

The Aislabie Walk: A journey through picturesque landscapes

Launched in Spring 2012, The Aislabie Walk links three fascinating landscapes created by the Aislabie family. Departing from their former home at Studley Royal, the circular route passes through the little-known designed woodland at Laver Banks as well as the celebrated Hackfall.

The project was led by the Woodland Trust, with the support of the Hackfall Trust and National Trust amongst many others and with funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund. Mark Reid, the author of numerous walking guides, was commissioned to research and design the route.

The inspiration behind the 'journey through picturesque landscapes' was the discovery that the Aislabie family had a circuit drive linking their three pleasure grounds so that their carriages could pass along private roads as they visited each site. Although documentary evidence survives for sections of the drive, the exact route is unknown, so Mark's walk is in the spirit of the original rather than an attempt at historical accuracy.



Figure 1 - Morning mist (seasons of mists and mellow fruitfulness!),
photo Karen Lynch

The full walk is 17.5 miles (28 km) and sadly must be completed on foot rather than in the comfort of one's carriage with a retinue of picnic-bearing servants. If one has less time (or indeed less stamina) there are shorter routes of 11.5 miles



Figure 2 - The Sulphur Well, Aldfield Spa,
photo Karen Lynch

(18.5km) and 7.5 miles (12km). We walked the shorter route on a beautiful late October day when the mist was rising to reveal a bright blue sky and golden brown foliage (Figure 1). The guide suggests allowing 3 hours but if like us you want include numerous minor diversions to explore, photo stops and a quick picnic lunch allow a little longer.

We started from the lakeside car park at Studley and walked through the park, passing a bellowing stag rounding up his harem (watched by an equally large herd of photographers) to St Mary's Church and the obelisk. A lovely track led us along the Skell through Spring Wood and Spa Gill Wood to the remains of Aldfield Spa where magnesia and sulphur rich waters were all the vogue in the 18th and 19th centuries. The sulphur well (Figure 2) is tucked in the undergrowth nearby with the distinct smell of rotten eggs getting stronger as you approach. From here the walk climbs to take you to the village of Aldfield with handsome stone houses and onwards to a stile with a fantastic view across to Winksley church. Descending through plantations you arrive on the banks of the Laver and the elegant classical Woodhouse Bridge erected by the Aislabies (Figure 3). The parapet is the perfect place to lay out one's picnic.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

The Aislabie Walk	1
Chairman's Letter	2
Midsummer Picnic	3
John Drake MBE	4
George Russell	7
Gledhow	9
Follies of Boughton Park	12
Study Day Bretton	13
Book Review	14
'Capability' Brown Tercentenary	17
Helen Lazenby Lecture	18
Garden Visit Reports:	
Ness Hall	5
Archbishops Palace	7
Risby	15
Committee Round-up:	
Education: Schools	19
Conservation and Planning	20
Small Grants Scheme	24
Events Programme	24



Figure 3 - Woodhouse Bridge,
photo Karen Lynch

The longer route continues north from here towards Hackfall, but the shorter route follows the Laver to Galphay Mill Bridge. Across the bridge and a short walk uphill and then a right hand turn



Figure 4 - Avenue approaching Studley,
photo Karen Lynch

took us onto the home straight – literally. As it descends the track is flanked by avenues of fine oaks and aligned on the Lindrick Gate to Studley Royal (Figure 4). It is easy to imagine the Aislabie’s coach on this drive heading home for tea.

I can highly recommend the walk and we really appreciated Mark Reid’s careful guidance. But one word of caution – although the week had been bright and dry, the weather of the previous months

had taken its toll on the landscape and parts of the walk were seriously sodden and great ingenuity was required to carry on when paths had turned into deep streams. So...wait for a dry spell, or set off in good boots prepared for an adventure, but either way do go!

Full details can be found at www.aislabiewalk.org.uk

Karen Lynch

CHAIRMAN’S LETTER

I wish you a very happy 2013. I hope that your New Year has begun well and that you have high hopes for achieving some of your long-held dreams and ambitions or setting a path towards that.

Despite the challenges of the last year, there is good news to share. I am delighted that the Diane Lascelles, Countess of Harewood, has agreed to become the second President of the Yorkshire Gardens Trust and to continue the valued link with Harewood. The Countess is a talented artist with many affiliations to the wide spectrum of art and culture. Perhaps some of you enjoyed her work on display at the ‘Mediaeval Harewood Faire and Exhibition’ during the summer? We look forward to personally welcoming Lady Lascelles to the Trust at a YGT event in the near future.

Congratulations to Moira Fulton, Susan Kellerman and Karen Lynch for researching and presenting successful study day events, which have been highly commended by delegates from Yorkshire and other Garden Trusts and indeed ‘interested others’ outside the garden world. I would like to give a special vote of thanks to Dr Patrick Eyres for delivering the Helen Lazenby Memorial lecture entitled ‘JMW Turner, The Pain

and Pleasure of Research’, which will forever link Helen, Turner and Plumpton Rocks so delightfully in the minds of all those who were able to attend.

I am sure that there will be much enjoyment from this edition of the Newsletter which Louise Wickham, once again, has edited with dexterity. Whilst you read of events past, work on-going and plans for the future (the Tercentenary of Capability Brown in 2016 is already creating a susurrus of interest in all the County) remember the YGT continues to archive original documentation, photographs and oral records linked with the County’s horticultural achievements, some of which are now available to view ‘on line’ at the Borthwick Institute. A small donation in appreciation for help from the Curator and the digitising of YGT slides was made earlier in the year. Through the sterling efforts of Penelope Dawson-Brown, the Borthwick has also become the depository for other historical, horticultural documentation from a widening range of Yorkshire societies and groups which makes a considerable archive for future years.

Our plant heritage seems to be threatened from all sides. Pests, disease, fungal attack and climate change all present challenges for designers, plant lovers and gardeners. The gardens of the future may need to be planned with an eye to a different palette of trees and shrubs and perhaps the loss of some old plant friends may create potential for introducing new. This is not a new phenomenon: it just seems to be happening more rapidly! The world-wide transport of plants has been growing since the 1700’s, but maybe ever more vigilance is needed to ensure phyto-sanitation of imports of timber and living plant material. The economics may encourage an increase of home-grown

plants which our nurseries can do so expertly.

Please encourage your friends and family members to help us to further the work of the Yorkshire Garden Trust by becoming members. An increase in our membership would be very welcomed. As with many other organisations the YGT Council of Management has to purchase administrative help to continue to maintain the aims and objectives. A few more willing volunteers would be welcome to help share the tasks which our increasing ‘fame’ brings to the door. The YGT Trustees still endeavour to champion the historic gardens and landscapes but woman/man-power is becoming increasingly stretched.

In addition to this newsletter, remember you can also check out the YGT website www.yorkshiregardenstrust.org.uk All members can add comments to the forum.

I look forward to seeing you at future events and the AGM at RHS Harlow Carr, Harrogate, in the new Education and Learning Centre, in March.

Liz Simson



Keep smiling – the world still has many a beautiful place. Floriade, Netherlands 2012,
photo Liz Simson



Season of winter woollies! A well wrapped Oak in the Floriade Exhibition, Netherlands 2012, photo Liz Simson

Midsummer Picnic

Low Askew Farm, 20th June 2012

As the date of the midsummer picnic approached I viewed the forecast with some trepidation reflecting that the weather has not always been kind to us on such occasions. This time, however, we were blessed with warm sunshine.

After parking in a nice, dry field, doing a double take at a rather static deer on the hillside which we were told later was not the genuine article but a Victorian copy once used for target practice, we made our way past the Old Mill and Granary and the densely planted stone troughs filled with pelargoniums, to gather near the house. Here, Martin and Penelope warmly welcomed us. Swallows were abundant flying high in the clear blue sky. Coffee was served beneath the arches of the Georgian Granary, a beautiful old building which, along with the adjacent old Mill and several other farm buildings, are presently undergoing restoration helped by Natural England. Martin had arranged for a wonderful horse-drawn fire engine to be on display in the yard, a relic of the late nineteenth century belonging to a neighbouring farmer.



Figure 1 - Central path from house,
photo Win Derbyshire

Penelope gave us a brief talk about the farm's history which dates back to the 17th century. She explained that the original mill was possibly medieval and that the nearby church of St Mary's Lastingham was built on the foundations of an existing 7th century monastery, a reminder of the surrounding early landscape. Sheep have always been important to the farm, which at one time was renowned for its weaving. Today they graze the hilly slopes bordering the North York Moors National Park. A strict grazing regime is vital in maintaining the diverse grasses and native flowers

so important to wildlife. Conservation is very much a part of the farm's ethic, planting hedges and trees which include a new generation of oak and most recently, Penelope's strips of native arable flowers.

Walking through a small passage, the garden is then revealed, sloping south to a tributary of the River Seven. The valley setting has historical associations for it was once populated by bronze-age settlers. In front of the house, the formal lawn is divided by a flagged path lined with crab apples and hollies, a change from my previous visit (Figure 1). To the east a curvaceous clipped box hedge defines the herbaceous border with its stone wall backdrop. Descending the steps mixed borders burgeon on each side. This area is fairly sunny so plants include the striking Madeiran orchid *Dactylorhiza foliosa* (Figure 2), thalictrum, oxalis, polemium and many others to give a good display, and young plants such as phlox and sedum offer the promise of continuing interest over a long period.

To the west a scree, comprising dwarf conifers, alpines, and sun loving plants such rock roses, slopes down to the old mill-race where a large stone wall borders the western side of the garden. This was built soon after Penelope and Martin arrived on the farm. It curves to accommodate a large veteran oak. 'Askew' is an ancient word for oak and once the landscape here was densely populated with them.

Exploring the informal area of the garden other noticeable large trees included red oak, Atlantic blue cedar and white poplar. From mown grass with beds of shrubs and herbaceous planting, the garden reveals an unmown, wildflower area extending over a bronze-age barrow. Fritillaries in April and Martagom lilies in late June - sadly the latter were not quite in bloom. One of the shady beds was striking with doricum, aquilegia, hosta, variegated iris, astrantia and a new plant to many of us, the Himalayan Campion which flourishes in this position and forms a feature with its creamy coloured flowers. Evergreens are intermixed which give a



Figure 2 - *Dactylorhiza foliosa*,
photo Win Derbyshire

solidity to the planting throughout.

The southern boundary is defined by a stream, a tributary of the River Seven. The retaining wall, constructed of huge stones, was built by Martin many years ago. Today hardy geraniums interplanted with Scots roses, run the full length of it as far as the wooden bridge to the east. Crossing over the bridge, Burnet roses and variegated hollies are planted on either side of a wrought iron gate which leads one into the Cow Pasture beyond.

Having enjoyed the beauties of the garden, most people's thoughts changed to lunch and picnics were produced, some basic, some very sophisticated and as wine was freely available, plus local strawberries and cream, the atmosphere became convivial, with some of us regretting we had to stay sober to drive home! It was amazing how some 80 people dispersed, finding a range of places to settle in.

Lunch being finished, many of us took a second stroll round the garden or wandered up the hay field to the recently restored Field House known as Red Barn which is home to resident barn owls (Figure 3). We left with a lasting impression of a lovely garden built up over 30 years, still actively evolving, an emphasis on wildlife and excellent hospitality.

Win Derbyshire



Figure 3 - Red Barn,
photo Penelope Dawson-Brown

Louis John Drake MBE 1943 - 2012

John Drake trained as an architect and worked in Lambeth for many years. It was as an active member of the Cambridgeshire NCCPG that I first met him during the early 1980's and discovered a shared interest in historic gardens and the nascent Gardens Trust movement. He told me about his involvement in the replanting of St. Mary's Lambeth (now the Garden Museum) churchyard with its famous Tradescant tomb, all done with plants from the early 17th century.

The building and its graveyard had been saved from demolition in time for their opening in 1977 as part of the Jubilee celebrations. The committee had then decided to refashion the gardens and its planting to be more in keeping with its most famous tomb. John and a fellow volunteer Mary Searls helped the Marchioness of Salisbury, the Museum's President, with the planting and I quote from their website "*It was here that a member of the Trust, John Drake, who was not only an architect but a gardener too, brought his skill and knowledge to help me in the laying out of the space.*" After this project, John decided to study historic gardens and took the Gardens and Conservation course at the AA.

