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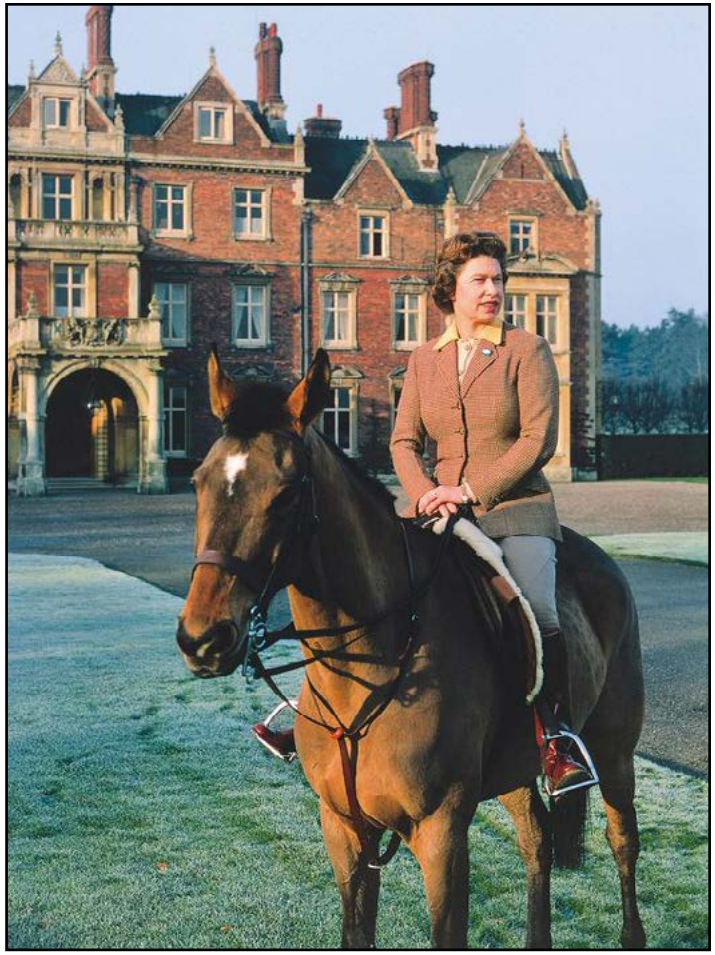
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Cover and back page: Cockley Cley Hall Credit: Karen Roseberry - *see page 5*

The Norfolk Gardens Trust mourns the death of Her Majesty the Queen



Queen Elizabeth II at Sandringham. © Sandringham Estate

Her Majesty the Queen was our longest-serving monarch and had particularly strong ties with Norfolk. The Queen regarded Sandringham as her escape; she visited the estate from early childhood, perpetuating the close links established by her father and grandfather. When young she spent time at York Cottage while in later life she bred her racehorses at the Royal Stud and her gun dogs at the kennels. The Queen enjoyed the extensive gardens at Sandringham, which are an excellent example of a late Victorian landscape park, significantly improved in Edwardian and later times. Sandringham offered her seclusion; this was one of her special places.

Report from the Chair - Autumn 2022

The undoubted highlight of our year has been the Platinum Jubilee competition in which 5000 Norfolk primary school children painted or drew a posy to celebrate Her Majesty's Jubilee. Following this the winner, Sila Hamed of North Denes Primary School, was presented to the Princess Royal at the Norfolk Show. This competition was devised and arranged by committee member Hilary Talbot and the bulk of the credit is due to her. The challenge now is to think up other ways of directing the attention of Norfolk people towards gardening activities to promote the objects of the Trust.

The drought this summer has been challenging for most gardeners. Many will recall the inspiration of the late Beth Chatto in planning a drought-tolerant garden at her home near Elmstead Market in Essex. Her gravel garden was once a carpark and was originally set up as an experiment. Despite being situated in one of the driest parts of the country, not being irrigated, and having poor, free-draining soil it has become famous for its spectacular display of drought-tolerant plants.

Over 40 of our members enjoyed a three-day trip, brilliantly organised as usual by Karen Moore, to see gardens in the Cotswolds and some en route. One of these was at Bledlow, Buckinghamshire, created by the late Lord Carington in the years following World War II. The present Lord Carington was there to greet us. A startling array of contemporary sculptures captured my attention. Another garden we visited on the way back was at the Old Rectory at Quinton. Over an intense period in 2014-2015 this three-acre garden was re-created into a truly special 21st century garden. The designer was Anoushka Feiler and it was her first 'large' commission.

Another outing for members was to Burghley House near Stamford. I was last there over 50 years ago and the subsequent changes to the gardens are truly inspirational. One such is the 'garden of surprises' designed by NGT Vice President George Carter, using traditional ideas of fountains, shell grottoes and a mirror maze, but in 21st century style.

Since writing this the country has mourned the death of Her Majesty the Queen. Now we welcome a new monarch, King Charles III, who has done much to promote the countryside and gardening.

Our events organiser, Karen Moore, would like to reduce her work load and so we are looking for someone to take on responsibility for the autumn and winter talks. Please get in touch with me if you would like to know more.



Matthew Martin

A Posy Fit For A Queen

by Hilary Talbot



Lady Dannatt presents prizes at County Hall ©Archant/EDP

To mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, the Norfolk Gardens Trust launched a Schools Art Competition to find A Posy Fit for a Queen. The response was astonishing – and thrilling.

Over 5,000 primary school pupils across Norfolk took part in the competition, more than 900 paintings were submitted and the winner, 10-year-old Sila Hamed, won £500 for North Denes Primary School in Great Yarmouth and met The Princess Royal.

In March the competition was launched with little fanfare, inviting children to paint or draw a bunch of flowers for the Queen in the year she celebrated 70 years on the throne. At the time, there were plenty of other projects for school-age children and there was a tense period when we wondered if we were going to get any entries at all. But something about the NGT's Posy Competition seemed to spark an interest and, after an anxious few weeks, we were swamped with entries.

We were hugely helped by the Lord Lieutenant of Norfolk, The Lady Dannatt. When asked if she would help judge the competition she said she could think of nothing nicer than being involved in this wonderful project. Her passion and enthusiasm captivated the children at the awards ceremony at County Hall – held just before the big Jubilee Weekend in May – and certainly helped us get plenty of press attention.

The sheer volume of entries challenged the panel of judges. Fortunately, we had asked schools to submit only the best four paintings from each class; even



Princess Anne congratulates Sila Hamed at the Royal Norfolk Show. Credit: James Bass

so, displaying over 900 drawings and paintings took a lot of space!

We were blown away by the quality and creativity of the artwork and it soon became clear that we should award a special prize for a whole school, which went to the Drake Primary School in Thetford. All 420 pupils created collages based on flowers growing in water meadows surrounding their school. They brought in geography, geology, history, orienteering as well as an awareness of the local flora and fauna; head teacher Louise Rosen enthused that there was a buzz of excitement across the whole school as the children had done nothing like this before.

The pupils used their £200 prize money to make an online map of a trail through the water meadows. This September, every single class will walk the trail, following the map, and enjoy and learn even more about the area that surrounds them.

When we hatched the idea for this competition in January, none of us could have imagined how much attention it would excite and Princess Anne's presentation to the winner, Sila Hamed, at the Royal Norfolk Show was the icing on the cake. Amidst a flurry of security guards and aides, The Princess Royal took plenty of time to chat and admire Sila's painting, joking that judging such a huge number of entries must have been a nightmare!

Since the 2012 London Olympics the concept of 'legacy' has become common currency and the NGT's Jubilee School Art Competition has certainly left behind a legacy across Norfolk.

Cockley Cley Hall Gardens

by Will Twentyman, Head Gardener

Cockley Cley Hall, which sits at the top of a south-facing slope to the east of the village of Cockley, was built in the 1870s and has been home to several generations of the Roberts family since 1926 (Fig. 1).

When the hall was constructed, formal gardens were laid out around the house, running down to the two-acre lake created by damming the River Gadder. At their peak in the early 20th century these gardens featured extensive bedding schemes, rose borders and topiary. A large walled garden, managed by nine gardeners, provided food for the house.

The house was requisitioned by the Army during the war, the gardens grassed over, and cattle grazed right up to the back of the house. Little was done after the war until 1985 when Sir Samuel and Lady Roberts inherited the estate and Lady Roberts began to create a garden for the hall again. The current garden has evolved around original features that survived the neglect of the post-war period. These include a broad gravel path that encircles the top lawn to the south of the house (Fig. 2), bordered by large box balls, while an axis runs from a gate in the garden's northern boundary through the house and out across parkland to the opposite side of the valley (Fig. 3). This axis splits the garden to the south of the house, with most beds and borders being to the east of this



1. The Hall, looking northeast from the meadow



2. Gravel path and box balls survive from the original formal garden

line, while to the west the grass grows long and the park creeps into the garden blurring the boundary between what is cultivated and what is natural.

