Spring 2022
No.33

NGT Magazine



Norfolk Gardens Trust

norfolkgt.org.uk

Contents

Report from the Chair....1
Richard Slocombe. Loch Neaton: The People's Jewel....2
Francesca Murray. The Parochial Nurserymen....8
Vanessa Trevelyan. Gardens around the City Walls....14
Donald & Gina Morton. Bagthorpe Hall....20
Susan Grice. Dale Farm Garden....24
Jonathan Asher. The Captain's Daffodils....28
Sally Bate. A Holkham Surprise....32
Peter Woodrow. Book Review....34
The Queens Jubilee. Design a Posy....35
Karen Moore. Events for your Diary....36
Membership Matters....41

Cover: Hunworth Hall Gardens - see events page 40
Back Cover: Elmham House - see events page 36

Report from the Chair - Spring 2022

At the end of last year Peter de Bunsen retired from our committee. He has served for a long time –indeed, neither he nor anyone else on the committee could recall the length of his service. During that time he was chairman of the Trust. Anyone who has visited his and his wife's delightful garden at Kirby Bedon will know what supremely talented gardeners they are. We will greatly miss Peter's contributions to our endeavours and sincerely thank him for all these.

By the time this Magazine lands on your door mats spring will be with us. We will be seeing whether the bulbs we purchased in the winter are to our liking. If, like me, you get a bit carried away when browsing bulb catalogues, hopefully your display is not too crowded.

In recent times we have been joined on the committee by Keri William and Hilary Talbot. Keri is now responsible for all planning matters relating to parks and gardens in Norfolk. Each week the Gardens Trust in London circulate a list of planning applications nationally and Keri identifies those in Norfolk. Whilst most applications can be supported, objections to some proposed developments are occasionally necessary. In former times Keri was a Planning Inspector and his experience is invaluable. He is assisted in this work by Susan Grice and Sally Bate.

Hilary Talbot has extensive experience in journalism and has already been very useful in masterminding the publicity for our recent publication – Enticing Paths. Indeed I believe Hilary may have been responsible for a comment by Rowman Martell, EDP feature writer and Norfolk Magazine Assistant Editor: "I have the book in front of me now. It is absolutely beautiful and so interesting. It is like being led through the gardens by astonishingly well-informed friends".

Covid has of course been a great disrupter but despite its challenges we have, thanks to our industrious and talented Events Organiser Karen Moore, arranged a number of garden visits throughout the year. In addition there is a coach trip to Burghley House and a three-day trip to gardens in the Cotswolds and en route, the latter outing now being fully subscribed.

Finally, I can report that we now have over 800 members, much the largest number of all the county gardens trusts in the country. Hopefully it shows we are getting some things right. In particular the pleasure gained from reading this Magazine is part of our success and, I believe, is in no small measure to the contributors and our editors Clive Lloyd and Sue Roe, ably supported by the designer, Karen Roseberry. I hope you enjoy what follows.



Matthew Martin

The People's Jewel: Watton's Loch Neaton

by Richard Slocombe, member of NGT Research Group



1950s postcard with 2 views of Loch Neaton. Author's collection

Loch Neaton is a remarkable site on the outskirts of Watton. The only Edwardian pleasure resort in inland Norfolk, it was once the 'envy of the county'. Today, the Loch is easily missed, situated on Dereham Road, flanked by Watton Leisure Centre and housing. Its green entrance gates blend into the vegetation and it is not at first obvious that what lies beyond is publicly accessible.

Nevertheless, Loch Neaton is important to a town with few green spaces of historical pedigree. This was partly due to the fire of 1674 that destroyed a significant area of Watton. One survivor was the George Hotel situated on the high street opposite the town's iconic clock tower. The George was a staging post between Norwich and London, boasting stables, an orchard, pasture and – in the aftermath of the fire – a bowling green. Visiting Watton in 1681, the topographer Thomas Baskerville considered the green a highlight in an otherwise unremarkable town. Amazingly, the site of the green is extant although The George was demolished in the 1960s to make way for a now defunct branch of Lloyds Bank.

Elsewhere there is Church Walk, a half-mile 'footway' between Dereham Road and St Mary's parish church.