With this background he seemed the perfect person in 1989 to help recreate a 1650 Commonwealth era garden in the South Court at Thorpe Hall, Peterborough: recently purchased by Sue Ryder Homes. The gardens committee of Mary Newnes, Ursula Buchan and Nicholas Warliker enquired about a replacement designer with knowledge of historic plants. John's resulting design for the South Court complemented the 1850 areas which had recently been recreated using the surviving archival plant lists. These included such gems as *Tetrapanax papyrifera* then a rarity in Britain.

John continued his association with the Sue Ryder Homes, becoming their consultant on many of the historic gardens that they owned, including Hickleton Hall near Doncaster. He researched the landscape's history,

including the interesting Inigo Thomas 20th century additions to this erstwhile Halifax property and encouraged the head gardener Gordon Creaser to resuscitate them. New planting was added to the box edged beds and shrubberies, and a specie snowdrop collection developed, no doubt with some starters from his own garden. Critically John was responsible for the objections put forward on behalf of Sue Ryder to the proposed bypass round the village. This would have cut off the historic parkland from the home and gardens and the evidence submitted was successful in having the proposal stopped.

Closer to his home, John did a great deal of research work on the gardens of Ely Cathedral and was fundamental to the setting up of the Cambridgeshire G.T. branch, becoming their first chair. The restoration of the Ramsay Abbey walled gardens was another great interest. John masterminded the setting up of the Charitable Trust for the walled garden within the boundary of Abbey School, led the initial survey and also the research. A five year clearance of the site followed and grants were obtained for the restoration which included the provision of an alternative entrance. Finally a peppercorn lease was negotiated and the planting began.

Up in Yorkshire, I heard about many more of these developments via the Gardens Trust movement and occasionally in John's beautiful Christmas cards, always a hand drawn sketch of a wonderful building abroad, often in Turkey where he had built a holiday home deep in the countryside. Not content with sitting on his considerable laurels, John as chair of CGT steered a gazetteer of local gardens called *The Gardens of Cambridgeshire* into publication in 2000 and went on to publish a pioneering study of an historic garden nursery, *Wood and Ingram. A Huntingdonshire Nursery 1742-1950* in 2008. It came to Yorkshire with a typically modest note attached: '*I thought you would like to see – read – what I get up to.*'

Started in 1742 and closed in 1950, Wood and Ingram's business had served the local aristocracy since its inception, becoming rose specialists with some 740 varieties for sale by the end of 19th century. The book draws from extensive archives which were scattered in many different places, not least of which was a local garage which housed some 100 or so 20th century ledgers all beautifully bound and preserved.

The '*fine detective work*' mentioned by Christopher Taylor in his introduction to the book involved many helpers and John as always gave credit where it was due. The book had taken longer than anticipated in coming to publication because of John's battle with illness and so it was a real pleasure to be able to welcome him with a select group of Cambridgeshire Gardens Trust members to Wentworth Castle for a day visit in 2007.

Jenny Burt adds that "John was a great friend and visitor to Northamptonshire Gardens Trust, his first contact with us being a lecture and conducted tour of the Thorpe Hall garden restoration some 18 years ago. He spoke on several occasions about his researches in the Grand Vizier's gardens in Turkey where he gave advice for their restoration projects and of course the Ramsey Walled Garden where we enjoyed a welcome visit to see his and his colleagues' great achievements. We exchanged research material with John, each searching our local archives for the other's projects.

On one occasion John came to Northampton with two other members to seek out connections for Wood and Ingram's Nursery and after indulging John's love of Northampton's Church architecture, we sought out the house of John Perkins, purchaser of the Nursery. A rather startled owner opened the door to be charmed by John's enquiries, invited us in and showed us the wonderful flower and fruit imagery in the stained glass of the property. John was a great encourager and acted as referee for the Lottery Funding for our Deer Park project. The AGT also benefitted from his quiet advice when John joined the Council from 1998 to 2001 chairing the Projects and Funding sub-committee."

In addition to all the above, John was a great plantsman and regularly opened his own garden at Fen Ditton to the public. The house had been built by his grandfather, a successful businessman and its isolated position on the outskirts of the village meant that he soon became aware of the need for shelter. The garden drew from the Arts and Crafts movement, with John establishing clear structural compartments and was full of lovely plants, not least of which was his

national collection of Aquilegias. I once asked John how he avoided the dangers of cross pollination. *'Its quite easy'* was the reply, *'I lend the stock plants in pots to all my friends locally when they are in bud, they enjoy the flowering and then I collect them back when they have set seed'*.

We will all miss his great energy and enthusiasm for gardening in all its aspects.

Jane Furse and Jenny Burt

**NB. Saturday 8th June 2013
1pm-3.30 pm 'Peace and Poems at Ramsey Walled Gardens'. AGT colleagues and friends of John Drake and any CGT members who would like to join us in a quiet visit to remember John would be very welcome. No fee. Donations to Ramsey Walled Gardens. Please register before June 1st with Teresa Forey Harrison, AGT Administrator. Drinks available and bring your own picnic lunch.**

NESS HALL



Figure 2 - Entrance gates, photo Susan Beyer

On the afternoon of Wednesday, 27th June 2012, YGT members met at Ness Hall, the home of Richard and Harriette Murray Wells, to view the walled flower garden and see new features and plantings.

Ness Hall stands high on a bend in the road from Nunnington, in the heart of Ryedale. It overlooks the soft and pleasant farmlands of the Vale of Pickering and a glimpse of this beautiful stone house through trees was certainly a hint of the pleasures in store for our visit. Members were soon gathering in the courtyard of the Hall, where the apricot blooms of the rose 'Ghislain de Feligonde' rambled on soft stone walls (Figure 1) and two glorious carpentias in full bloom could be much admired.

The present house was built in 1814 but the walled garden at Ness Hall is from an earlier period. Richard Murray Wells' grandmother, who became a keen gardener, was the first in the family to make changes to this garden and Richard's mother continued the tradition, improving and extending the planting. Today, it is Richard's wife, Harriette, who has taken up the reigns, assisted by Alan Richardson, full-time gardener at Ness Hall for the last eleven years. Together, they are introducing new features.

It had been the wettest June on record but, undeterred by the inevitable shower, members set out valiantly in the footsteps of Alan. First taking them on a short visit to the orchard, he then led them back across the courtyard and

through superb wrought-iron entrance gates - designed and built by the highly acclaimed Mike Hammond, from Kirbymoorside - into the walled garden itself (Figure 2).

This is a garden at ease, where fertile soil and years of nurture have encouraged plants and shrubs to mature and multiply within ancient limestone walls. The whole effect is delightful. The garden has been partitioned and is linked by a network of paths and borders which lead on, encouraging exploration. There are hedges of lavender, box and yew and grasses mingle with the abundant planting, adding softness and movement to the scene.

The effects of the plantings will undoubtedly change through the seasons but on the 27th June, members were greeted by a profusion of glowing blues, whites and golds. Geraniums, campanula and nepeta were everywhere, with roses, delphiniums and veronicas all vying for attention against the tall spires of white foxgloves (Figure 3). These were literally 'reaching for the sky' after the recent rainfall! Golden herbs, verbascum and golden bamboo added



Figure 1 - Rosa 'Ghislain de Feligonde', photo Susan Beyer



Figure 3 - Main garden borders, *photo Susan Beyer*

to the scene, as did the feathery boughs of *Gleditsia triacanthos* and the white clouds of the *Crambe cordifolia*. Alan also drew members' attention to the *Romneya coulteri* (the Californian tree poppy) which was sadly not in bloom for our visit but was expected to flower in August.

Roses tumble against the south facing wall of the garden, where fruit trees are also grown as espaliers. This is the area where the vegetable plot is hiding. A small garden seat nearby for the weary gardener nestled happily in an oasis of colour – lavender, *Stachys lanata* and purple thyme. Here too, a wooden fanned partition has recently been erected, over which it is hoped to grow clematis (Figure 4).



Figure 4 - Wooden partition, *photo Susan Beyer*

As previously mentioned, more structure is now being introduced elsewhere in the garden. A wooden gazebo has been built over a gentle stream (bordered by *Candelabra primula*) which already flows from a small, stone house on the top pathway of the garden. The water for this stream is pumped back into a tank but

will, in fact, create the illusion that it continues and enters a pool (still under construction) in the central walkway of the garden (Figure 5).

In addition, young trees of hornbeam have been planted. These are being pleached to form a sheltered walkway along the top path on the north facing wall. This process is echoed at the end of the long central walkway, where more trees (hornbeam) will create an arbour around the Lutyen's bench.

The central walkway extends through the garden from east to west, beneath a pergola (limestone pillars) clad in roses and wisteria and bordered with lavender. The present roses on the pergola ('Ethel' and 'Goldfinch') are replacements for earlier ones which were lost in the severe winter of 2010/2011 and have so far proved to be more resistant to the cold. In the central area of the walkway, the new pool has already been dug out and is awaiting a low fountain, which it is hoped will not interrupt the long vista.

A short rest on the Lutyens bench at the end of the walkway offered an opportunity to indulge in the mingling scents of roses ('Fritz Nobilis') and philadelphus and the sound of birdsong after rain, which must be one of the great pleasures of this garden. Then, after a stroll past clouds of mauve and white *Viola cornuta* and the rose-clad 'Thunder Box' in the corner (Figure 6), another beautiful gateway encourages the visitor to leave the walled garden and move to the front of the house.

Here the soft stone walls are blessed once more with roses and a peace and tranquillity descends. With its cloud-clipped yew hedging and the view of sheep grazing in the meadows beyond, it was the perfect place for further contemplation before returning to the house for tea and delicious cakes! A most enjoyable afternoon . . . and even the sun eventually put its hat on!

Susan Beyer



Figure 5 - Central walkway, *photo Susan Beyer*



Archbishop's Palace, Bishopthorpe, York



Figure 2 - Bedding display,
photo Mike Ashford

On the afternoon of 8th August 2012, on a day when it felt that summer had arrived, 23 members of the Trust were shown around the public rooms of the palace and then explored the gardens and grounds. Mr David Atkinson, the warden of the palace, explained its history and showed us around. Walter de Grey became archbishop in 1215 and was the first archbishop to dwell in Bishopthorpe. He bought land which included an eleventh century manor house which was demolished in 1241 and a new palace was built. This mediaeval palace, with some subsequent additions, was largely replaced by Archbishop Drummond in 1761. His architect was the York based Thomas Atkinson who produced a building in the Gothic Revival style.

Some parts of the mediaeval structures do remain, notably the chapel. We were guided round the Chapel, the State Banqueting Hall which the Archbishop uses for official functions such as fund raising for charities and the Drawing Room which is used for various occasions but especially for

Christmas. Portraits of many of the archbishops are hung on the walls and we were told a little about them. The visit inside the palace ended with tea and delicious scones sitting at a long Tudor table which had started off in the kitchens but now had pride of place in the Banqueting Hall where it had been used by the Queen.

The grounds of the palace run to about 9 acres of which about a third is a conservation area. The main feature of the garden, on the north side of the palace is a very well maintained lawn of about 2 acres in extent with a central focus of formal yews and junipers.

Throughout the grounds there are some very well grown trees testifying to the nice sandy soil and high water-table



Figure 3 - Folly, photo Mike Ashford



Figure 1 - *Catalpa bignonioides* and lawn,
photo Mike Ashford

as the palace stands next to the River Ouse. One tree of note is a *Catalpa bignonioides*, the Indian Bean Tree, which was in full flower and larger than the present writer knows elsewhere in the North (Figure 1). The gardener said that earlier this year they were very worried about this tree as it only came into leaf very late. On the front of the palace there is a magnificent *Garrya elliptica* (male form). The avenue leading from the gate which used to be of quince, has been replanted with *Sorbus* 'Joseph Rock'. This variety was chosen because one plant of this variety was already thriving close by and its limited size, good autumn colour and attractive yellow fruits appealed. Outside the entrance of the palace is a circular bed that every year is planted up with annual bedding. This year of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee it was planted in the form of the Union flag in red and white bedding begonias and blue ageratum (Figure 2).