To the north of the hall a border of shrubs and shade-loving perennials softens the house and two 'Albéric Barbier' roses climb up to the second floor. These provide a succession of pale cream flowers, set off by glossy near-evergreen foliage that frames the central block of the house. Looking north the ground rises away from the house and a flight of steps leads the eye down an avenue of fastigiate yew to the northern gate.

When this area of the garden – which had been afforested with Scots pine – was cleared, oak, beech and lime trees contemporary with the construction of the hall were revealed. New oak trees were planted in the late 1980s and over the last 30 years a collection of trees and shrubs has developed beneath and between these. Notable specimens include a large *Magnolia denudata* and a pair of large *Thuja plicata*, which stand sentinel to the east and west of the drive.

To the south of the house the garden slopes towards the lake. A raised terrace of gravel and York stone runs the width of the house (Fig. 4). This is bordered by a pair of sloping beds; each is 6m deep and 20m long, either side of the central stone steps that descend to the main lawn. These herbaceous borders are planted with perennials in a palette of pinks, whites and blues. Tulips, narcissi and aquilegia kick things off in spring and then a succession of perennials keep the colour going till the first frosts. Key contributors include

Norfolk Gardens



3. View from the terrace across the parkland

geranium 'Rozanne', *Lychnis coronaria*, *Lythrum salicaria*, phlox, monarda, white agapanthus, aster 'Monch' and various dahlias (Fig. 5).

Deep borders to the east of the central axis skirt the lawns, backed by a shelter belt of beech and pine trees to the north. These are planted with large blocks of perennials and shrubs that lead the eye to a large *Cedar atlantica* standing on the garden's eastern edge. A low laurel hedge backs the borders along the southern boundary. Planted in shades of pale yellow and blue, hydrangea 'Annabelle' is the star of the show here, flowering for months in the summer and providing excellent structure in the winter.

In the centre of the eastern part of the garden the croquet lawn is surrounded by a sloping bed dominated by a repeat planting of the grass *Stipa gigantea* (Fig. 6) that produces shimmering golden plumes in May.

Either side of the central axis and an allée of beech hedges is a pair of beds



4. Creeping thyme in the cracks of the terrace paving

that frame the view to the lake. These are backed by a tall box hedge; repeated cones of ilex 'Silver Queen' mirror each other across the lawn while billowing clouds of cotinus 'Royal Purple' break the strong line of the hedge. This symmetry is enhanced with large blocks of perovskia, iris, veronicastrum, agastache and agapanthus, all edged with a ribbon of nepeta 'Six Hills Giant'.

The western lawn that once rolled down to the lake now grows long in summer, allowing a variety of meadowland plants



5. The terrace beds in early August

to develop here. In the damper reaches of the meadow along the lake orchids and water avens thread their way through the grass and white camassias flower in late spring. Where the ground is drier and the grass is sparse cowslips, ox-eye daisies, knapweed and lady's bedstraw predominate. This area is constantly evolving; recently, mallow and verbascum have begun to establish themselves, extending the flowering period into late summer.



I started working here in 2014 and have continued to develop and evolve the garden alongside the family. Our work is never done and in a garden such as this we must look forward as well as back, not only acknowledging the way the history of the garden influences its current layout but also our planting plans for the future.



6. View from the top lawn towards the croquet lawn.

The gardens are open by appointment between March and September. Please contact the author by email: will20man@hotmail.co.uk.

Mile Cross Trees

by Stuart McPherson



1: The Mile Cross Oak, Drayton Road

There's an old tree standing near my home on Drayton Road that I've known for years and named 'The Mile Cross Oak'. It seems at odds with the lines of later-added linden trees planted – along with 20,000 others – by the famous landscape architect Captain Sandys-Winsch who established trees along the city's roads almost a century ago. (Fig 1)

For a recent piece on my website I decided to see what I could find about this old tree using Victorian maps, old aerial photographs and local historical knowledge built up through years of historical research. What I wasn't expecting was for it to take me on a journey through time and for it to completely change the way I now look at my landscape.

Well-established trees were often recorded on maps that suggested this tree was already fairly mature in the



2: Hellesdon Hall Oak



3: St Catherine's Oak, one of a pair

late 1800s. The map also showed twelve similar-sized trees; were any still alive? My Mile Cross Oak was actually one of four survivors. Nearby, at Hellesdon Hall Road, stands another oak watching over a scene far removed from the way it would have looked when it was used primarily by residents of a small Hellesdon village and farmers making their way into the city. John Fastolf, the knight of Shakespearean fame, owned the nearby (long-demolished) Hellesdon Hall, and it's likely that he would have passed under an oak that produced the acorn for this particular tree. (Fig 2)

Two other oaks stand nearby, hidden behind younger linden trees. Again, I'd passed them daily for decades and they only came to my attention because I'd started to look. It's possible this pair is nearly as old as the boundary cross – near the Asda store on the ring road – defining where the county of Norwich (yes, it was a county) becomes Norfolk.

After measuring the girth of these oaks



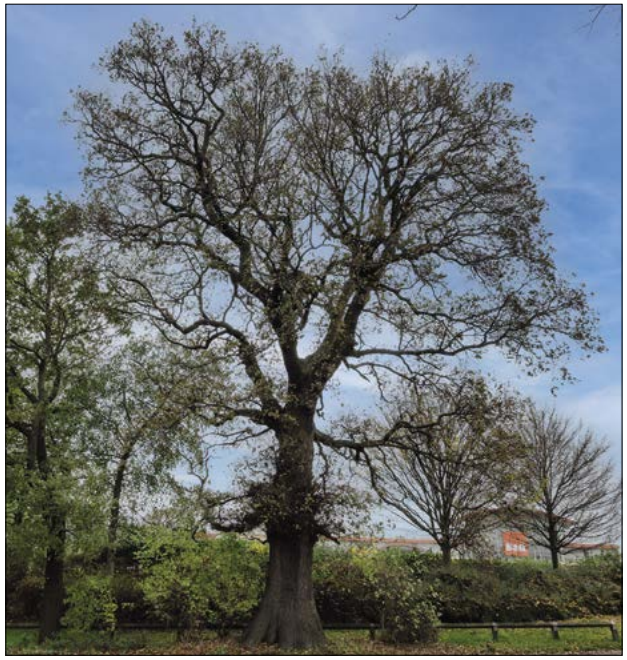
4: Boundary Inn oaks

– not the most reliable way to determine their age – I estimate they date back to at least the turn of the 1700s/1800s; they could even have been here since the mid-1600s.

Buoyed by what I'd found, I broadened my search for trees that might give further insight into our history and the more I looked, the more I found. Another pair of mature oaks that I'd regularly passed beneath are situated either side of the local interwar church of St Catherine's on Aylsham Road. I realised they might be nearly as old as the seventeenth century bells re-homed here from St Mary's Coslany. (Fig 3)

There's an impressive collection of towering oaks behind the Boundary Inn Pub (1927) and like the previous trees, these predate the building over which they stand guard, probably planted in the gardens of the old toll house. (Fig 4)

Nearby, at B&Q, stands an impressively tall solitary old oak that is partly obscured by the later-planted horse chestnuts. This tree used to cast a shadow over the entrance to the



5: Boundary oak near B&Q



6: Pair of Giant Redwoods

Boundary Park Raceway, although it began its life here long before dogs raced around tracks or humans enthused about DIY. (Fig 5)

Although impressive, these old oaks are dwarfed by a pair of younger trees I'd found in the grounds of a Lidl supermarket at Old Farm Lane. Taller than the tallest oak these giant redwoods are not native to these lands. They were planted here comparatively recently in the 1880s by a wealthy farmer to complement his newly-built manor house. Given the chance they could survive until the thirty-fourth century. Just think. (Fig 6)

When checking the Victorian maps to see if this pair of redwoods had been recorded (they had), my eyes were drawn to an obvious line of planted trees nearby, running from the farm and out across Sweetbriar marshes, through a plantation and continuing towards another farm in Hellesdon (now Hellesdon Barns). This was an ancient lane that had been hiding in plain view, right on my doorstep, predating any of the other history by quite some time but still visible on Google Maps. (Fig 7) (Fig 8)

Being close to my home, I went to see if there was evidence of this old lane from ground level and although nature



7: The farmers' lane curves around Sweetbriar Industrial Estate, Mile Cross Estate to the right. © Google Maps



8: Farmers' lane, Sweetbriar

has reclaimed any obvious thoroughfare the route was marked by the surviving oak trees that once followed it, the largest of which I estimate to be at least 500 years old, back to the reign of Henry the Eighth. In the space of less than a mile I'd been taken from the year 1500 to the thirty fourth century by two different trees standing quietly close to home. (Fig 9)

Taking time to notice local trees helped me better understand the historic landscape beneath my feet, reminding me that we just inhabit the latest chapter. The handful of trees that I've discussed have been living in this landscape for centuries; hopefully we won't damage them for chapters yet to be written for who knows what changes these ancient guardians will silently witness?

