the development of fundraising strategies so that we can grow our work in a sustainable way, expansion of our digital resources to reach new people, and a review of our internal organisational structures. We will also be piloting three activities around growing membership, digital engagement such as improving our website or getting better on social media, and community outreach such as events for people who have not previously

been interested in garden history or conservation. Running through this all will be a concerted effort to reach more diverse audiences so that we can help ensure people from all backgrounds can come together to enjoy and care for historic parks and gardens.”

Learning from the project will be shared with volunteers at the affiliated local County Gardens Trusts so that they too can become more sustainably impactful.

Dominic Cole CMLI FIOH VMM OBE, President of the Gardens Trust, says, “I have enjoyed watching the Gardens Trust go from strength to strength, and this is the next exciting stage on our journey. It is crucial that historic parks and gardens are enjoyed across our society so that they can survive for future generations, and this project will help us to achieve that goal.”

## Recently Published Books

### ***A Florilegium Sheffield's Hidden Garden***

by **Valerie Oxley**

Crowood Publishers, 2021. 160pp. Hardback with 100 colour illustrations

ISBN 9781785008948. £25

This lavish book highlights a selection of the wonderful illustrations held in the archive of The Florilegium Society at Sheffield Botanical Gardens. Each illustration included in the book is accompanied by a plant profile, stating where the plant was found in the wild and

explaining something of its history, uses and botany.

The book also introduces florilegia dating from the early herbals, and a history of the Society's Herbarium and the Gardens themselves. It features over 100 colour illustrations and 67 plant profiles. The Botanical Gardens are in the heart of the City of Sheffield and are a much-loved venue enjoyed both by the people of Sheffield and visitors to the city. Valerie Oxley is the Society's founding chair and she also developed the diploma in Botanical Illustration with colleagues at the University of Sheffield.

<https://www.crowood.com>



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### ***Johannes Kip: The Gloucestershire Engravings***

**Anthea Jones** (ed.)

Hobnob Press, 2021. 176pp. Hardback

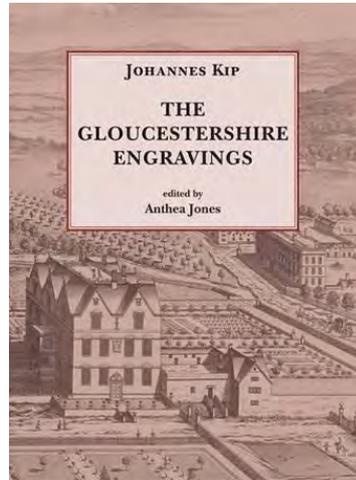
ISBN 978190697899. £20

Three hundred years ago, in 1721, the 'Dutch engraver' Johannes Kip (or John Kip, his

anglicised name) dropped down dead in St John's Street, Westminster, bringing to a sudden end his career in England of more than thirty years as a renowned printmaker. Gloucestershire owes him a special commemoration in 2021 as the draughtsman and also engraver of sixty-four prints commissioned in the early eighteenth century by Sir Robert Atkyns for *The Ancient and Present State of Glostershire*. This book

contains all the engravings with a short commentary on each large-sized reproduction and has pointers to the details and to the history of the house and the family. *Johannes Kip: The Gloucestershire Engravings* is a contribution to the history of the county, to

knowledge of the gardens, which in many cases still reflect Kip's engravings, to the unique history of many of the houses which survive three hundred years later, and to the riches of the Gloucestershire countryside.



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## Visitors from the Fifth Kingdom

As gardeners we are used to visitors arriving unexpectedly, passing through or settling in, welcome or otherwise. The hedgehog and ladybirds are beneficial whilst neighbouring weeds have to go. But there are also visitors, often short stayers, which are neither animal nor plant, and who convey mixed messages, especially as we often know little about them.



*In the lawn*

Fungi have long fascinated me, but usually on aesthetic or imaginative grounds: sculptural brackets encountered on country walks, or less often the fairy ring of ephemeral field mushrooms. Last year I decided to learn more about the identity and nature of the fungi

which appear intermittently in my garden and along the adjacent woodland footpath. To approach this in a serious manner, I put *Collins' Fungi Field Guide* on my wish list last December. It turned out to be a lot bigger than expected with 'over 2,400 species described' and my hope of some easy identifications declined. On the other hand, I found the introduction truly engrossing.

So, I am writing about fungi in the garden in a spirit of enquiry. You may be equally intrigued, you may have different species on your patch, or you may be knowledgeable already. Whichever applies to you, this is an invitation to join in, contribute your sightings and offer tips for further investigation. You may even be (in a culinary context) mushroom-averse, in which case this could serve as a message for discernment and tolerance.



*On a stump*

The first thing I learnt was that toadstools and mushrooms belong to the fifth kingdom (neither plant nor animal), being made up of mycelium not cells. They do not grow by eating and digesting, nor do they photosynthesise, but they produce enzymes externally and take in chemicals from broken down organic matter in their surroundings. Often fungi favour a particular habitat, say woodland, with a preference for certain trees (often recognised in their name) or grassland,

which in garden terms means they might be in the lawn.

Then, of course, one wants to know what effect the growth may have: harmful or beneficial. This was where I found something especially significant, although its workings are still a matter of scientific debate. It is that the circle which appears above the spreading roots of a tree may reflect a symbiotic relationship: mycorrhiza indicating that plant and fungus are inter-dependent. Is the particular specimen one of these, or is it a parasite to be removed before the plant is damaged?



*At the base of the conifer*

Even the potential source of clues to be found in common names and folk knowledge is little help as relatively few have acquired an English name (such as Turkey Tail) although a few edible types have French names. On that subject I was shocked to see a wholefood shop displaying charming models of the red and white spotted kind! It is to be hoped that their customers ignore such advertisement.

Returning to my own observation in garden and on footpath, I remembered that the best season for fungi-spotting is Autumn, preferably nice and damp. I will be ready later this year with camera and field guide, but here are four examples from my garden. Can you identify any of these? Even after checking size, shape, cap and surface texture, gills and stalk, single or clustered and changing colour,

I can only hazard a guess at general type or species.

Dispersed shyly in the lawn, 1. could well be a field cap (agrocybe) or cone cap (conocybe), whilst 2. trooping on a usually concealed stump could be a rustcap. 3. has been and gone a few times below a row of conifers planted for privacy by my predecessor, and apparently tasty to some creature, but 4. appeared for the first time last autumn on the base of my old and cherished oak tree: a character popular with woodpeckers and squirrels and at times a perching place for agile cats and children.

*At the base of the oak*

This alarming fungus multiplied, darkened and developed a strong smell. It seemed to be some sort of giant polypore, but was I right to remove it? I will certainly be watching out for any repeat occurrence this Autumn.

Meanwhile, do share your fungi photos and expertise.

***Helen Caffrey, June 2021***



## **Forthcoming YGT Publications**

<b>Publication</b>	<b>Copy deadline</b>	<b>Publication date</b>
Autumn Newsletter	14 August 2021	21 September 2021

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

## YGT Contact Details

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If you are already a member, use the 'phone numbers on your membership card to give us a call.

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