The conservation area is dominated by large trees both native and exotic including two very large pines which appear to be Austrian pines. There is also a lake and a stone built folly probably originally a water tower (Figure 3). The walled garden belonging to the palace is now worked by the Brunswick Organic Nursery.

Mike Ashford

George Russell (1857 – 1951) and the Revival of his lupin hybrids at Bustardthorpe Allotments, York

Prior to our afternoon visit to Bishopthorpe Palace on the 8th August, 2012, members were encouraged to call in at nearby Bustardthorpe Allotments where Wally Hammond is reviving the legendary Russell lupin. Situated close to York racecourse with a magnificent view of the iconic Terry's chocolate factory (now redundant), no site could

be more befitting, for this is where George Russell grew and hybridised lupins during the early part of the 20th century.

Today the allotments, which span 28 acres, are thriving and remain very much a part of York's gardening heritage. Wally warmly greeted us and

showed us his allotment and working greenhouse where seeds are germinated in boxes and trays. His reverence to tidiness and utilising every inch of space is a quality inherent in most of his fraternity. Although the majority of lupins had finished flowering there were still a few beauties to behold. In June a fine show of Russell hybrids had caused

quite a sensation when displayed in a special bed near to the reception area. Wally's enthusiasm for George Russell and his achievements have also inspired fellow allotment growers and renewed historical interest in the community, a policy Yorkshire Gardens Trust keenly supports.

Russell was born in 1857 in the village of Stillington, 10 miles north of York. As a young man he worked for James Backhouse and Son whose plant nursery at Acomb was arguably the most prestigious in the country. Here he would have learnt a wide range of horticultural skills including the rudiments of plant breeding. He went on to become a jobbing gardener earning up to ten shillings a day. After his wife died he remarried a neighbour, Mrs Heard. Her son Arthur was a sickly child who benefitted from being outdoors so it was decided that he would accompany Russell to work. The young boy, who Russell always referred to as Sonny, eventually became his trusted garden assistant and they remained close throughout their lives.

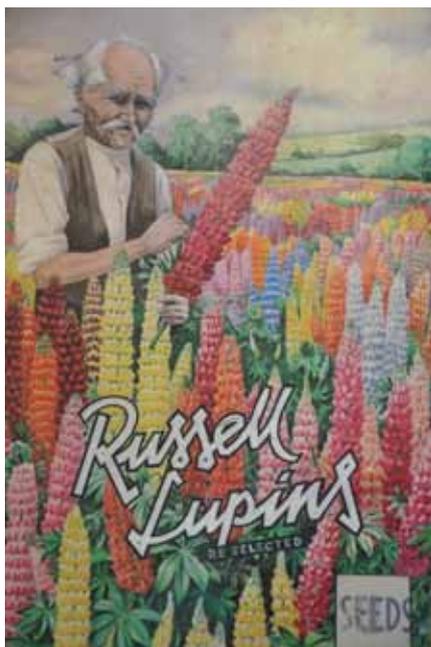
At the beginning of the 20th century Russell was beginning to experiment with plant hybridising. He started with daffodils and aquilegia however, after noticing a vase of lupins exquisitely arranged by one of his employers, a Mrs. Micklethwaite, his attention quickly turned to them. This was his eureka moment! In no time vast numbers of lupins could be seen growing on his allotment in shades of every colour of the rainbow. On Sunday afternoons in June, local people flocked to admire the fabulous displays of towering spires which must have been a magnificent sight. Russell also exhibited in the floral marquee at the York Gala, once one of the great city attractions. Those who were gardeners coveted the beauty and perfection of the Russell lupin and could see the commercial value of its seed. Money was of no importance to Russell and they were firmly told that they could only look, not buy! Plants were zealously guarded: I have read that when seed was ripening on his precious blooms he would sleep amongst them just in case some horticultural thief was on the prowl!



Wally Hammond,
photo Penelope Dawson-Brown

Russell was 54 when he seriously committed himself to the breeding of lupins. He understood the science of natural selection, growing on new seedlings and discarding all inferior ones to gradually improve the strain. Pollination was left to Mother Nature and her hardworking team of bumblebees. He sourced wild lupin seed from Europe and North America and from the hundreds of hybrids growing on his allotment. The first lupin to arrive in this country was *Lupinus polyphyllus* from California in 1826 which soon became a popular cottage garden plant.

At the ripe old age of 78 years old, having firmly resisted launching himself into the commercial world, Russell finally succumbed. In 1935, James Baker, whose nursery near Wolverhampton was one of the best in the country, came to see him at the



George Russell and his lupins,
photo Penelope Dawson-Brown

Bustardthorpe Allotments. He was in awe of the Russell hybrids of which he had heard so much about. Instead of talking about money he persuaded Russell that he should share his beautiful plants with the rest of the world. His tactful approach worked and in the autumn of that year Russell's lupin collection, which consisted of some 1,500 plants, all different, were dug up and transported to Bakers at Boningale. The following year Russell moved into a house on the Nursery site. Arthur Heard and his wife did the same, enabling the two men to pass on their hybridising skills to the nursery staff. As the quality in blooms excelled the popularity of the lupin soared. People came from all over the country to see the fields of Russell hybrids in full bloom. As many as 80,000 visitors were recorded in June of 1937 causing considerable chaos on the roads!

At the R.H.S. flower show staged on June 8th 1937, when Russell was 80, he was awarded the coveted Gold Medal for his exhibition of seedlings. These were beautifully staged in copper bowls and excited all who set eyes upon them. By now George Russell's fame had spread around the world and never before had the lupin been so regaled. But with the war years, when most of the nursery land was designated to growing vegetables, the golden years began to fade. Despite this George continued to select and rogue his precious hybrids until his death in 1951 aged 94, the same year in which he received an MBE. He had already been awarded the Veitch Memorial Medal for his work on lupins.

The story does not end here. A National Collection of Russell lupins was established by horticulturist Pat Edwards through her determination to preserve these striking garden flowers. She and her husband Mike (who had worked at Bakers) eventually bought what remained of the old nursery at Boningale. While clearing the site she came across original Russell lupin seed and saved a few jarfuls. Thankfully Arthur Heard was still alive and with his help she re-established the Russell strain, selecting and discarding seedlings in the same method practiced by Russell.

So what was it that inspired Wally Hammond to bring back Russell lupins big time? I can tell you the story first hand:

George Russell was a member of the Ancient Society of York Florists of which I am President. Arthur Robinson, the Society's secretary for twenty years who sadly died in February 2012, was keen to rekindle enthusiasm in Russell lupins, especially because George Russell had been a member of our Society. On show days Arthur and I would sit at the door to greet visitors and take their entry fee. Arthur had acquired packets of Russell lupin seed and some copies of *The Russell Lupin*

Story, the delightful book written by Pat Edwards and published by NCCPG. Wally came to the show and while chatting with him and learning that he had an allotment at Bustardthorpe, we encouraged him to buy the book and grow some seeds.

Despite our persuasiveness he politely declined. However, no sooner was he out the door than he reappeared feeling guilty at not having supported us. He bought Pat's book and we gave him the seeds: the rest, as they say is history! Inspired by what he read he sowed his seed and within months was rewarded by flowering plants, hundreds of them. He was hooked! Since then he has put

on displays at Bishopthorpe Palace and persuaded York Parks to display them for their historic value. He has also encouraged children from local schools to take up growing lupins. He sells his lupins at the allotments where they have become extremely fashionable with locals. Wally still keeps in touch with Pat Edwards whose support he cherishes. The remarkable story of George Russell is one that has been sadly forgotten in York and we owe much to Wally Hammond for keeping it alive.

Penelope Dawson-Brown

Gledhow

Tucked away in the northern suburbs of Leeds is Gledhow, which has a long and interesting landscape history. What remains was the subject of a visit by YGT members on a dry (mercifully!) day in early September. We were the guests of two local groups: The Friends of Gledhow Woods and Gledhow Valley Conservation Area group, who organised an excellent afternoon.

The Gledhow estate is part of the wider area known as 'Allerton' or 'Chapel Allerton', to the north of Leeds. The spa or spring (on which the bath house is built) is in Gipton, which has often been a separate landholding in its history. The name Gledhow is thought to derive from old English: hill (*how*) of the kite (*gled*).

Early history

The first evidence we have is of a late prehistoric enclosed settlement in Gipton Wood from around 1000BC¹. This may be the Saxon fort that the early 18th century antiquarian, Ralph Thoresby, claimed to have found. In 1066, according to the Domesday Book, the owner of (Chapel) Allerton was the Saxon lord, Gluniairn. Gipton has two entries and was owned by Earl Edwin and Gospatric. By 1086, both were owned by the Norman, Ilbert de Lacy. While Gipton had 3.7 households, Allerton had none but both paid a relatively large amount of tax!² This must have indicated the value of these lands.

The de Lacy family made grants of land to nearby Kirkstall Abbey from its foundation in 1152 (Kirkstall was founded by Henry de Lacy). By the early 13th century, this would appear to have included Allerton³. By the time of the dissolution of the monasteries, the lands belonging to Kirkstall came to the Crown in 1539 and this included the manor of Chapel Allerton. By the late 16th century, the Thwaites family were living in Gledhow⁴, presumably as tenants.

17th century

In 1601, the Crown sold the Manor of Chapel Allerton to four parties: Thomas Kellingbeck, Thomas Marshall, John Thwaites Senior and John Fladder for £258 10s 11½d⁵. Thwaites had bought the Gledhow estate part and he (or his son, also John) built the first Gledhow Hall and developed the surrounding lands. John Jnr became Alderman of Leeds in 1653: the first of many owners of the estate to hold that position (the forerunner of Mayor).

John Thwaites died in 1671 and the estate passed via his daughter to the Waddington family. Her eldest son, Edward, is credited with erecting a bath house on the site of the Gipton spa in that year. Whether this was the first is unknown but the spring is mentioned in a survey for James I in 1612. We also do not know why he built it but it must have been of significance to him as the present building (Figure 1) has the



Figure 1 - Gipton Spa bath house, photo Louise Wickham
plaque with the inscription:

'HOC FECIT
EDVARDUS WADDINGTON,
DE GLEADOW
ANNO DOMINI 1671'

Sadly three years later, Edward died aged only 24. The estate appears to then pass to his next three brothers. The first was Samuel who died in 1681, unmarried, as did John, his next brother, later that year.⁶ So it finally went to Benjamin. With Benjamin's death in February 1690, Gledhow passed to his only daughter, Jane, who was three years old.⁷

18th century

Jane Waddington married Sir Roger Beckwith of Aldburgh on 10 October 1705. None of their children were baptised in Leeds, so possibly they were living on Beckwith's estate in North Yorkshire. Jane died and was buried at Masham in 1713. However, the spa seemed to be popular with Ralph Thoresby noting in his diary on 5 July 1708⁸:

*Walked with my dear by
Chapel-town and Gledhow to
Gypton-well (whence my Lord
Irwin, who comes thither in his
coach daily, was but just gone)
to enquire for conveniences
for my dear child Richard's
bathing.*

In his publication of 1715⁹,
Thoresby comments:

*At this Place a very curious
cold Spring, which in a
Romish Country could not
have miss'd the Patronage
of some Saint: 'Tis of late
Years accommodated with
convenient Lodgings to
Sweat the Patient after Bathing, and
is frequented by Persons of Honour,
being reputed little or nothing inferior
to St. Mongah's. Over the entrance is
inscrib'd,*

*HOC FECIT
EDVARDUS WADDINGTON,
DE GLEADOW
ANNO DOMINI 1681 (sic)*

By the 1730's, the estate was sold to the Sleigh family: possibly Hugh Sleigh who was a noted attorney in Leeds and 'greatly improved the old house'¹⁰. His only daughter, Ann, had married Hugh's apprentice, Henry Pawson, in 1723. It was their daughter (Anne) who sold Gledhow to Jeremiah Dixon in 1764, following the death of her husband. She had married William Wilson, a London merchant, in 1759. Wilson became the second Mayor (Alderman) of Leeds to



Figure 3 - Not an icehouse...!
Photo Louise Wickham



Figure 2 - Gledhow Hall, photo Louise Wickham
occupy Gledhow Hall in 1762.