Stuart McPherson is a photographer, amateur historian and author of 'The Mile Cross Man' website, which documents the history of the Mile Cross Estate, Norwich (www.themilecrossman.com)



9: 500-year-old oak, Sweetbriar

The NGT Tate Award

Norfolk Gardens Trust is delighted to announce that Louise Crawley, our Tate Award recipient 2018-19, has now graduated from the University of East Anglia with her MA degree in Landscape History. You may remember Louise's article about her research into the Norwich Nurseries, also known as Mackie's Nursery, one of the largest provincial nurseries in Britain during the late 18th and 19th centuries, selling a huge range of plants from trees to cacti.

The pandemic put paid to graduation ceremonies over the past two summers, but NGT Vice Chair Sally Bate was delighted to be invited to see Louise finally gain her degree and to meet her family afterwards in July. We wish Louise well with the completion of her PhD and her future career.



The Parochial Nurserymen - The Fastolff Raspberry

By Francesca Murray, garden historian

The story of the 'Fastolff Raspberry continues the history of Youells (see previous issue), the Yarmouth-based nurserymen – a glimpse into the competitive world of 19th century nurserymen.

The 'Fastolff Raspberry' was named by Youells after Sir John Fastolff (1380-1459), a medieval knight who lived at Caister Castle, on the Norfolk coast. Historians have suggested he was the prototype for Shakespeare's Sir John



1. The Fastolff Raspberry. Revue Horticole 1849 vol 11



2. The Fastolf Brass. Credit, British Museum

Falstaff and today the castle is a popular attraction. Associating the 'Fastolff Raspberry' with this historic character was conveniently coordinated with the publication in 1842 of *The Sketch of the History of Caister Castle* by Norfolk botanist and antiquarian Dawson Turner (1775-1858). Youell's canes had been cultivated adjacent to the ancient castle, producing a 'raspberry of a most extraordinary size and rich flavour' and 'the nobility invariably expressed their astonishment at the exceeding fineness of the fruit of this variety'. They had obtained a limited supply that they advertised in the Christmas Eve edition of the *Gardeners' Chronicle* in 1842, '50 canes at 25s (shillings) sent by post to any part of the United Kingdom'. In the January and February 1843 editions, they advertised that the Queen, the Duke of Rutland, the Lord Bishop of London, the Earl of Harrington were clients of the 'Fastolff Raspberry'. In July 1843 the Horticultural Society awarded Youells a Certificate of Merit for the 'highly valuable and most esteemed Raspberry'.

However, in February 1844 a letter from 'Fairplay' suggested that in fact the raspberry had been discovered 25 years previously in the garden of Colonel Lucas of Filby House, on the Old Yarmouth Road, towards Caister. His head gardener had propagated it as 'its superiority was so manifest' and shared canes around the locale so that it 'became the only raspberry cultivated

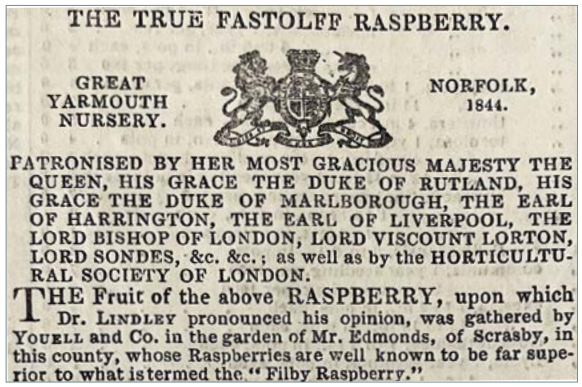


3. Caister Castle

in the village of Filby' and 'crept into most of the gardens, both of the gentry and cottagers in the neighbourhood'. 'Fairplay' did not openly suggest that Youells had appropriated the canes, but their anonymity spoke volumes. The stock had certainly been propagated elsewhere. A competitor, Mr Willmer of Sunbury, advertised the 'Fastolff Raspberry' on March 30th, 1844, at the cheaper rate of 40s for 100 canes. In August, Youells advertised for early applications and offered 100 canes at £2 5s. To justify their claim of their raspberry's quality they cited Dr Lindley (John Lindley FRS, the eminent botanist born in Catton, Norwich):

'We find it merits all that has been stated in favour of its excellence. The fruit ... is very large, obtusely conical, and of rich flavour, far exceeding in this respect some other new and large varieties. The plants bear abundantly and in long succession.'

The strong-growing raspberry was difficult to control. Youells' advertisement changed to the newly worded 'True Fastolff Raspberry' and a warning appeared in the *Gardeners' Chronicle*: 'Caution. - Youell and Co have not appointed agents in London for sale of the raspberry' and could 'not be held responsible for its being genuine unless' purchased directly as 'a spurious kind was offered for sale by other parties last season'. They appointed 36 agents to protect the 'True Fastolff Raspberry' nationwide and encouraged customers to check an engraving supplied to each agent for authenticity. However, a local competitor, John Bell of Norwich also advertised stock, undercutting Youells at 50 canes at 17s. Willmer continued to sell it and the eminent hybridiser Thomas Rivers of Sawbridgeworth advertised stock from the Caister garden of the Reverend G Lucas, descendant of the alleged originator. He could 'reveal the truth' that Dr Lindley's comments pertained to the 'Filby Raspberry', of

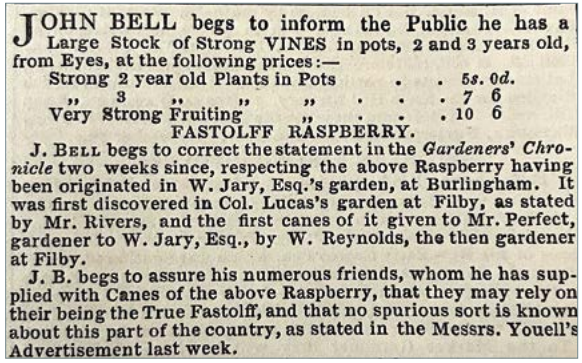

THE TRUE FASTOLFF RASPBERRY.

GREAT YARMOUTH NURSERY. NORFOLK, 1844.

PATRONISED BY HER MOST GRACIOUS MAJESTY THE QUEEN, HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF RUTLAND, HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF MARLBOROUGH, THE EARL OF HARRINGTON, THE EARL OF LIVERPOOL, THE LORD BISHOP OF LONDON, LORD VISCOUNT LORTON, LORD SONDES, &c. &c.; as well as by the HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.

THE Fruit of the above RASPBERRY, upon which Dr. LINDLEY pronounced his opinion, was gathered by YOUELL and Co. in the garden of Mr. Edmonds, of Scrasby, in this county, whose Raspberries are well known to be far superior to what is termed the "Filby Raspberry."

4.Youells' advert in Gardeners' Chronicle 1844


JOHN BELL begs to inform the Public he has a Large Stock of Strong VINES in pots, 2 and 3 years old, from Eyes, at the following prices:—

Strong 2 year old Plants in Pots	5s. 0d.
„ 3 „ „ „	7 6
Very Strong Fruiting „	10 6

FASTOLFF RASPBERRY.

J. BELL begs to correct the statement in the *Gardeners' Chronicle* two weeks since, respecting the above Raspberry having been originated in W. Jary, Esq.'s garden, at Burlingham. It was first discovered in Col. Lucas's garden at Filby, as stated by Mr. Rivers, and the first canes of it given to Mr. Perfect, gardener to W. Jary, Esq., by W. Reynolds, the then gardener at Filby.

J. B. begs to assure his numerous friends, whom he has supplied with Canes of the above Raspberry, that they may rely on their being the True Fastolff, and that no spurious sort is known about this part of the country, as stated in the Messrs. Youell's Advertisement last week.

5. John Bell's advert in Gardeners' Chronicle 1844

which Rivers had exclusive rights at 30s per 100. Mr John Bell dismissed Youells' version and, aligning with the influential Mr Rivers, obtained his first canes from W Reynolds, a gardener at Filby. William Crisp, Reverend Lucas's head gardener, then piped up with his account, saying:

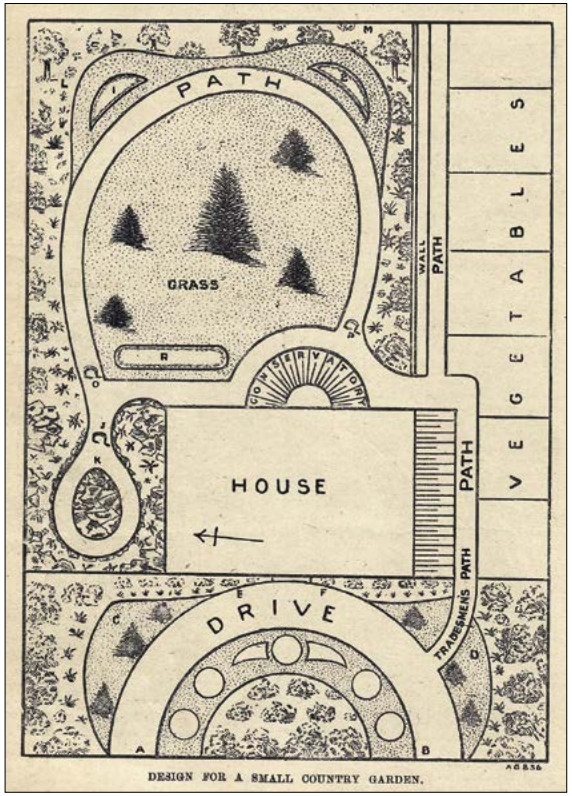
'in about July 18, 1843, Mr Henry Youell came to the gardens at Filby and requested me to give him some fruit of the above raspberry to send to Dr Lindley ... he said that about two dozen would be sufficient.'

A firm denial came back from Youells: 'the statement is thus far void of truth and invented for the sole purpose of puffing off the variety sent out by the agent of the Filby Gardens'. They had merely obtained the canes for comparison to those of the Fastolff, which they (changed story) had acquired from Mr Edmonds, of Scrasby, Norfolk (former head gardener of Lady Lacon of Great Ormsby). Youells stood their ground as the 'parties who first introduced [the Fastolff] to the notice of the horticultural world'. They supplied the Queen at Windsor, three dukes, four earls and 'most of the nobility'. Thomas Rivers used the seed for his hybridisation programme to create new autumn raspberries 'October red' and 'October yellow' and called it the undecided 'Filby or Fastolf' in his catalogue. In 1854 it gained another Certificate of Merit from the London Horticultural Society. The *Yarmouth Independent* in January 1865 suggested a commercial destiny had evolved for the raspberry. The village of Filby was, 'noted for the extent of its garden ground, from when many tons of raspberries and currants are annually sent to London; the Messrs Cross and Blackwell paying them a good price as they are considered the finest that are grown in England'.

Lawns and the domestic garden

By Charlotte Jarvis

'...the lawn is the heart of the English garden...' wrote William Robinson in his 1900 publication *The English Flower Garden and Home Grounds* – a sentiment echoed in the design of millions of gardens throughout the centuries. Lawns are arguably the most ubiquitous feature of a British garden. Historically the preserve of the wealthy, lawns began to filter down the social scale by the start of the twentieth century, attaining a presence that endures to this day.



1. Design for a small country garden, built around a lawn. Amateur Gardening for Town and Country, January 18 1902.

Grass has been a key component of garden design for centuries. The seventeenth century saw the creation of elaborate parterres à l'anglaise, whilst eighteenth century landscape designers, such as 'Capability' Brown, promoted the rejection of formality and the adoption of a more 'natural' style. Brown's designs featured large sweeping lawns that stretched up to the house, their expanse occasionally broken with clumps of trees or a well-placed lake. Later, Humphry Repton introduced terraces and more structured planting to the foreground of parks, but the open lawns remained. Large expanses of trimmed grass allowed a landowner to demonstrate their wealth, through both the expenditure on labour necessary for their upkeep, and the ability to discard a resource that could have been used for fodder. Long after Brown and Repton, the lawn endured as an aspirational goal for the growing middle class who were seeking design inspiration for their suburban villas and small country houses. Nineteenth



2. Dressing a lawn with Carterite weedkiller, Carter's Blue Book of Gardening catalogue 1933.

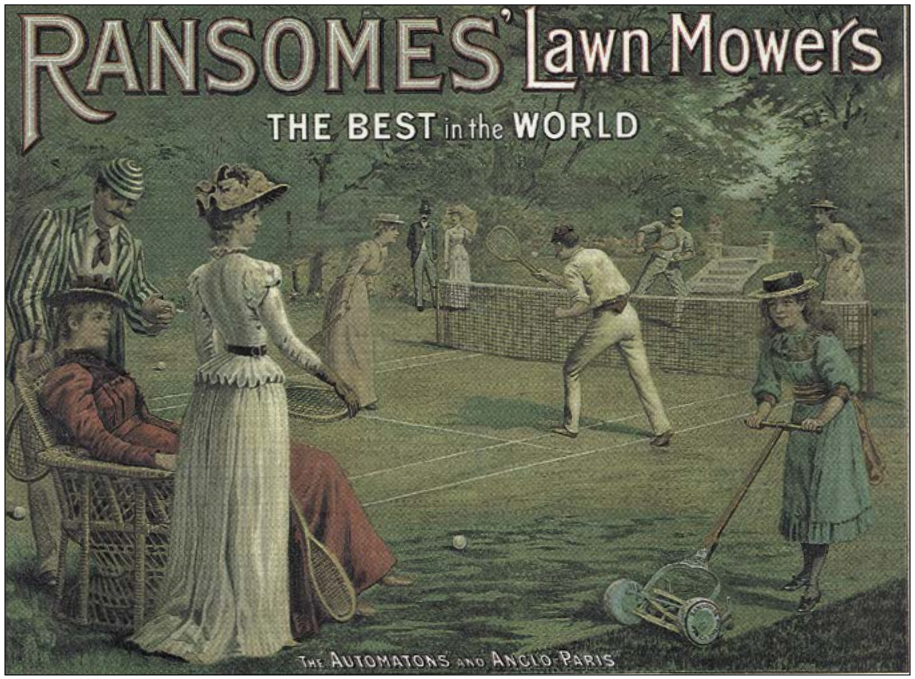


3. A large manual lawn mower. Author's collection

century authors such as J. C. Loudon and Edward Kemp began to cater to this market, promoting the lawn as a 'very essential feature of a garden, whatever its size'. Although these authors professed to design for small gardens, they still assumed the owner could afford a gardener to perform the necessary labour.

A number of factors contributed to widespread adoption of lawns across the social scale, including increased access to consumer goods, such as lawn mowers. The first mower was invented in 1830 by Edward Budding, but they remained expensive and specialist pieces of equipment. However, from the mid nineteenth century onwards, multiple manufacturers started producing their own mowers, refining their designs to improve performance and reduce their weight. To demonstrate this new ease of use, advertisements began to show women and children mowing lawns. In 1898, Boulton & Paul of Norwich specifically advertised their 6" *silens messor* model as operable 'by a lady'. At £1 7s 6d this was their cheapest model but still equivalent to four days wages of a skilled tradesman. Over time domestic mowers became increasingly common and more affordable, whilst companies rushed to market their new and improved fertilisers or weedkillers. A lawn became attainable in almost every garden.

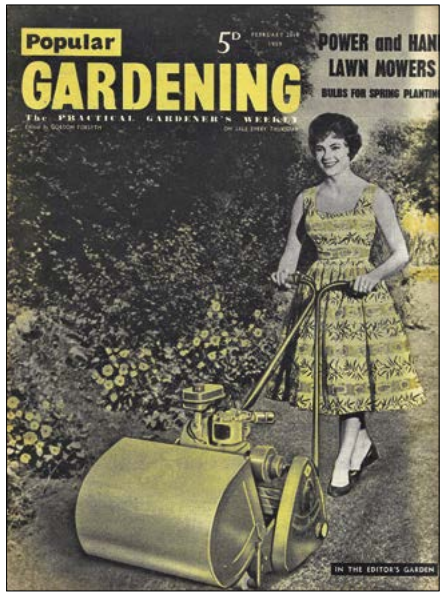
During the Victorian era, the popularity of lawns was also aided by the zeal for self-improvement and a sense of British nationalism. Self-improvement through



4. A small girl demonstrates the Ransomes lawn mower Author's collection

education and hard work could be demonstrated by the possession of a lush, neatly trimmed lawn. Publications offered detailed advice to amateur gardeners on the correct methods for ground preparation and sowing. Once established, a lawn needed ongoing effort to achieve the desired verdancy. The readers' advice section of the December 14, 1901 edition of '*Amateur Gardening for Town and Country*' demonstrated this preoccupation, answering questions about weeds, moss removal, daisy and dandelion infestation, late sown seed, lawn repairs and unwanted tufts, all in a single issue. A perfect lawn became a physical demonstration of hard work, discipline and self-improvement. It also became recognised as something peculiarly British: the lawn was placed on a pedestal; an object made possible by the British climate, its beauty envied by visitors from abroad.