Jeremiah Dixon remodelled the Hall (Figure 2), which has been attributed to Carr of York, possibly after a fire in 1769¹¹. In 1768, he built the bridge over Gledhow Lane to the pleasure gardens. Still extant here is a so-called ice-house (Figure 3). Although possibly from this period, its position and design would suggest that it was used for other purposes.

Dixon was also responsible for the large scale plantations that are the basis of the woods we see today. He introduced the Swiss or Apherously Pine which became known as the Gledhow Pine (*Pinus cembra*)¹². It is said that they were propagated from cones procured direct from Switzerland¹³. Dixon purchased the Manor of Chapel Allerton from the Killingbeck family in 1765 and in 1771, he added to his landholding by purchasing the estates belonging to Lady Dawes and her son¹⁴ (Lady Dawes had married Beilby Thompson as his second wife: his first wife being Jane Beckwith, youngest daughter of Sir Roger and Jane, née Waddington).

Dixon also built 'King Alfred's Castle', also supposedly from a design by John Carr, on Tunnel How Hill (between Stonegate Road and the Ring Road) on what was reputed to be the highest point in Leeds (Figure 4). A stone plaque was set in the wall of the castle which read: *<To the memory of Alfred the Great, the pious and magnanimous, the friend of science, virtue, law and liberty. This monument Jeremiah Dixon of Allerton Gledhow caused to be*

erected.> A date is also quoted as 1720 but it is more likely to be 1770. It collapsed in May 1946 when one of two walls that contained an arched doorway fell in.¹⁵ It is in a direct line from the Hall, so it may have originally been visible from there.

With Jeremiah's death in 1782, the estate passed to his eldest son, John. He divided his time between Gledhow and his estates in Cheshire. His second son, also Jeremiah, became the third occupant to become Mayor in 1784.

19th century

Between 1812 and 1815, Turner sketched the view of the Hall from across the valley¹⁶ and made a painting as shown in the back of the last YGT Newsletter. An engraving by G Cooke was published in 1816 (Figure 5) for Dr Whitaker's *History of Leeds*.



Figure 4 - King Alfred's Castle, postcard c1900, Leeds Library & Information Services

John Dixon died in 1824 and was succeeded by his son, Henry. However the Gledhow estate was occupied by Sir John Beckett from 1822 and then by his widow after his death in 1826.¹⁷ Lady Beckett died in 1833 and two years later, Thomas Benyon, a flax merchant is the new owner¹⁸. By this stage, the bath house seems to have fallen from favour given the comment from Edward Parsons that: 'the waters of Gypton have lost their celebrity and are no longer frequented'¹⁹.

The 1846 Tithe map shows the estate now split with William Hey and James Brown, owners of Gledhow Wood (and the spa) and Benyon, the Hall and surrounding pleasure gardens. William Hey was from a family of distinguished surgeons based in Leeds (and both his



Figure 5 - Gledhow Hall by JMW Turner, engraving by G Cooke 1816 © Trustees of the British Museum

father and grandfather were Mayors). Possibly as a retirement home, Hey built Gledhow Wood House c1860.²⁰ James Brown was the first cousin of Benyon's wife and was the owner of the neighbouring property of Harehills Grove.

Benyon's business depended on linen and canvas for ship's sails. Unfortunately he went bankrupt in 1861 and Gledhow Hall was bought by John Cooper, a cloth merchant. Inherited by his brother, William, in 1870, the Hall was once again up for sale after the latter's death in 1873. The Hall, pleasure and kitchen gardens are shown in detail in Figure 6 from the sale plan of 1878²¹. At this time, the estate was already being enjoyed by the public as the lake, known as Benyon's Pond, was popular as a place for skating 'by the upper and middle classes of Leeds'²².

The next owner was Samuel Croft, who was Mayor in 1875. After Croft's death in 1883, it was bought by the first Lord Mayor, James Kitson (1st Baron Airedale), an industrial magnate and MP. Gledhow Wood House was put up for sale on William Hey's death also in 1875²³ and was bought by Edward Schunck, a merchant.

In 1884, the 'Gledhow estate' contained²⁴: an orchard, shrubbery, ice house, well, peach house, flower and kitchen gardens, glass pits (cold frames?), fernery, greenhouses, conservatory, vineries, stoves and potting sheds. Most notably in the house, a Burmantofts 'Faience' bathroom was installed for the proposed visit of the Prince of Wales in 1885.

The two estates are united in a way when Albert Ernest Kitson (James's son) and Florence Schunck (Edward's daughter) married in 1890. Perhaps the bath house was rebuilt at this time, as

a report from 1885 has the description: 'On the left, from Leeds, of the road which passes through Gipton Wood, there is still an old well, protected by rude walling, with a long flight of partly broken steps down to it. The building has gone and with it the stone that bore the name, "Edwardus Waddington"'.²⁵

20th century

James Kitson died in 1911 and the estate seems to have been put in trust for his sons²⁶: Albert Ernest, Edward Christian and Roland Dudley. In the 1911 census, Edward (and his wife) and his sister, Alice Hilda, are recorded as living there. The OS Map from c1910 shows a more simplified layout to the main gardens. It was though noted for its fuchsia garden ('My Lady's Garden' – Figure 7) and a topiary in the shape of an 'old-fashioned rush-bottomed chair'²⁷.

During the First World War, the house was used as a military hospital. Hilda moved to Gledhow Grange and Edward to Quarry Dene, Westwood. Edward died in 1922 and it seems that at this point, the estate starts to be broken up and sold off. The Hall comes into the possession of Leeds Council from 1923 and becomes a school. The creation of the Gledhow Valley Road divides the estate in 1926. The Wades Trust acquires part of Gledhow Woods in



Figure 6 - Gledhow Estate sales plan 1878, Yorkshire Archaeological Society Archives – ref MS1790/234, photo Karen Lynch

November 1927 and March 1928. In 1948 and 1956, work was done to improve the area, creating paths and enlarging the lake.

Before Hilda's death in 1944, she gave £200 for the Council to preserve the bath house. However it was not until 2004 that the Friends of Gledhow Valley were able to get it fenced off and properly protected.

Louise Wickham

My thanks go to Joan Clayton of the Friends of Gledhow Valley Woods, Christine Osborne of the Gledhow Valley Conservation Area Group, Susan Kellerman and Karen Lynch of the YGT, for providing me with the information to put this together.



Figure 7 - My Lady's Garden, The Gardens of England in the Northern Counties, special Spring number of the Studio, 1911, photo Karen Lynch

- 1 <http://www.pastscape.org.uk>
- 2 <http://domesdaymap.co.uk> [consulted 7 August 2012]
- 3 E. Clark (1895) *The Foundation of Kirkstall*, Publications of the Thoresby Soc. IV, Leeds, pp180-1
- 4 Baptismal record of John Thwaites, christened on the 3rd January 1587 at St Peter's, Leeds. His father, also John, is described as 'of Gledhow'
- 5 T. Allen (1831) *A new and complete history of the county of York, Volume 4*, London: I T Hinton, p466
- 6 St Peter's, Leeds parish records
- 7 St Peter's, Leeds parish records
- 8 Ralph Thoresby (1830) *The Diary of Ralph Thoresby*, London: Colburn & Bentley, p8
- 9 Ralph Thoresby (1715) *Ducatus Leodiensis*, 1st ed., London: Maurice Atkins, p113
- 10 Edward Parsons (1834) *The civil, ecclesiastical [&c.] history of Leeds, Halifax, Huddersfield ... and the manufacturing district of Yorkshire*, Leeds: Frederick Hobson, p199

- 11 St. James's Chronicle or the British Evening Post, Tuesday 7 to Thursday February 9, 1769
- 12 J. C. Loudon (1838) *Arboretum et fruticetum Britannicum*, London: Longman & Co, p2278
- 13 Arthur Aikin (1804) *The Annual review and history of literature for 1803, Volume 2*, London: Longman and Rees, p885
- 14 Rev. R. V. Taylor (1865) *The biographia leodiensis or, Biographical sketches of the worthies of Leeds and neighbourhood, from the Norman conquest to the present time*, London: Simpkin, Marshall & Co, p182
- 15 www.leodis.net
- 16 www.tate.org.uk/art/artworks/turner-gledhow-hall-near-leeds-d09857
- 17 Edward Parsons (1834) *The civil, ecclesiastical [&c.] history of Leeds, Halifax, Huddersfield ... and the manufacturing district of Yorkshire*, Leeds: Frederick Hobson, p199
- 18 Poll book for 1835
- 19 Edward Parsons (1834) *The civil, ecclesiastical [&c.] history of Leeds, Halifax, Huddersfield ... and the manufacturing district of Yorkshire*, Leeds: Frederick Hobson, p200
- 20 West Yorkshire Archives – ref WYL160/M404
- 21 Yorkshire Archaeological Society Archives – ref MS1790/234
- 22 The Penny Illustrated Paper, 4 February 1865, reported the sad case of a pair drowning after falling through the ice.
- 23 West Yorkshire Archives – ref WYL160/M4
- 24 Deeds for “Lochmaben”, 149 Gledhow Valley Road
- 25 *Ralph Thoresby, the topographer; his town and times*, R. H. Atkinson, 1885, Leeds: Walker and Laycock, p132
- 26 Deeds for “Lochmaben”, 149 Gledhow Valley Road
- 27 The Gardens of England in the Northern Counties, special Spring number of the Studio, 1911

The Follies of Boughton Park Revisited

Many YGT members will not be aware of a fascinating landscape park in Northamptonshire created by Thomas and William Wentworth, Earls of Strafford, as their halfway house from Yorkshire to London. Boughton Park, near Northampton, contains Northamptonshire's largest collection of eighteenth-century follies and other landscape structures – yet its history was never properly documented until the publication of *The Follies of Boughton Park* in 1995, long since out of print. This new edition, much expanded from the original, shows how Boughton Park reflected the ideas of its age - influenced by such famous names as Horace Walpole, Alexander Pope and Sanderson Miller. Simon Scott's original detailed research into the Earls of Strafford, their principal estate at Wentworth Castle in Yorkshire and the development of the unique Boughton Park landscape confirmed the Northamptonshire idyll as being of such historic interest as to merit inclusion in the English Heritage *Register of Parks and Gardens*.

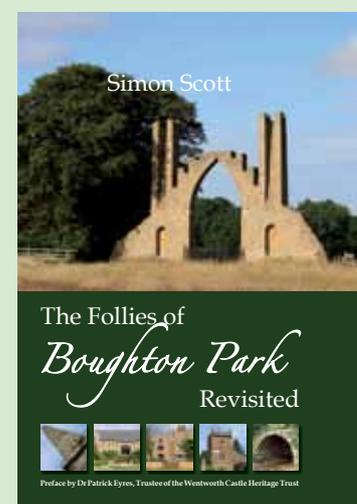
In his Preface to the new edition, Dr Patrick Eyres, Trustee of the Wentworth Castle Heritage Trust, writes: “*The Boughton follies are a seminal asset to the heritage of Georgian landscape architecture and gardening. The past decade has been marked by the restoration of the two key Georgian sites that shaped*

the ideas articulated in Boughton Park, namely: Wentworth Castle in South Yorkshire and Strawberry Hill in Twickenham. Clearly these restorations amplify the significance of the Boughton follies and highlight the need for their care and maintenance. However, unlike Wentworth Castle and Strawberry Hill, the difficulty faced by the Boughton follies is that they are all in separate ownerships. Two, at least, are vulnerable to collapse and it is vital that the whole collection remains intact and accessible. This updated second edition of Simon Scott's pioneering book is most timely.”

Of particular interest to YGT members will be the book's chapter on the Earls of Strafford, illustrated with engravings of both Thomas and William Wentworth as well as containing images of Stainborough Castle and a fascinating family tree for the Wentworths. Also, the chapter on the Hawking Tower at Boughton which is remarkably similar in design to Steeple Lodge at Wentworth Castle. There are many other references to Wentworth (both family and Castle) throughout the book – for to understand Boughton, one must first understand Wentworth Castle and the Strafford family responsible for both landscapes. Intriguingly, for example, at Wentworth Castle, William was restricted in his landscape works for fear of forfeiting his father's

inheritance, whereas at Boughton no such restrictions applied and so William was able to completely remodel both the house and its landscape to fully embrace his Gothic fascinations. The book even details how both Thomas and William are buried in the Wentworth Chapel at Toddington in Bedfordshire...so the next time members travel south on the M1 motorway, there are now two more Yorkshire connected landmarks to visit!