The continuing influence of the lawn is also reflected in the increasing demand for artificial grass. The worldwide industry is projected to be valued at $5.8bn by 2023 and UK firm Grass Direct have reported a fifty percent increase in sales year on year. However, these artificial lawns are not without significant drawbacks as Ashwicken school discovered in August this year, when the artificial turf reached such a high temperature that the school was forced to close.



5. Cover of Popular Gardening magazine, Feb 28th 1959.

Today, lawns are still the focal point of most domestic gardens so what is contributing to their endurance? Easy consumer access to good quality turf and effective weed killers have reduced the need for constant maintenance, whilst lawn mowers have become cheap and manoeuvrable. The quest for perfection is also less evident in modern lawn care. Lawns are an excellent backdrop against which to display your chosen planting scheme, they provide a place for children to play or an area for relaxation. There are options to replace grass lawns but few seem satisfactory: artificial turf has both ecological and physical drawbacks; paving, decking and garden tiles have their place but lack the tactile nature of grass. For most people there is nothing quite like a lawn and that patch of green



6. Shanks mowers for sale in the 1939 Jarrolds Good Housekeeping Exhibition catalogue. Norfolk Record Office

grass still holds an important place in the nation's psyche.

Do you have any photographs of domestic gardens that you would be willing to share? My PhD thesis investigates the evolution of domestic gardens in Norfolk since 1830 and I am trying to find as many pictures as possible to help with my research. If you have any photographs of gardens (front or back, any era), I would love to see them. Please email pictures or queries to charlotte.jarvis@uea.ac.uk.

Thank you for your help.

The Beeston Regis Hop Garden

By Bob Wilkinson

In the North Norfolk parish of Beeston Regis lie the remains of the Augustinian priory of St. Mary in the Meadow. This priory was part of a group known as the Order of Peterstone which had four priories in parts of the county so remote that the friar John Cosgrave described them in a sermon as *'not in the world, as they say, but in Northfolk'*. The priory was founded in the early thirteenth century and was endowed with forty acres of land. Within the monastic precinct there were agricultural buildings which included a brewery.

The words 'ale' and 'beer' tend to mean the same thing today but back in the Middle Ages it was ale made from water, malt and yeast that the monks would have drunk – perhaps up to a gallon a day. It was only when imported hops from Flanders were added to the recipe (originally because of their antibacterial qualities) that beer became the favoured drink. Hops were grown in Kent from the late 1400s and spread across the country as people began to like the bitterness that hops brought to the drink.

It is very likely that the canons of Beeston Regis would have been growing hops on their land and it is appropriate that part of the priory's endowment, which is now used as allotments, should once again be used for this purpose. This project started in 2016 at one of the monthly meetings of the Sheringham Horticultural Society when David



1. The Priory ruins



2. The hop garden in Spring

and Rachel Holliday of the Norfolk Brewhouse spoke about their work in Hindringham producing the Moon Gazer range of beers. David mentioned

Garden History



3. New shoots



4. Weeding as a community project

that he had ambitions to produce a truly local beer, using Maris Otter, the famous barley grown widely in Norfolk, but there was no supply of locally grown hops.

Six members of the society offered to grow hops and began to research how to grow a commercial quantity of hops on part of their allotment. Advice was sought on the varieties that would grow well in Beeston Regis, taking into account the local soil conditions and the coastal climate.

We agreed that the following four varieties were the most likely to succeed:

Fuggle – this hop was propagated in Kent by Mr Richard Fuggle in 1875 and became the most widely grown hop in England until verticillium wilt made growth almost impossible. It is still revered for its essential characteristics of flavour, aroma and balanced bitterness.

Goldings – recognized as having the most typical English aroma.

Challenger – bred at Wye College and released for commercial production in 1972 this hop has good growing characteristics with heavy yields and a fruity almost scented aroma with some spicy overtones.

Cascade – one of the most popular American hops named after the Cascade Mountains. A vigorous, high yielding variety with a distinct citrus aroma.

Thirty plants were ordered together with necessary poles and string to support the bines. The first crop was picked in September 2018 and used to produce a limited edition green hop beer, which meant that the hops had to be rushed to Hindringham to ensure that the crop was in the brew within the hour. Thirty-eight casks of beer (representing 3000 pints) were supplied to public houses across the county.

We expect the hops to remain productive for 10-20 years or more. Although we

have not had problems with any diseases or pests, hops are susceptible to infection by several fungal diseases including verticillium wilt. They can also be attacked by pests including the damson-hop aphid and two-spotted spider mite which can devastate hop crops .



5. The hops

Our yearly hop routine commences in March when the young shoots (bines), appear and we weed the garden and apply organic manure. As the shoots grow they are trained up the twine and wires. Only eight shoots per plant are retained and the rest are removed and can be eaten as a delicacy. After picking the hops at the end of the growing season the plants are allowed to die down to the rootstock or crown. In addition to the true roots of the vine, the crown also produces underground rhizomes which produce numerous buds that can be used for vegetative propagation.

We are still learning about hops and their very complicated chemistry. Flowering occurs



6. Picking begins

in July and cones begin to form when changes happen within the flower. Made of soft tissue, the parts that form the cone are known as petals. It is on the inside of these petals that the lupulin glands form, looking like large pollen grains. Lupulin is resinously sticky to the touch, a stiff oily substance found nowhere else in the plant kingdom. It includes volatile oils whose presence and correct balance are important to the flavour of beer. The lupulin glands also contain the resins, the most important being the alpha acids, which confer bitterness and whose preservative properties are of value to beer. Subtle differences are evident in the cones of different hop varieties.

After the complications caused by Covid, production resumed in 2021 when a bumper crop was picked. It was not possible to use the hops immediately and they were deep frozen and then thawed and used to develop a new red beer called Lord Scira – believed to be one of the Viking leaders who invaded North Norfolk and after whom the town of Sheringham may take its name.



7. Mixed hops ready for brewing

From Tomb to Table

Lynda Tucker, owner of Hindringham Hall

Since 1922, when Howard Carter excavated the tomb of Tutankhamun, there have been tales of peas brought to England from mummy tombs. Some experts may dispute the possibility of a pea surviving but the rumours persist and this is the story behind one such pea that has been grown in Norfolk and preserved thanks to a missionary, the perseverance of a keen gardener and the trialling by the Historic Seed Library who describe its open-flowered trait as, *'a very distinctive feature and the only pea we have with this flower type.'*



1. Dora Skipper (in blue) with sister Phyllis

In 1958, Miss Dora Skipper returned to England with some seeds and the incredible story that they came from the tomb of a mummy. Born in 1895 at Hindolveston in Norfolk, where her father was the vicar, she had worked as a missionary in Rwanda, from 1930-1945. She moved to Devon where she grew the seeds and after her death in 1986 her sister, Phyllis, gave some of the pea seeds to their nephew, a Cromer GP and keen gardener. The pea plants, which reached over six feet, were far superior to other peas he had grown and the peas were larger and sweeter. He propagated them for over 40 years and generously distributed them amongst his Norfolk gardening friends.

Listening to a radio interview of Sir Henry Cecil, the well-known racehorse owner, the doctor's ears pricked up for Sir Henry not only spoke about his amazing roses but went on to mention his pride in being the only person in England to grow a unique pea that had come out of the tomb of Tutankhamun. Surely this story was too much of a coincidence?

The good doctor wrote to Sir Henry who duly responded with a telephone call and on comparing notes they agreed they were growing very similar peas. Sir Henry died just a few weeks later but, realising that this pea was really something special, the doctor went to Kew to do some research and posted the seeds to the Heritage Seed Library in 2016.

In 1958 the Henry Doubleday Research Association was set up to promote the benefits of organic growing; in 1975 the

Garden History



2. Skipper's Mummy Pea

charity changed its name to reflect its new purpose, which was to protect the hundreds of vegetable varieties thought to be endangered by the new EU regulations. By the mid-1980s their Heritage Seed Library had expanded from a small seed library to a living collection shared amongst its members.