The Follies of Boughton Park Revisited (Hardback, 88 pages, ISBN 0952536668) is available on Amazon or direct from the author (£12 inc p&p): Simon Scott, Spectacle Lodge, Moulton, Northampton NN3 7SH



AGT/YGT Study Day at Bretton

It was a lively study day at Bretton, starting with a paper from researcher Karen Lynch. Her researches were so comprehensive that it was amazing she could get so much detail into the allotted time. It was all most interesting, detailing 60 eventful years at Bretton. It started with Sir Thomas Wentworth who, with money from lead and a huge inheritance, created the lakes and parkland in the 1780s. He seemed to get a great deal of fun out of the results, with the Greek Temple folly lit up at night, fireworks, guns firing and boating parties on the lake! Without legitimate issue, he declared Diana, one of three illegitimate daughters, his principle heir. When she married Col Thomas Beaumont MP, they doubled the size of the house and made extensive additions to the gardens between 1793 and 1814.

As a keen gardener Diana spent vast amounts of money. She is credited with the terraces and formal gardens to the North and West of the mansion. The domed, "onion-shaped" conservatory was said to be the largest in the world. Her son however dismantled and sold it, there was no love-lost there! The surviving Camellia house, from 1817, is very rare.

Dr Jan Woudstra, a lecturer in Landscape History at Sheffield, concentrated on the five years that Robert Marnock was head gardener from 1839. Diana was very much a 'Madam' and disliked by many but got on famously with Marnock by all accounts. She collected seeds and plant specimens from all over the world, the collections being remarked on in the press of the time.

Plants named after her include *Beaumontia grandiflora* and *Erica beaumontiana*. Marnock subsequently went on to create the Sheffield Botanic Garden and then to Botanic Gardens at Regents Park London.

The third of our lecturers was Dr Helen Pheby, curator at Y S P, who gave us an idea of just how much goes into the interaction between the Artist and the Landscape. Andy Goldsworthy and James Turrell have both left permanent features and give a good idea as to how the land and its features continue to inspire (Figure 1).



Figure 1 - Participants and some of the sculpture, photo Dick Knight

After a buffet lunch, the rain had stopped and we divided into three groups, different in tone. I was in conservation and the transformation in the last eighteen months has been amazing. We had Margaret Nieke from Natural England, Jane Winter from the Landscape Agency in York and Mark, a Landscape Manager from YSP: a perfect team to inform us.

The amount of clearance has been quite dramatic. As you walk down the hillside you now get views of the lake which is just lovely (Figure 2).



Figure 2 - Lake and new path, photo Dick Knight

Self-sown trees and scrub have been removed with 'significant' trees being left, identified by aerial photographs. The tale of the great crested newts was amazing. A large area near the mansion had to be fenced off with a newt fence and over a period of 18 months, thousands of newts were moved. 200 buckets put out and collected over 90 days in the right season. What an operation.

Now, from the South side of the lower lake, where the bridge has been renewed over the inlet, there is the most marvellous view of the house. Suddenly, you see how it has been placed in the landscape. We have never had the chance of that perspective before. The stepping stones there have been re-trenched and the Highland Cattle, evidently there for grazing, enjoy a stroll over in the evening light! From the Greek Temple, in the woodlands on the Northern side of the upper Lake, a swathe of trees and scrub has

been cleared to give back the view of the lake. The boathouse has been brilliantly repaired and while we were there, a Tawny Owl flew out, cross at being disturbed.

The shell grotto has been exposed and the lakeside walls have been rebuilt, in atrocious winter conditions, by volunteers. The 'Root' house, a strange feature of yew roots placed as columns, since the exposure, has already been made home to a sculpture! Only the last hour was in the rain but still the walk along the Lakeside was enjoyable. This is thanks to the generosity of the Natural England grant, the sterling efforts of YSP repairing bridges and clearing, plus the Landscape Agency: a resounding success to be proud of.

Also, the behind the scenes work which must have gone on with the morning's lectures, and indeed the whole day, need our many thanks.

Elizabeth Wright

Book Reviews

Political Gardening

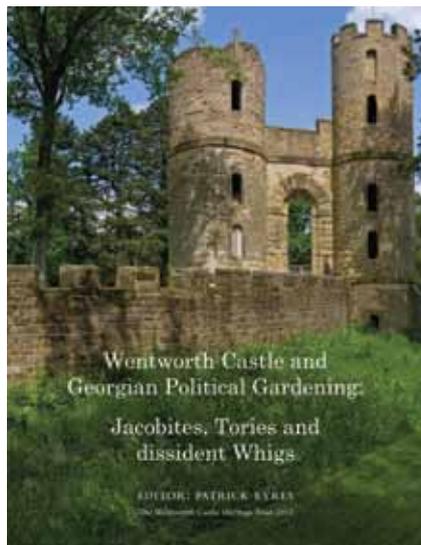
What has politics got to do with gardens? For those interested in *why* gardens and designed landscapes were created, it is becoming a more pertinent question. Patrick Eyres and *The Arcadian Journal* have led the way in exploring how politics influenced many of the important 18th century landscape gardens in Britain. One of these ‘political gardens’ was Wentworth Castle and so it was appropriate that a conference on Georgian political gardening should be held there in the newly restored landscape in 2010. The proceedings of this important milestone have now been published by The Wentworth Castle Heritage Trust, supported by a generous grant from the YGT: *Wentworth Castle and Georgian Political Gardening – Jacobites, Tories and dissident Whigs*.

It takes as its central theme the extent to which political gardening was a purely Whig phenomenon, a notion that goes back to one of the earliest writers on the subject, Horace Walpole. Walpole was the son of Sir Robert, the Whig Prime Minister for twenty-one years to 1742, so not an unbiased observer! In the latter part of the 18th century, he declared:

‘The reason why Taste in Gardening was never discovered before the beginning of the present Century, is, that It was the result of all the happy combinations of an Empire of Freeman, an Empire formed by Trade, not by a military & conquering Spirit, maintained by the valour of independent Property, enjoying long tranquillity after virtuous struggles, & employing its opulence & good Sense on the refinements of rational Pleasure’

In other words, if Horace Walpole is to be believed, the development of the supposed ideal landscape garden in Britain in the eighteenth century was due solely to (his brand of) Whig ideas. While this is a very neat shorthand to describe why this particular style of garden became so ubiquitous in Britain, it has two major flaws. The first is that the style somehow sprung up spontaneously without any

historical precedent, although he does acknowledge the role of medieval deer parks. The second is that the political ideology of the Whig party of the first half of the eighteenth century alone was the driver for the creation of the English landscape garden. As the papers from this conference shows, it is perhaps more accurate to say that the ruling elite, from all sides of the political spectrum, chose their estate as a means to demonstrate their political power and ideas.



As with any political parties, there were factions, short-lived alliances and people switching sides, so it sometimes hard to disentangle one group from another. The first three papers look at the main opposition, the Tory party, and their gardening approach. Tim Richardson and Michael Symes examine the Tory response to the grand Whig landscapes by either sticking to the past or developing the *ferme ornée*. Carole Fry challenges the notion that Neo-Palladianism was purely a badge of orthodox Whiggery, showing how the architectural style was also used by Tories and Jacobites (supporters of the Stuart dynasty).

The next section looks specifically at Wentworth Castle and the work of Thomas Wentworth (Lord Strafford). Michael Charlesworth examines his use of Anglo-Saxon imagery (particularly Stainborough Castle) as a way of highlighting his Jacobite views: a theme taken up by Terry Friedman in his paper on the work of the Jacobite

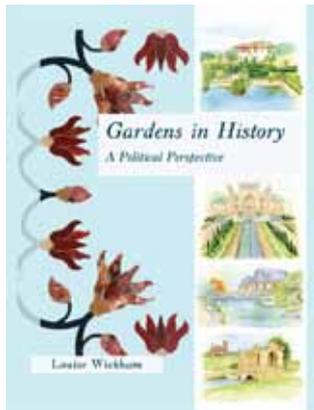
architect, James Gibbs, at Wentworth. Patrick Eyres shows how Wentworth became an important symbol of Tory (and Jacobite) opposition, just as Stowe was for dissident Whigs.

In the third section, George Sheeran shows how Jacobite sympathies continued to be expressed at Nunnington Hall in the landscape there and Suzannah Fleming discusses the ‘Patriot’ iconographic programmes of the fourth Earl of Shaftesbury, as seen in the Vauxhall Gardens and his estate at Wimborne St. Giles. Jane Furse returns to Wentworth to demonstrate how William Wentworth (Thomas’ son) subtly altered his father’s landscape as his political allegiances shifted.

The final part concentrates on Wentworth’s legacy. Janine Barchas takes an unusual view by showing how many names of Jane Austen’s characters had a link to both Wentworths and their occupants. David Lambert brings us almost up to date with a discussion of houses like Wentworth and their role in the post-war welfare state, set up by the socialist Labour government. They (and the local authority) saved many of our important houses and estates in south Yorkshire.

I attended this fascinating conference while I was writing my book: *Gardens in History – A Political Perspective*. I have long had an interest in politics: doing a BA in the subject thirty years ago. The work done by Patrick and others on Georgian political gardening had already got me wondering whether this was a uniquely British phenomenon. The more I delved, the more I found that politics had not only influenced the way gardens were designed but they were also used as political tools to assert or confirm a ruler’s authority. While I have not covered every possible use of gardens politically, my ten essays look at specific areas that have a common political theme.

Five of these have a distinctly British flavour. As well as revisiting the debate above on the use of the landscape garden as a political tool for Whig England, I also look at the ‘picturesque



debate' between Knight, Price and Repton in the late 18th century in its political context. The ideas of Knight for a rustic (or wild) picturesque, at a time of revolution across the channel, were not well received and led to a move back to more formal landscapes by Repton. Politics also played a large part in the creation of public parks in Britain in the 19th century. Their advocates saw them as a means of placating the masses at a time when

revolutions were taking place in other European countries. The chapter on botanic gardens highlights their central role in the British Empire with Kew at the centre. The main themes of twentieth century gardens are viewed through the interaction between socialist politics and conservation.

The rest of the book is devoted to selected gardens from around the world, starting with those in the ancient world. I contrast the large complex gardens and designed landscapes of the absolute rulers in Egypt and Mesopotamia with those of the more 'democratic' Greek city states. The idea of a taking a garden style when conquering new lands is explored in the section on the Romans and the Islamic world. Reflecting the key influences of the English landscape garden, I look at the political ideology of the Renaissance Italian gardens and how absolutism and diplomacy was displayed in the French formal garden. Lastly I consider

the extent to which religion, politics and culture have shaped the garden in Japan.

Louise Wickham

Eyres, P. (ed), *Wentworth Castle and Georgian Political Gardening*, The Wentworth Castle Heritage Trust, 2012, ISBN 978-1-906600-72-3. Available to YGT members at a special price of £20 (P&P). Order from the Wentworth Castle Heritage Trust. Post: Lowe Lane, Stainborough, Barnsley, S75 3ET (cheque payable to Wentworth Castle Trading Ltd). Phone: 01226 776040, to pay by credit card.

Wickham, L., *Gardens in History: A Political Perspective*. Windgather Press, 2012, ISBN 978-1-905119-43-1. See www.wickhamconsulting.co.uk/publications

Risby - October 3rd 2012

On a glorious autumnal morning some 25 members braved rural East Yorkshire and found their way to Risby near Walkington. A feast, in several respects, was fully in store. The park and archaeological remains there are a delight and provide an all too rare insight into features and chronologies which visibly lead us right back to the Middle Ages. The parkland is Registered Grade II whilst important earthworks are scheduled and a beautiful brick folly listed Grade II.



Figure 1- Early 18th C drawing of Risby Hall and garden, Wakefield Art Gallery and Museum

Today the site is owned by Albanwise, a large Norfolk-based agri-business. Part of the site is managed by them directly but the majority is tenanted by the

Clappison family who have been there since the 1930's, originally as tenants of Wilson's (the famous Hull based shipping family). On our tour we were pleased to be joined by John Clappison and Anthony Blanchfield of Albanwise, archaeologists Ed Dennison and Shaun Richardson, who have overseen recent archaeological work and Jane Winter of the Landscape Agency, responsible for a recent parkland plan.

John is primarily an arable farmer and one of the leading national producers of Brussels sprouts. Recently he has produced around 4% of the national crop on some 200 acres and is a leading supplier, mainly to Morrisons but also most of the other national supermarkets. Following our regional producers theme we began the day with a truly fascinating introduction to sprout production including a tour of the farmyard to see state of the art harvesting and packing machinery. Annual work starts with the planting of 12 varieties - in total some 2.8 million plants - taking 5 men 3½ weeks. The growing season can be marred by bad weather and any one of 46 diseases (of which he claims to have all!). Harvest



Figure 2 - The octagonal brick folly prior to current repairs, photo Margaret Nieke

starts in October with the obvious December rush which keeps them manic until Christmas Eve. Picking is done by a state of the art Tumoba harvester which covers an acre a day. Yields vary - this year an acre is producing 4½ - 5 tonnes. Last year the same ground produced 8-10 tonnes.

Entering the controlled environment of the packing shed high tech equipment takes 6 digital photographs of each individual sprout allowing fully computerised quality control. The whole process is so efficient that the sprouts arrive on supermarket shelves only hours after being picked. John's passion for getting the very best product to the customer is infectious and I, for one, will always see the humble sprout in another light! Whilst arable production is king across the holding

both John and Albanwise have entered into a wide range of conservation measures including extensive hedgerow restorations. From our perspective, it is important for us to understand the major economic drivers for the business which helps support the surrounding parkland.

Following an excellent lunch in the Folly cafe we turned our attention to the parkland and archaeological remains. Understanding and management of these have been significantly enhanced over the last couple of work thanks to archaeological survey and parkland planning undertaken via a Higher Level Agri-Environment (HLS) scheme. The scale and extent of the site and remains make it impossible to cover all elements in a single visit. The following account focuses on our visit but also sets the scene for understanding of the wider site.

Stray finds and enigmatic cropmarks take the history of human activity at Risby back to prehistory. The earliest surviving earthworks are the fragmentary remains of a medieval village known to have had 55 taxpayers in 1377. Ed and Shaun have studied and surveyed these subtle remains and pointed out the remaining building platforms in fields next to the present farm. By 1655 the village had reduced to a mere handful of inhabitants – probably due to enclosure of lands by the Ellerker Family who were local lords from the early 1400's to the 17th century. The Ellerkers were a prominent East Riding family and, by the time of Henry VII's accession in 1485, one of the country's leading families. They must have had a grand medieval house at Risby and Ed and Shaun gave us a tour of major earthworks which may be all that survive of this complex.

These take advantage of one of the two east-west glacial spillways which run through the site and give it structure. It seems possible that the medieval Ellerker House was complemented by gardens which included ponds in the spillway and terraced walkways above.

The Ellerkers remained in favour despite involvement in the Pilgrimage of Grace and in September 1541 Henry VIII stayed 'at the manor house' at Risby en route between Hull and York.

Having investigated the archaeological remains Ed and Shaun now believe that the scheduled medieval moated site which lies on the northern boundary of the holding may actually be the remains of a hunting lodge created especially for Henry's visit. Time prevented us visiting this but Ed explained the site in some detail. It is known that the Ellerkers had a deer park at Risby and it seems likely that they were having to work especially hard to remain in royal favour. The local topography suggests that a building – most probably a fashionable hunting lodge - was built on the hill slope overlooking another glacial spillway. The earthworks visible show deep hollows and associated banks – interpreted as the result of extensive stone robbing of substantial foundations – thereby providing the site its present local name of 'Cellar Heads'.



Figure 4 - Visitors enjoying the lake,
photo Margaret Nieke

On the slopes immediately below the site of the main building are terraces which could have been used for pavilions and garden features. These, along with the main building, overlook the spillway valley which is known to have lain within the deer park and provides an obvious and excellent deer chase and killing ground. A spectacle well fit for the visiting king and certainly parallels for elaborate buildings erected for a single royal

visit are known elsewhere. Feasting happened and a list of items includes large quantities of bread and meat (boar, venison, swans, curlews and other fowls) and the ingredients to make spiced wine, jelly, pastries and wafers, puddings with barberries, cream and 400 eggs.

The Ellerkers stayed at Risby until the 1670's when the site passed by marriage to the Bradshaws – a prominent Cheshire family – who moved to Risby and built a grand new Hall. This is shown in two early sketches both showing a very fashionable two story building overlooking a walled terraced garden with ponds and fountains (Figure 1).

By the late the 1760s plans were made to destroy these formal gardens and create a more picturesque landscape. Arthur Young visited in 1769 and wrote that:

'the valley...is to be floated with water and will then have the appearance of a very noble irregular lake winding both to the right and left into the wood...old garden walls (will be) thrown down and all the obstructions removed so that the lake may be seen from the house...Embossed in their centre is to rise a little Grecian temple, just showing its dome among the trees.'

The fishing ponds which survive today are the modified remnants of these noble lakes.

Risby Hall suffered two disastrous fires in the 1770's and 80's and was subsequently demolished. Today the substantial earthworks of both the house and gardens are all that survive. These remains, however, are of considerable importance (hence their designation as a scheduled monument). Following the fire, the site was abandoned leaving us an all too rare insight into the form and layout of this fashionable great Hall and garden. Only the stable block survived and was converted into a farmhouse before being demolished in the 1980's. The present Park Farm was built around 1888 by the Wilson Family who had bought the Estate in 1883.

The near complete archaeological survey is providing a detailed record of

these remains, confirming the grandeur of the site, the importance of the gardens there and the evolutions these went through from the later medieval period. Detailed consideration has confirmed that the system of water engineering associated with the early Bradshaw House was complex and much more extensive than previously appreciated. A complex network of brick-lined drains run through fields to the north of the house collecting water to feed into a series of canals and smaller ornamental ponds now reappearing adjacent to the site of the Hall as woodland is cleared. Some of these ponds appear flanked by formal walkways and linear plantings of yew. Publication of a detailed report will follow and allow a much wider audience to appreciate the site.

As noted above the main ponds today support a thriving fishing business. In their present form the lakes are re-workings of the originals as a result of works undertaken by the Clappison family between the late 1970's and 2002. Whilst extensively cleaned out currently the layout is not dissimilar to the original. Towards the eastern end of the main lake are the ruins of an octagonal Gothic brick folly which is late 18th century in date (Figure 2). It was probably built instead of the Grecian Temple described by Young and provided an elegant banqueting house overlooking the lake. Its shape is reminiscent of a medieval chapter house and early sketches suggest that it may originally have had a spire but this

is long gone. The surviving structure was on the point of collapse but is now under repair thanks to HLS funding and will be preserved as a picturesque ruin.

Other work funded by the HLS has included extensive clearance around the lakes to thin overstocked and overgrown conifer woodlands, replacing them with a range of natural species more akin to the original plantings. The hard woodland edges adjacent to the lakes have also been cut back and softened. All of this work will help improve the water quality and also the ecological interest of the site. The woods are already full of wildlife and a very ancient population of great crested newts live in the historic ponds. All of this work has been driven by a parkland management plan prepared by the Landscape Agency. The follow-up woodland works have also been organised and managed by them in partnership with Albanwise and the Clappison family.

To help visitors appreciate the site three new information boards (Figure



Figure 3 - Viewing the new Folly Information board next to the Café,
photo Margaret Nieke

3) have been provided, one for the house and garden earthworks, one for the 'Cellar Heads' hunting lodge and one for the lake and Folly. In tandem with all of this, John has given the Folly Cafe a major overhaul to turn it into a delightful lake-side venue for the fisher folk and other visitors (Figure 4). Following an excellent lunch, later followed by tea and cake there our group can certainly vouch for the value and success of this enterprise. Already a steady stream of new visitors is being drawn into the site. Ed has led two very well attended Heritage Open Day visits and further events are planned.

It has been a delight to see major transformations at Risby in the last couple of years. There is much more research and investigation which could be done and hopefully the work which has been done will help secure future site management and provide a springboard for further considerations. The importance of the site for early garden history has been further emphasised and it is a joy to realise that we have such a major site on our regional doorstep. The efforts being made by the owners to protect the site and promote it for wider public enjoyment are inspiring. The way in which the protection and management site has been incorporated into farm diversification serves as a model of what can be done with energy and careful thought.

Dr Margaret Nieke

Lancelot 'Capability' Brown Tercentenary 1716-2016 - A Yorkshire Contribution to the Celebrations

Preparations for the Brown Tercentenary were begun in June of 2012. The YGT was represented by Peter Goodchild (also representing Garland, Garden and Landscape Heritage Trust) at a meeting at Ampthill, Bedfordshire along with 150 other 'interested parties' from across the UK and Europe. Among the participants were Caroline Legard (Scampston) and Richard and Hetta Scarbrough (Sandbeck), both Yorkshire members of the Historic Houses Association. Discussions between these participants led to a proposal to explore the idea of a joint Yorkshire contribution. A further meeting has been held, involving Harewood House Trust representatives where key strategies were set out. The Yorkshire Garden Trust is supportive of the idea thus far and Peter is taking the planning forward at the next meeting scheduled for some time early in 2013 at Harewood (date yet to be confirmed). Anyone who is interested in attending this and subsequent meetings should contact Peter Goodchild at 4, The King's Manor, York YO1 7EP. Tel: 01904 654 678. E-mail: peter.goodchild@yahoo.co.uk

Lecture in Memory of Helen Lazenby by Dr Patrick Eyres - 10 October 'The Pleasure and Pain of Research: J.M.W. Turner's exploration of Yorkshire'

It is no exaggeration to say that without Helen Lazenby the Yorkshire Gardens Trust would not be the thriving organisation it is today. Many have been involved with the success of the Trust, but there is no doubt that Helen will be remembered with enormous affection as one of the main contributors. Her ever present thirst for knowledge, formidable organisational skills, energy, enthusiasm and commitment made her perfect to help establish the fledgling YGT and those skills and charm remained at the Trust's disposal until the last weeks of her sadly too brief years amongst us.

Helen greatly admired Dr Patrick Eyres as an academic and enjoyed his company as a friend. The YGT is delighted that Patrick was able to give this lecture as a tribute to her from all those who had the privilege to know her and work with her. Indeed this was regarded as such a special occasion that over 130 members of the YGT and neighbouring county garden trusts travelled from all over Yorkshire and the North of England to The Rose Bowl. This stunning building is an award-winning conference centre whose faceted glass front resembles a crystal bowl. What more appropriate venue could there be to share memories of Helen who so loved to admire, arrange and paint flowers? The YGT was delighted that Helen's children – Nonie, Ollie and Charlie – were able to attend along with her sister Elspeth and brother David and many other family members and close friends.

Our memorial evening began with a eulogy to Helen from Liz Simson, YGT Chair. The lecture was well received and the way that Patrick interspersed photographs of Helen 'on location' was especially appreciated. Each of the pictures reminded us that she had always been engaged, curious, discursive and contemplative. Patrick offered his thanks to those who had spent so much time searching them out – particularly YGT members Pauline Murray and Alison Brayshaw as well as Adele Jeneson (Lancashire Gardens



Helen Lazenby,
photo, Adele Jeneson

Trust) and Steffie Shields (Lincolnshire Gardens Trust). Helen's family members were particularly moved to see the photographs (and most pleased when Patrick emailed them afterwards as an extra memento of the occasion). After the concluding tribute from Malcolm Hand, which acknowledged the crucial collaboration between Helen and Val Hepworth, there was a convivial glass of wine (or two) to be enjoyed. Karen Lynch is to be thanked for organising the occasion with such panache.

The title of Patrick's lecture alluded to the mantra he used to drum into his undergraduate and postgraduate dissertation students to sum up the research process: the pleasure of finding out, the pain of writing up. Each one is dependent on the other. As we all appreciate, research was central to Helen's involvement with the YGT and so the lecture commemorated Helen's achievements by discussing the way that another dedicated researcher explored Yorkshire landscapes. The choice of Turner as the subject was not difficult because he was among Helen's favourite artists and she was familiar with so many of the places he painted.