In 2004 the HDRA changed its name to Garden Organic and holds the national collection for heritage vegetable variety. In 2016 the library found it had two accessions with a similar history and were interested in trialling the pea since it grew tall and was an early planting



3. The pea seed

variety. For identification it was given the name of 'Skipper's Mummy Pea' in recognition of the missionary who had brought it to England.

Once it was decided that it met their conservation criteria, Garden Organic fitted Skipper's Mummy Pea into their crop rotation patterns, ensuring that cross-pollinating crops were appropriately isolated. At this stage, a phenotypic analysis was undertaken, including a photographic record of every growth stage from seedling emergence to harvest, allowing them to assess whether the pea was suitable to be included in their core collection. After these stringent checks were passed the seeds were given to volunteer Seed Guardians to grow them on and supply about half the available seeds each year.



4. Phenotypic analysis at HSL in 2020



5. HSL glasshouse

In January 2021 the GP received a second letter saying that all checks and trials had been successfully completed and that 'Skipper's Mummy Pea' would indeed be included in the Heritage Seed Library Collection. The message was: *'Thank you for making this variety available to us. We would not be able to conserve heritage varieties without the interest and support of people like you.'*

Having grown this pea for many years at Hindringham I cannot recommend it highly enough; whether or not it was buried alongside a mummy in a tomb we must still thank a missionary and the perseverance of a keen gardener for bringing this pea variety to Norfolk. Skipper's Mummy Pea will be available this year to other gardeners through the Heritage Seed Library Collection'.

Garden Organic's Heritage Seed Library works tirelessly to re-discover and conserve the UK's vegetable heritage, protecting our rich diversity for future generations. The charity believes the best way to conserve varieties is to get people growing and enjoying them again, and is supported by its members to grow, save and share seed.

More information can be found at https://www.gardenorganic.org.uk/hsl.

The James Stuart Garden – a centenary

Lilian Hodgson. Chair of the Friends of the James Stuart Garden Group

I have known the James Stuart Garden in Recorder Road since I came to Norwich in 1972 to study at the University of East Anglia. However, I only really got to know and appreciate the garden after I moved to Recorder Road in 2019 and, as my flat overlooks it, the garden has become 'my backyard'.

The garden was designed as a memorial to James Stuart of Carrow Abbey in accordance with the will of his widow Laura Colman Stuart, eldest daughter of the mustard magnate JJ Colman. The James Stuart Garden was designed by Edward Thomas Boardman, son of the well-known Norwich architect Edward Boardman, who had married into the Colman family. It was part of the same scheme as the adjacent Stuart Court alms houses built on Recorder Road in 1914-15 but the ceremonial opening was delayed by the First War. The opening on 19th July 1922 was officiated by Laura's sisters, Helen and Ethel Colman – the latter having the distinction of being the first female Lord Mayor in the country.



1. Stuart Garden gates. Credit, Clive Lloyd

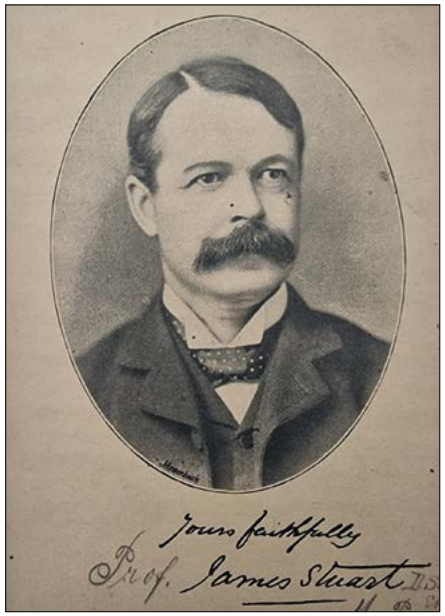
Scottish-born James Stuart, had been a Cambridge professor, an MP, a supporter of female suffrage and a director of Colman's where he was an enlightened employer who helped establish a pension scheme.

The main gateway and single-storey garden office, which are Grade II listed, are constructed of red brick and stone – its ornate gates on St Faith's Lane surmounted by a shield bearing the Stuart clan motto: Virescit Vulnere Virtus', roughly translated as 'courage becomes greater through a wound'. Beyond the gates is the charming green garden, a central lawn (which had been a bowling green) with corner borders, shrubs, sycamore tree and lofty horse chestnut.

In February 2020 I was invited to join a 'greener space' community project to develop the garden for our neighbourhood. I was eager to become involved and, although I am not a gardener, enjoy managing projects and working in city community and voluntary groups.

Sadly, the coronavirus pandemic

Garden History



2. James Stuart. Credit, Julian Hanwell

intervened and temporarily impeded our action and enthusiasm. Our keeness was not, however, dampened for long. Instead we met online and formalised our group, which we named Friends of James Stuart Garden; this was managed by our committee of ten members, many of whom live in the locality. We compiled our constitution, planting plan and risk assessment which were approved by Norwich City Council (NCC) in summer 2021.

As life became more normal we met for socially-distanced picnics in the garden, and began our planting plan in November 2021. We selected the newly tilled central bed as our first project, and decided on a seasonal theme. With the provision of plants from the Norwich City Council's Community



3. Ethel Colman at the 1922 opening. Credit, Archant/EDP archive

Garden Scheme, we planted colourful and variegated tulip bulbs, alliums and wallflowers for a welcome spring show of blooms. The show of colour was a delight and attracted many visitors to admire and create photo opportunities.



4. Spring flowers 1922. Credit, Lilian Hodgson

During spring 2022 we received additional snowdrop plants to complement those on either side of the main path. We were also given three 'Tai Haku' cherry trees by the council, which we planted along the side path near the horse chestnut tree – all providing more colour and future interest.

Our request to lower the imposing yew hedge flanking the garden along Recorder Road was also met. It was a two-phase pruning task that allows passers-by to see into the garden and invites them in.

We have our webpage in the NCC Open Projects Network site, which has attracted supporters, and facilitates networking with other city garden groups. Our regular presence in the garden has encouraged people to walk through it; now, they sit and enjoy this



5. Yew hedge trimming 2022.



6. Centenary celebration 2022. From left: Ben Price and Lilian Hodgson of FJSGG, Lord Mayor Dr Kevin Maguire, Sheriff Caroline Jarrold, Charles Darwin Primary School pupils. Credit, Archant/EDP archive

green space as it has becoming more welcoming and safe. It is a much-needed sanctuary from the busy hubbub of city life, and a welcome area for local residents. The Stuart Garden provides much delight, and was a blessing and 'discovery' to many during lockdown.

During this year we will have much to enjoy: our continued activity and friendship; greenery and flowers in the central plot; funding from the NCC; a plan for working with the Charles Darwin School in a dedicated space for biodiversity projects; and the milestone centenary celebration of the garden's opening.

As part of our plans to celebrate the centenary we had invited the Lord Mayor and the Sheriff, the Charles Darwin School and residents and public to celebrate this milestone on the actual anniversary date of the garden opening, 19th July. Alas our plans were scuppered two days before the event by the unprecedented heatwave as Norwich was in the Amber Alert Zone. Our plans for a summer showing of seasonal flowers for the centenary (which had included sunflowers, poppies and geraniums) did not therefore materialise fully. Undeterred, we rearranged the celebration for 14th September 2022, respectfully remembering the sad loss of The Queen. It was a wonderful event on a dry and sunny day with a good cross-section of attendance.

We will continue to enjoy making our garden project a long-lasting reality and highlight of our city-centre neighbourhood. Our 'hidden gem' has become a welcome escape for local residents, visitors and passers-by to enjoy in all seasons.

A herb and sensory garden on Kett's Heights, Norwich

Vanessa Trevelyan (a Friend of Kett's Heights)

Creating new gardens takes vision, planning, time, effort, expertise and, usually, money. The Friends of Kett's wanted to create some quiet contemplative spaces on the Heights that would reflect the origins of the site and offer visitors a multi-sensory experience. We made it with hard work, good will and virtually no money at all.



1. The sensory garden takes shape

Kett's Heights is one of Norwich's best kept secrets: a steeply wooded space punctuated by open greens, winding paths and steps. A relatively small (1.23 hectare) public open space owned by Norwich City Council it contains a medieval chapel, 19th century garden terraces and a fantastic view overlooking Norwich. John Trevelyan provided a general history of the site in the NGT Magazine of Spring 2021, and this article charts the process of creating a new herb and sensory garden in the footprint of the medieval St Michael's Chapel during lockdown.