From Turner's point of view, all his summer journeys were exacting research expeditions undertaken to collect information in sketchbooks

for the paintings he would later create during the winter months in the calm of his London studio. He would travel by stagecoach as well as on horseback and on foot. The summer of 1816 seems to have been as rain drenched as the one we've just experienced and, such was Turner's dedication to his challenging schedule of sites to visit, that he persisted with the storm-lashed trans-Pennine crossing from Upper Teesdale to the Vale of Eden. The terrain between Cauldron Snout and High Cup Nick had become such a quagmire of peat bog that both horse and rider almost died of exhaustion and exposure. The route of this journey is now followed by a section of the Pennine Way long-distance footpath and anyone who has walked the fells in modestly wet conditions will appreciate how arduous such a journey would have been. However Turner was able to capitalise on all his experiences and the spectacle of landscape animated by weather proved to be a consistent theme throughout his career.

Turner's journeys through Yorkshire were driven by the demand for the 'ancient' and 'modern' imagery of Britain that became especially fashionable during the lengthy national crisis of the 'Great War' with France (1794-1815). The 'ancient' encompassed mediaeval churches, abbeys and castles – particularly the ruinous – while the 'modern' included country houses and their designed landscapes such as Harewood, as well as scenes of industry as in the Aire Valley at Kirkstall. Turner was also in demand as an illustrator of county histories such as *The History of Richmondshire* (1821) and – also in the post-war years – of serial topographical publications like *The Rivers of England* (1822-26) and *Picturesque Views in England and Wales* (1827-38).

The majority of Turner's Yorkshire paintings were watercolours designed for book illustration and they were subsequently translated into printed imagery by the consummate skill of the engravers specially employed by

each publisher. In his book, *Modern Painters*, published in 1856 not long after Turner's death, John Ruskin eulogised, as a culminating point in the artist's career, the Yorkshire landscapes painted to illustrate Dr. Thomas Whittaker's *History of Richmondshire*. Some of these were shown in the lecture among the many others that

reveal how Turner explored the finest of the county's designed landscapes, industrial vistas and sublime terrain. Patrick began with the paintings of Chapel-le-Dale and Weathercote Cave because they dramatically feature the summit of Ingleborough, the highest of the Three Peaks of the Yorkshire Pennines. It was at Ingleborough Hall

in Clapham that in August 2009 Helen organised the splendid Study Day on Reginald Farrar which proved to be the final flourish of her research contribution to the YGT's endeavours.

Karen Lynch and Patrick Eyres

Schools



Young gardeners putting up the new insect hotel in amongst a flowering current bush, *photo courtesy of Stakesby Community Primary School, Whitby*

Arriving back at school in September, one of our members discovered that the wet summer had had a definite plus-side. The willow tunnel that Stakesby Community Primary School in Whitby had planted in March was verdant and beautiful. They could also be proud of their patriotic Union Jack flower bed they had created to help celebrate an important British royal and sporting summer, as well as supporting their local insect population with their wildflower and cottage garden beds. Stakesby School received an insect

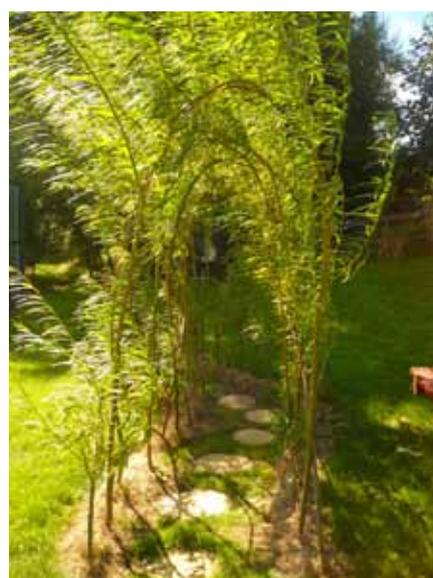


Union Jack flowerbed, *photo courtesy of Stakesby Community Primary School, Whitby*

hotel from the YGT which the children were keen to put up to provide a winter-refuge for those all-important summer pollinators.

All member schools received packs of red onion sets from the Trust this term. Children, teachers and helpers have been planting these in their school growing areas during the Autumn. Onions can be grown outside wherever the school has space, be it a planter, a raised bed, or a full-sized allotment. The sweet, colourful, onions can be harvested early in the year for fresh, child-size, Spring onions or left till June for a full-sized crop. Hopefully the children will enjoy planting, tending, harvesting, eating and maybe even cooking together as they learn.

About half of our school members have opted to receive an apple tree to plant in their grounds from the Yorkshire Gardens Trust next February. Ellison's Orange has been chosen as a reliable, self-pollinating, dessert variety with Yorkshire heritage. The trees will



The willow tunnel planted in March and looking wonderful in September, *photo courtesy of Stakesby Community Primary School, Whitby*



Bee on verbena in the cottage garden bed, *photo courtesy of Stakesby Community Primary School, Whitby*

arrive as two-year bushes on MM106 rootstocks; giving each school the flexibility to prune to the size best suited to their space. Planting and aftercare instructions will be included, as well as a summary of the history of the variety to enhance learning opportunities still further.

Good luck to all our school gardening members over the Winter term. Time to plant trees and make plans for the next growing season!

Nicola Harrison



Corn cockle, corn marigold and corn chamomile in the wildflower bed, *photo courtesy of Stakesby Community Primary School, Whitby*

Conservation and Planning: A Friar's Herbal for the 21st Century

It's a familiar saying: 'What goes round, comes round'. And so it is with horticulture and gardens. I can also add that in the past sixteen years the Yorkshire Gardens Trust has built up very useful links across the County and beyond. What goes round does come round, but perhaps many centuries later.

In September 2010 the Trust had a fascinating visit to **Gisborough Priory Gardens** where a group of local volunteers are restoring and repairing the gardens that remain there and which were once part of an Augustinian Priory founded in the twelfth century (YGT Newsletter 28, pp16-17). Apart from enjoying seeing the work achieved, the visit has been the beginning of a valuable relationship with the Gisborough Priory Project. With the Small Grant Scheme we've been able to help fund the work there to preserve the eighteen apple trees and two pear trees that were in danger of being lost through neglect and old age (see the Small Grant Scheme Report). On the visit I also got to know Pat Robertson who is very interested in medieval herbs and herbals. She has made a bed of medieval medicinal herbs at the Gisborough Priory garden and has hopes of developing it into a small infirmary garden. Her inspiration is Friar Daniel's Herbal and the work of the late John Harvey.

John Harvey was an architect and a remarkable historian whose work encompassed both buildings and gardens. He chose to work with primary sources whenever possible including estate papers, account books, plant lists and nursery catalogues. In 1981 Harvey published his book, *Medieval Gardens*, with an appendix of manuscript sources from AD 800-1540 and the plants listed in them. One of the sources is the manuscripts of Henry Daniel. Harvey writes on p118-119 that Daniel was a Dominican friar and physician living in 1379 but then probably aged. He was the most advanced herbalist of his time and for some years had a garden in Stepney where he grew 252 sorts of

herbs and which contained at least one flowering plant brought from Queen Philippa's herber. When you think that other sources suggest that the total of plants in cultivation in c.1400 did not greatly exceed 100, this is remarkable. Friar Daniel's main botanical work, known as '*Aaron Danielis*' (Brit Library Add, MS 27329) is arranged in two parts: *De re Herbaria* and *De Arboribus*, each in alphabetical order of well known Latin names, but the entries in English. This manuscript is fifteenth century but Harvey says that it seems to be a rearrangement of the contents of an earlier and far more personal manuscript probably dated from c.1385; MS Arundel 42.

John Harvey died in 1997 and in his will left his papers to the Society of Antiquaries of London however his extensive archive on garden history found its way to the University of Sheffield Landscape Department. After two years of enquiry Pat has finally managed to have a look in some of the archive boxes helped by Sally O'Halloran, an associate tutor and PhD student. Unfortunately although there is a vast amount of material she couldn't find Harvey's translation of *De re Herbaria*. So maybe Pat will have to teach herself fourteenth century script and read the original. This quest raises the importance of going back to original sources and the great value of the papers of a garden history pathfinder like John Harvey. Sally hopes that 2013 will enable John Harvey's papers to be gone through and catalogued in a more detailed manner. If there is anyone with some garden/botanical knowledge who would like to help, then do let YGT know and we can put them in touch with Sally. Meanwhile Pat is inspired to continue with her search and to further the idea of a small infirmary garden.

Many gardeners are now interested in understanding medieval gardens and the medicinal, culinary and ornamental plants of the time. We have realised that there is always something that we can learn from the way that our ancestors,

centuries ago, cultivated the soil, healed the sick and fed the body and spirit. What goes round comes round. So to another part of Yorkshire much further south: Pontefract. Two weeks ago I had the great pleasure of meeting the Friends of **Friarwood Valley Gardens**, a group only formed in May this year, who are passionate about their small public park laid out in 1950 in a valley in the centre of Pontefract (Figure 1). The gardens (English Heritage Register Grade II) are on the site of earlier gardens, orchards and St Richard's Friary founded in 1256. As with the local parks in so many towns and cities, many people in Pontefract have fond memories of the Valley Gardens but now they are in need of help. The Friends have already started putting together plans for improving the Gardens based on what people have suggested including repairing and painting the benches, replenishing the planting and flower beds and making a children's tree discovery trail.



Figure 1 - Friarwood Valley Gardens, Pontefract, photo Val Hepworth

Their more ambitious projects include re-instating the outdoor stage and making a tea room and a historic Friary garden. The latter would be a fairly complex project but a marvellous way of telling some of the medieval story of Pontefract. Friar Daniel and John Harvey's work should come in useful here and Pat has already said that she could advise: another useful link that YGT can put in place. Apart from the historic manuscripts and John Harvey's 1981 Batsford book, there are now other sources of information for early gardens and their planting. Also in 1981, Collins published Teresa McLane's *Medieval English Gardens* and Pat has had correspondence with Dr Sylvia Landsberg whose excellent book

The Medieval Garden, was published by the British Museum Press in 1995. Kay N Sanecki published her *History of the English Herb Garden* in 1992 (Ward Lock). Two of John Harvey's other books are useful: *Shire Garden History*, *Restoring Period Gardens*, 1988 and his *Early Nurserymen*, Phillimore, 1974. His paper in *Garden History* (Vol 20, no 2) *Westminster Abbey: The Infirmary's Garden*, 1992 gives a detailed explanation and plant list. I'm sure that all these will be useful to the Friends of Friarwood Valley Gardens when they are thinking about a Friary garden.

Not unexpectedly wind turbines and their impact on our historic designed landscapes have not gone away, more's the pity. On 19th November YGT was notified that Craven District Council is being taken to appeal over its decision to refuse the application for three wind turbines at Brightenber Hill, Gargrave which would impact on the north front of **Gledstone Hall**. We wrote to object to this and the 2009 application, so we'll have to wait and see. However I have been somewhat heartened by Mike Harlow, Legal Director of English Heritage writing in the current 'Conservation Bulletin' (Issue 69: Winter 2012). Since the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was published, he has been anxiously looking at planning inspector decisions to see whether the weight given to heritage concerns remains broadly as it was and whether there is clarity in the expression of the conservation objective, now that it is woven into the definition of sustainable development. He cites two cases.

The first in the City of London, Bunhill Row, where the Borough of Islington refused a proposal to build 121 residential units up to seven storeys high next to a Grade I Registered graveyard with many listed tombs. The applicant appealed. The impact on the setting of the designated heritage assets

was the key to the case. The inspector used the NPPF policies, assessing: the significance of the heritage assets; the contribution of the setting to that significance; the public benefits from the proposal; and the necessity of the harm in order to deliver those benefits. Finally she weighed up the harm against the public benefits that necessitated it. She wrote that 'One of the core planning principles in the Framework is to conserve heritage assets ... so they can be enjoyed for their contribution to the quality of life



Figure 2 - Leyburn Workhouse, 1877, now Brentwood Lodge with proposed site of ultramodern house behind and to right, photo Mark Whyman

of this and future generations'. 'The assets in this case are of exceptionally high historic and architectural interest, influencing the character and distinctiveness of the area and as such are of very high value to the public.' 'As there would be a legacy of harm, I conclude that the appeal scheme would not constitute sustainable development.' She refused the application. For those of us who are trying to achieve sensitive planning outcomes for our parks, gardens, cemeteries and designed landscapes this ruling is very helpful, particularly when thinking about the importance of setting and the balance between harm and sustainability.

The second case is much nearer to home: an ultra modern house with every sustainable feature in a vacant plot in a conservation area in Leyburn, North Yorkshire (Figure 2). The significance of the area derives from a

largely intact purpose-built workhouse complex. The inspector notes that 'the Framework's [NPPF's] positive support for sustainable development is tempered by the need to conserve heritage assets. Design which would harm a heritage asset cannot be seen as truly sustainable.' The application/appeal was refused. This again is a very helpful decision for the conservation of our historic environment.

English Heritage's new Guide to Heritage Protection in England can be read at <http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/professional/advice/hpg>.

It is as important as ever to register the Trust's comments on planning applications affecting our historic parks and gardens and help from members is always welcome. For those of us who have not had any planning training this can be daunting but as someone who has learnt by having a go, sought advice and model responses from the Garden History Society conservation officer and local authority landscape architects, I can say that it's not as difficult as might be imagined. So this November

the Association of Gardens Trusts (AGT) and the Garden History Society (GHS) held a Training Workshop for YGT and other Northern County Gardens Trusts at English Heritage in York (Figure 3). The day was led by Verena McCaig, Historic Landscape Project Officer for the AGT and Jonathan Lovie, Principal Conservation Officer and Policy Advisor for the GHS. They explained how planning



Figure 3 - AGT/GHS Training Day in York, photo Val Hepworth

works, planning policy and the NPPF, what designations such as listing, conservation areas etc mean and how to tackle planning applications. We all took away a CD of planning resources to digest at home and the good booklets on planning from the Campaign to Protect Rural England, although sadly the latter do not feature parks and gardens in the text (always playing third fiddle to buildings and monuments!). It was a very useful day: an introduction for those who are beginners and a helpful refresher for those who've been tackling planning for the YGT for some time. If anyone is interested in further days or for example how to understand the historic park and garden, historic maps or a study visit to one of the parks that is being researched at the moment then please let either Jenni or me know.

The Conservation Sub-committee continues to be active with sites that it has been supporting or concerned about in the past including **Cliffe Castle**, Keighley where we have used Anne's research to put it forward for the English Heritage Register. We are concerned that the Conservation Statement prepared for the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) bid that we've seen, does not seem to include any interpretation and assessment of the historical information that is fundamental to the working through of conservation proposals. Interpretation and assessment are the usual good practice steps necessary to determine the most appropriate way forward for a historic site. In our view the best solutions have not been found for the proposals at Cliffe Castle. We have written to the HLF.

We have also been contacted about the designed landscape at **Kirklees Hall**. It is currently under extreme threat as approximately 42 hectares of this estate have been provisionally allocated as land suitable for employment use by Kirklees Council in their draft Local Development Framework. The Hall (Grade I, with II* & II farm buildings) and much of the designed landscape however is in Calderdale. Both Francis Richardson and Richard Woods, a

"sophisticated designer" of the late 18th century worked there, it is the site of the reputed grave of Robin Hood and a short distance to the north west of Robin Hood's Grave (Grade II Listed) is a Scheduled Ancient Monument, which is the site of the original Roman encampment within Kirklees Park. We have urgently nominated the Kirklees Estate for addition to the English Heritage Register.

Whinburn, Keighley is another of the sites where we have been trying to encourage better conservation and we have notified English Heritage that the condition of the lodge is now dire and that we have major concerns about the state of the garden. We have recently raised our concerns again, this time with the new Heritage At Risk team in York.

Other planning and conservation matters that we've been involved with over the past five months include at **Parcevall Hall** where Anne Tupholme and David Rhodes were recently invited to a meeting with Phil Nelson and Alwin Knowles (Parcevall Gardens) to give their views and advice on the proposed Walled Garden Project. This is still at an early stage but it is hoped to conserve and restore the Walled Garden to something more like that which Sir William Milner would have known. Anne and David suggested that the car parking should be located near the entrance with the remainder laid out to echo the style of the original. The aim is to apply to the HLF next year. We have also commented on a planning application for changes to St. Aidens Cottage, Parcevall Hall.

At **Castle Howard** we were consulted on the siting of a portable and temporary office building where we suggested a more sympathetic colour and also by North Yorkshire County Council on the diversion of nine public rights of way, where we made comments on the Temple of Venus Diversion Consultation Map. With Peter Goodchild's expertise we explained the basic concept that underlies the layout of the internationally important Castle Howard landscape and suggested

interpretation for walkers. On another of Yorkshire's internationally important designed landscapes, **Fountains Abbey and Studley Royal**, David has been discussing its interpretation with the National Trust and he and Peter have been having discussions with archaeologist Mark Newman regarding Mark's extensive research work and how we can help make it more readily accessible.

Bretton Hall, the home of the Yorkshire Sculpture Park, is another designed landscape that is undergoing significant changes and potential challenges. In the summer Karen Lynch and Susan Kellerman discovered a proposal for open cast mining within the western boundary of the Registered site. As at the Kirklees estate, Bretton falls within two local authorities. The open cast site is in Kirklees Council area but the Yorkshire Sculpture Park and Bretton Hall come within the Wakefield Council area. Wakefield Council and English Heritage have objected strongly to the proposal and as I write there is further planning consultation. We also commented on the plans for the conversion of Bretton Hall itself to a hotel. This is a complex application and much of it is good. However we objected to the plans for the Camellia House, a Jeffrey Wyatt designed conservatory of c.1815, which has always been part of the Yorkshire Sculpture Park grounds. The planning application outlines plans to convert the Camellia House for ancillary hotel use and there are also plans to install permanent services to the rear for temporary marquees, suggesting that public access will no longer be available (YGT Newsletter 28 p6-7).

Eshton Hall, Gargrave is within the Yorkshire Dales National Park. The historic setting of the present 1825-39 house (listed Grade II*) has been described in glowing terms: 'the pleasure grounds were laid out with "consummate taste and skill"' (H. Speight, 1895, *Tramps and Drives in the Craven Highlands*). Thanks to Anne's detailed research, YGT has been able to comment on a number

of planning applications during the conversion of the Hall to apartments and the building of a new house within the curtilage and we were able to comment on another planning application this August. It was very gratifying when one of the residents of a property at Eshton Hall, wrote to tell us that ‘yours has been the only carefully correctly analysed report that has been put forward ... Thank you once again for your work, your organisation is surely one of the unsung heroes of our heritage and sadly remains unknown to the majority of the public. Keep up the good work.’ The application was withdrawn.

YGT’s conservation and planning workload has increased since the GHS has had its funding cut. We are often asked by the GHS (statutory consultee) to field enquiries and requests for advice. One of these has been for Doncaster MBC. Currently Doncaster is working on its Sites & Policies Development Plan Document and intends including its parks and gardens of local historic interest: a very pleasing initiative. Malcolm Barnett, Jane Furse and I met Pete Lamb, Principal Planner and conservation officers in October and discussed some forty sites. Since then Susan Kellerman has sent Pete Lamb information on **Edlington** and both she and Jane have recommended Michael Klemperer’s book, *Style and Social Competition in the Large-scale Ornamental Landscapes of the Doncaster District of South Yorkshire, c. 1680-1840* (Oxford: Archaeopress, 2010)

I’m sure that most of you will have heard by now that the semi-derelict Richardson Conservatory at **Scampston** (Scampston Conservatory Preservation Company) near Malton has secured funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund and other sources. The Conservatory and associated outbuildings will be restored to include space for exhibitions and activities with the central element of the building still used for its original purpose of displaying plants. There will



Figure 4 - Scampston Conservatory, January 2011, photo Scampston Conservatory Preservation Company

be a fully equipped schoolroom and a room for community use throughout the year as well as a full programme of participation events. We congratulate all involved and encourage those who are interested to contact Project Leader, Caroline Legard on 07831 472412, if they would like to volunteer in any way doing conservatory and garden tours, or working behind the scenes assisting with research and exhibitions (Figure 4).

And to finish with some more good news: this week **Kiplin Hall** scooped two first prizes in the prestigious Hudson’s Heritage Awards. The first was for the category ‘Hidden Gem’ where the judges commended the dedication and work of the Curator, her staff and a team of around 100 volunteers. Particular note was taken of the creative approach adopted to

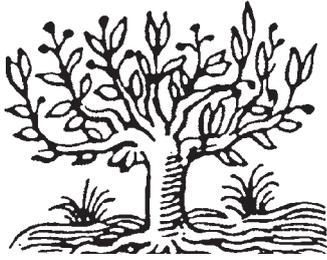
retain and increase interest in the important 17th century house as a visitor attraction. The second award was made for ‘Best New Discovery’. The first prize was awarded to Kiplin Hall for the teamwork of staff and volunteers in establishing ownership of a mid-nineteenth century Dent marine chronometer stolen from the Hall’s library on the night of 10/11 December 1976. The instrument had been offered back to the Hall at a price beyond both the valuation and affordability spectrum but the diligent work of volunteer, Nick Ellis, when cataloguing Kiplin’s archives, led to the realisation that the chronometer was still the property of the Hall. With the assistance of North Yorkshire Police, the nautical appliance was restored to its rightful home. The award highlighted the importance of the chronometer and of the time given freely by the Hall’s volunteers.

And writing of volunteers: in case you don’t know your YGT Conservation sub-committee volunteers, we have a photograph of some of them (Figure 5). Not present were Malcolm Barnett, Caroline Kernan and Heather Garnett.

Val Hepworth



Figure 5 - GT Conservation Sub-committee. Back left to right: Peter Goodchild, Jenni Howard, Anne Tupholme and David Rhodes. Front left to right: Jane Furse, Linda Smith and Penelope Dawson Brown, photo Shaun of Ferrey & Mennim on Val’s camera!



YORKSHIRE GARDENS TRUST

Registered Company Number:
03256311

Charity Number: 1060697

Small Grants Scheme

As the projects that we are supporting from 2010-11 Small Grants Scheme are completed, we give our funding and in August £200 was paid towards the attractive garden guide for **Shandy Hall** at Coxwold – the Laurence Sterne Trust.

So far we have only paid out one grant from last year (2011-12). This has been to the **Gisborough Priory Gardens** to help pay for 108 apple and 12 quince rootstocks and other grafting and protection materials, which the volunteers at Gisborough used to graft trees from the old apple and pear trees at the Priory. Do have a look at their website www.gisboroughprioryproject.co.uk for further information of what is being achieved at these gardens.

At **West Bank Park** York (the site of the Backhouse nursery), work has been progressing this summer and autumn for the rose garden. The Chairman of the Friends of West Bank Park, Margaret Weedon, reports that the old roses were dug out, some new soil brought in and the entire area seeded with grass. We have agreed to give the Friends £1,000 towards the renovation and replanting of this very pleasant part of the park (see photo).

YGT Council has allocated £6,000 for our new scheme (2012-13) which closed on November 30th. We made some changes to the form this year and thanks to Linda Smith's efforts it now

Events

- **Tuesday, 19th February 2013**
Snowdrops at Burton Agnes Hall, East Yorkshire
- **Sunday, 3rd March**
Guided tour of Beverley, East Yorkshire
- **Saturday, 16th March**
YGT AGM at RHS Harlow Carr, Harrogate
- **Tuesday, 23rd April**
Duncombe Park, Helmsley
- **Tuesday, 4th June**
Summer Picnic, Rudding Park, Harrogate

includes management plan advice. We have had eight applications which go to the Conservation sub-committee on December 6th. They come from across Yorkshire and some from unexpected quarters which is very pleasing. Our

website I'm sure helps as does my digital mailing and our grant scheme is included on a grant listing website.

Val Hepworth



Margaret Weedon, Friends of West Bank Park with Head Gardener and volunteers,
photo Penelope Dawson Brown

YGT Council Of Management 2012/13

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