St Michael's Chapel was built in the late 11th century to replace a church in Tombland that was demolished to make way for the cathedral. It was abandoned after the Reformation and, shortly afterwards, was used at Robert Kett's headquarters in 1549 during Kett's Rebellion. With no-one to care for it, the chapel gradually became derelict, but had a new role in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. The Romantic movement made attractive ruins popular in art and literature and Kett's Castle, as the chapel became known, was the subject of numerous paintings and illustrations by local artists.

In 1830 Kett's Heights and the surrounding area was bought by the newly formed Norwich Gas Company, which used the flat land next to Bishop Bridge for gas production. Kett's Heights itself was too steep to be useful commercially and was landscaped to provide a pleasant space for gas employees to take leisure walks, as well as a productive space with allotments. The remaining chapel wall was used to support two large lean-to heated greenhouses growing tender fruits, such as grapes.

In the 20th century, the site became very overgrown, although the greenhouses can still be seen in aerial photographs of the 1960s. The Friends of Kett's Heights, which was set up in 2015, have a keen gardening group that are bringing some order to the once unkempt site, provide a pleasant place for people to visit, and increase biodiversity through the introduction of a wider range of plants.

Our focus over the last three years has been the site of St Michael's Chapel. When the Friends of Kett's Heights was formed, the chapel area was completely overgrown with brambles, bracken and buddleia. As the chapel is on the pinnacle of Kett's Heights it was felt that we should do more to make it attractive. The project that we developed has relied almost entirely on materials found on



2. The gardeners examining the progress so far



3. The chapel site was overgrown with brambles and budleia

site, donations of plants from Friends, and the skill and expertise of the Friends' Practical Works Group.

Our first step was to create a herb garden, which we felt would be attractive as well as a reference to the monastic tradition of healing. After removing the scrub, plants were donated from Friends' gardens and two volunteers took charge of maintenance. A bench was created out of redundant bricks found on site, and a sign was made by one of our volunteers from wood from one of the trees felled during clearance elsewhere on the site. The herb garden has since become one of the most popular areas on Kett's Heights.



4. A new path was excavated and laid with bricks found around the site

We then turned our attention to the larger area between the herb garden and the viewpoint. The success of the herb garden showed us that a contemplative space would be attractive to our visitors. Norwich City Council has plans to create a level access entrance for Kett's Heights, so we wanted to take advantage of that and create a space that was accessible to people with a wide range of disabilities. To this end we planned a sensory garden with plants that could appeal to sight, touch, smell and hearing. One of the Friends drew up a wish list of plants and the call went out to members for donations from their own gardens.

One of the features of Kett's Heights is the large number of assorted bricks that were obviously abandoned here by the Gas Company. We had already utilised a great many in creating a bench for the herb garden, but there were still lots more that we decided would make an excellent path in the sensory garden, as well as an interesting feature for any brick historians. A new viewing terrace has also been created, largely using redundant paving slabs donated by the City Council. One of the Friends is donating a bench in memory of his late wife, which will have an extensive view over Norwich.

The planting is still very much at the development stage. To create a colourful display while the infrastructure plants

Garden History

were bulking up, we planted a wild meadow mix which grew beyond all expectations and has been severely cut back to allow the permanent plants to thrive. As is always the case with gardening, this project has given great satisfaction to those doing it as well as enjoyment to those who visit it.

Find out more about the work of the Friends of Kett's Heights at www.kettsheights.co.uk



5. A new viewing terrace will provide panoramic views over Norwich



6. A wild flower mix provided temporary colour

Planning In Norwich: Interesting Times

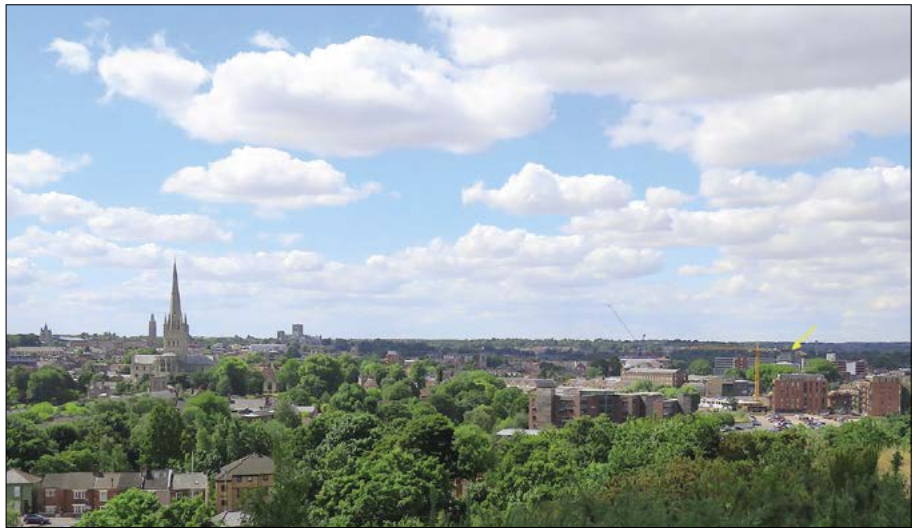
Keri Williams, NGT Planning Adviser

Two major schemes are emerging in Norwich, at Anglia Square and on the Carrow Works site. We are also monitoring the situation at Old Catton Deer Park.

Anglia Square

A comprehensive scheme with a mix of housing, commercial and related development is proposed. This follows rejection of an earlier application by the Secretary of State. Anglia Square is extensive, outdated and visually intrusive. Its replacement is long awaited and has a high priority for Norwich, so that the principle of redevelopment is supported. Nevertheless, we have lodged objections to the effect of the proposed 7 and 8 storey blocks on views from St James Hill/Kett's Heights and from Waterloo Park.

St James Hill affords probably the best view across Norwich, taking in the most iconic buildings of Norwich. This highly important vista would be harmed by the Anglia Square development. The development would also be prominent when seen from the higher parts of Kett's Heights, some views being more limited when trees are in leaf. The new buildings would be seen behind recent development off Barrack Street, including some mid-rise blocks. Nevertheless, it is the height and bulk of the proposed buildings that are of concern, causing significant harm to these important views. This would not be a development that sits comfortably in the visual background.



1. Anglia Square from St James Hill. Credit Clive Lloyd



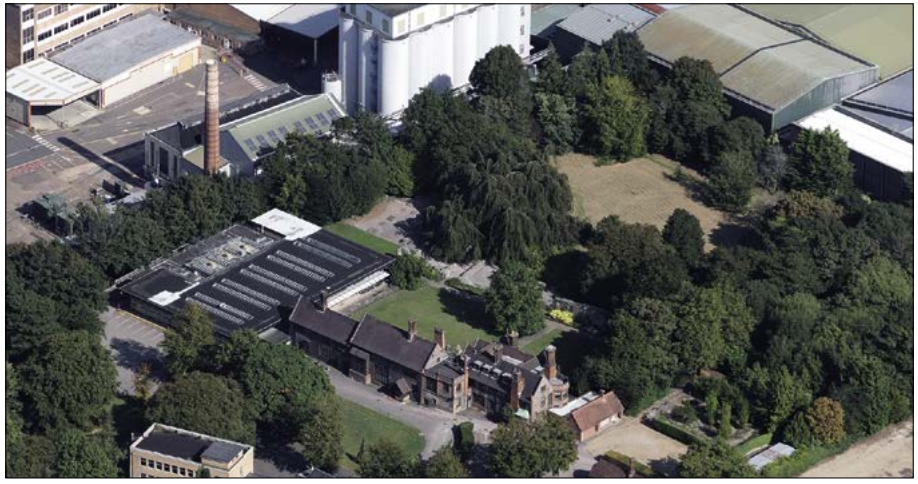
2. Cathedral from Waterloo Park. Credit Clive Lloyd

Waterloo Park is a Grade II* registered park to the north of Anglia Square. Views across the park towards the city are acknowledged to be highly sensitive and include a view of the cathedral. Views of the prominent water tower on top of Sovereign House would go but the development fringing the southern side of the park is of a domestic scale. In that context the height and bulk of the proposed blocks would result in moderate harm to views from Waterloo Park.

We have recommended to Norwich City Council that revisions to the scheme are sought, including a reduction in the maximum building height. As it stands the proposals would fail to make the most of the opportunity offered by the redevelopment of this major site.

Carrow Works

Fuel Properties Ltd have carried out a pre-application consultation for redevelopment, mainly for housing. Notwithstanding the existing industrial and commercial development covering



3. Aerial view of Carrow site ©JohnFielding

much of the land, this is a very important site in heritage terms. It includes the remains of the 12th century Carrow Abbey, its gardens and the Abbey and Priory buildings. It is also within the setting of Carrow House and its remaining gardens.

Redevelopment can be supported provided that it fully respects the key heritage assets and their settings for they offer an opportunity for development of the highest quality. As yet there is no comprehensive assessment of the effect of the proposals on the significance of heritage assets. This will need to be part of any planning application.

NGT does not support proposed car parking and housing development in what is described as 'The Abbey and Cottages Character Area'. They would be in close proximity to the remains of the abbey and are likely to harm its setting. A much better option would be to use this area to enlarge the Abbey Gardens for the benefit of the new residents while enhancing the abbey remains.

Proposed housing to the north of the abbey causes further concern for it would be too close to the abbey. It would also be built over the site of the nave of the former priory church, once one of the largest religious buildings in Norwich. The remains of this part of the the church currently lie under modern buildings. NGT favours keeping this area open to form part of the historic whole.

Old Catton Deer Park

The Deer Park is part of the Grade II* registered parkland around Catton Hall, the first parkland designed by Humphry Repton. The openness of the Deer Park complements that of the park as a whole, despite the separation resulting from Spixworth Road. A change in the ownership of the Deer Park has led to local concerns that development proposals may follow. We are in touch with the Deer Park Action Group which has recently been set up and will respond to any proposals which emerge.



4. Catton Deer Park. Credit Sally Bate

NGT School Grants

By Tina Douglas

The Norfolk Gardens Trust made a grant of £200 to Lakenham Primary School in City Road Norwich. They used it well, for in the words of teacher Zita Matthews: "All of this is possible because of your grant and I can't thank you enough!"

The school garden is flourishing and is a much used space. It is such an important area in the school where pupils can relax and enjoy looking, smelling, tasting, working with their hands and relaxing their minds. They have learnt so much about how food is grown and some children have tasted strawberries for the first time. The food they have produced is being used in school meals that have hidden vegetables in everything. Now pupils know where the potatoes come from to make their chips!



Growing lunch at Lakenham Primary

Twice a week there have been sessions where parents and carers tend the plants and just spend memorable moments together. The school has held market garden sales on the playground where parents and carers can pay for (or have for free) whatever they want.

Some pupils have just enjoyed selecting their choice of flowers from seed packets and seeing them flower before picking them from the wildflower border and displaying them around the school. The children and staff also do mindful walks in the garden, listen to the birds and look at butterflies and bees; they look at the flowers and plants, see their colours and feel the sun on their skin.

We read much about the benefits to emotional and mental health of gardening and Lakenham Primary is proof of this. A truly inspirational school and an inspiring use of our grant.

Another grateful recipient of a grant is Pawel Jelenski from the Norfolk Polonia CIC. This is a non-profit Polish

organisation working with minority groups in Norfolk, especially Eastern Europeans. They cooperate with Norwich City Council, Clive Lewis MP, the local police and many other local and national agencies.

After a large tree was cut down behind the West Earlham Community Centre the group offered to replace it with a garden for the local community. Pawel tells us how happy the community is with the project – which they mention on their website – and thanks us very much for the grant.

The Trust's grants reach out to a wide range of recipients, enriching their lives and, hopefully, developing a love of plants and gardening.



Lunch at Lakenham Primary

SOCIAL MEDIA VOLUNTEER

We are seeking someone to help with our social media activities.

Please contact the Chairman if you would like to know more: Matthew Martin

mtmartindairy@aol.com

01603 393244





Readers' Gardens

If you would like your garden to be featured in the NGT Magazine please contact us. We welcome hearing about all gardens big or small, town or country and whether you are open to the public or not.

Contact: sueroe8@icloud.com

Autumn News 2022 : Dates for your Diary

TALKS

All talks are held at Bawdeswell Village Hall, Reepham Road NR20 4RU

Saturday 15th October 2pm

'Friary Park and Bagshot Park - the life of the Estate Garden'

An illustrated talk by John Knowles

John spent his early working life as a band musician, half his working life in education as a teacher, head teacher, lecturer and as the advisor in Primary School Management for Norfolk. His remaining working years were spent as a consultant to the estate of the late Sir Noël Coward, a role he retains in retirement. He has been researching the life of the estate gardens for some years prompted by his family history and his interest in the lost estate gardens which become derelict as a result of the staff going off to war and never returning.

John is descended from a family of agricultural workers, three of his great-grandfather's cousins became head gardeners to large estates. Charles William Knowles at Bagshot Park, part of Windsor Great Park, for Prince Arthur, Duke of Connaught and Strathearn the third son of Queen Victoria; his brother Philip Oswin Knowles at Friar Park, a Victorian neo-Gothic mansion at Henley-on-Thames; and the eldest brother, George Du Rose Knowles at The Belmont Estate in South Island, New Zealand – an estate that no longer exists.



Booking open 1st October



Saturday 19th November 2pm

'Six of the Best' - Chatsworth, Powis Castle, Dorothy Clive Garden, Hodnet Hall, Hestercombe & Knighthayes.

An illustrated talk by Andrew Sankey on six of his favourite gardens in Britain.

Andrew taught Engineering Drawing and Graphic Design before starting a garden design/landscaping business and



a small specialist nursery (dry sun/dry shade plants) in Lincolnshire in 1991. While creating his own cottage garden he became a passionate advocate of the cottage-garden style and opened his own cottage garden under the National Gardens Scheme becoming chairman of the Lincolnshire branch of the Cottage Garden Society.

Andrew has lectured widely on cottage gardens, medieval gardens, women gardeners, plant hunters and Arts and Crafts gardens, both in Britain and the USA and has designed many cottage-style gardens throughout the East of England.

His book 'The English Cottage Garden' was published in 2021.

Booking open 1st November

Opposite page: Knighthayes Court

Looking ahead to 2023, we start the year with the Annual Tate Talk in March. This talk is open to members and non-members and is supported by a bequest from Mr & Mrs Tate.

Saturday 11th March 2022 2pm'

Tate Talk *(pre booking only)*

'The Chelsea Physic Garden'

An illustrated talk by Nick Bailey on the world famous Chelsea Physic Garden which was established as the Apothecaries' Garden in 1673 by the Worshipful Society of Apothecaries to grow plants to be used as medicines. Nick will talk on the seven years he spent here as Head Gardener, redesigning the gardens and diversifying the plant collection.

Nick studied horticulture at Hadlow College and gained a 1st class honours degree in Landscape Design from Greenwich University. He is a regular presenter on BBC Two's Gardeners' World and spent four years as a panellist on BBC Radio Norfolk's Garden Party.

Nick's horticultural media career spans 15 years, from editing Garden Answers and



Garden News to writing regular columns in BBC Gardeners' World Magazine and Garden News.

He has written three books: 'Chelsea Physic Garden – A Companion Guide' (2014); '365 Days of Colour in your Garden' (2015); and'Revive Your Garden' (2018). Nick – a regular speaker at Gardeners' World Live – created his first Main Avenue Garden at RHS Chelsea Flower show in 2016 for which he received a Silver Gilt Medal.



Call For Articles

We welcome suggestions for articles to be included in future issues of the NGT Magazine. These could be pieces you are prepared to write or just thoughts about articles you would like to see in the magazine. We are interested in ideas about gardens in Norfolk (or further afield), historical research, gardening, plants, people in gardening etc. In the first instance send us an email at:

sueroe8@icloud.com
Clive Lloyd and Sue Roe, Editors

Committee

President
The Marquess of Cholmondeley KCVO DL

Chair Matthew Martin
mtmartindairy@aol.com

Vice Chair Sally Bate
sallybate@thegardenstrust.org

Membership Secretary Lyn Burroughs
norfolkgtrust@gmail.com.

Secretary Roger Lloyd
rogerlloyd@talktalk.net

Treasurer James Warren
jameswarrenngt@gmail.com

Events Karen Moore
moore.karen@icloud.com

NGT Magazine Sue Roe
sueroe8@icloud.com

Planning Keri Williams
keriwilliams9@icloud.com

Grants Tina Douglas
tinadouglas@btopenworld.com

Website Caroline Keene
carolinekeene4@gmail.com

Press and Media Hilary Talbot
hilary.talbot@ntlworld.com

Members

Graham Innes
yareval@yahoo.com

Roger Last
rl19@btinternet.com

Nick Sandford
nogsandford@gmail.com

NGT Magazine Volunteers
Editors Clive Lloyd and Sue Roe
clivelloyd2@icloud.com

Designer Karen Roseberry
karenroseberry@me.com





Norfolk Gardens Trust

norfolkgt.org.uk