Garden History



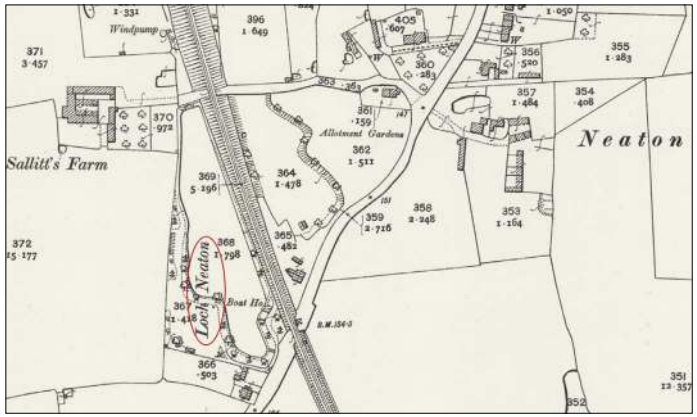
Church Walk, Watton, January 2022 (by author)

Established in 1801, the path provided a peaceful route to Sunday services but in 1868 it was bisected by a railway track laid by the Watton and Swaffham Railway Company (WSRC), which endured until the Beeching cuts of 1963. However, Church Walk remains and maintains its imposing wrought-iron gates (commemorating the coronation of Edward VII in 1902) and pollarded limes secured by public subscription the following year.

At the opposite side of Watton, on Thetford Road, is the site of the former Victoria Cottage Hospital, opened in 1899. Once, its flower beds and specimen trees greeted new patients until the hospital closed in 1950. In 1967, the hospital was converted into flats while chalet-style bungalows were built in the grounds.

The dearth of public green spaces in Watton was the key driver for Loch Neaton's foundation; the story of its civic-minded conception is now integral to the town's self-image. Construction began in 1869 with the excavation of two pits on low-lying land beside the hamlet of Neaton, supplying earth for a mile long embankment for the WSRC's Thetford (Swaffham Branch) line – the same line that had cruelly cut Church Walk. These 'Ballast Holes', situated east and west of the new line rendered arable fields useless and ignored by the local community.

Then, in the harsh winter of 1891, the flooded eastern pit froze over and came to the attention of Watton skating enthusiasts who lamented the distance of their new rink from town. 'Teddy' Toombs, a barber, noted that if the western pit could be flooded it would make an ideal alternative. Toombs further envisioned the site as a pleasure resort for skating in the winter, with swimming, boating and angling in the warmer months. He found patrons in George Durrant (grocer and draper) and



Loch Neaton, 25 inch OS map, 1892-1914.

Samuel Short (baker) who purchased the land and, having formed a management committee, sealed the pit with puddled clay. The surrounding area was then landscaped, a bowling green laid, perimeter paths marked-out and trees planted. Attempts to channel water from the eastern pit failed and so a wind pump was installed to draw water from a spring, successfully maintaining water levels for decades.

When completed in 1906, Short and Durrant offered to transfer Loch Neaton to Watton for £200. The committee initially requested a 99-year lease, but Durrant insisted that the venue should be embedded in the local community. Since the offer would expire on a Monday, the committee's secretary – clockmaker Tom Adcock – cycled over the weekend through blizzard conditions to find funds, which he did, making a surplus of £50.

Why was an artificial lake in south Norfolk named a 'loch'? Local tradition suggests it was in honour of the Scottish navvies who excavated the two ballast holes. Today, one is struck by the preponderance of Scots pines and larches planted along the banks and it is not impossible to imagine that an 'exotic' Highland landscape amid the Norfolk flatlands would have enhanced the site's appeal. Certainly, Loch Neaton's steep banks lent themselves to the 'naturalistic' planting of the late-Victorian era; recollections of pathways lined with wildflowers (including the rare mauve wood anemone) concur with the philosophy of horticulturalists like William Robinson who championed the 'woodland garden' planted with regional flora.

Loch Neaton also encapsulated the ethos of late Victorian public parks in providing a haven of fresh air and nature. The activities on offer were certainly wholesome: rowing boats could be hired from a boathouse at the Loch's entrance; a bowls club was formed in 1900; a swimming club in 1903; and alcohol sales were prohibited to avoid debauchery synonymous with the 'pleasure gardens' of the late C18-early C19. On Sundays the site was opened for promenading only.

Garden History



Loch Neaton c. 1910 – boating lake with wind pump in background.

Other features included a lily pond, an artificial 'beach' and a bandstand providing music for weekend tea dances. On summer evenings, trees were decked with lanterns and firework displays completed proceedings. Unsurprisingly, Loch Neaton proved a popular draw for many outside Watton. In 1911 the committee reported that visitors had arrived from outlying towns and villages including Thetford, Brandon, Shipdham, Attleborough, Hingham and Swaffham – the latter comprised of a large party conveyed by traction engine.

Loch Neaton was integral to Watton Hospital's Carnival Week. Begun in 1927 to raise funds for the Victoria Cottage Hospital, the Loch hosted the crowning of the Carnival Queen and staged tennis, bowls and swimming competitions. This period marked a change in emphasis at the Loch, towards sport and recreation, including the Whit Monday marathon. However, the



Loch Neaton, January 2022 (by author)



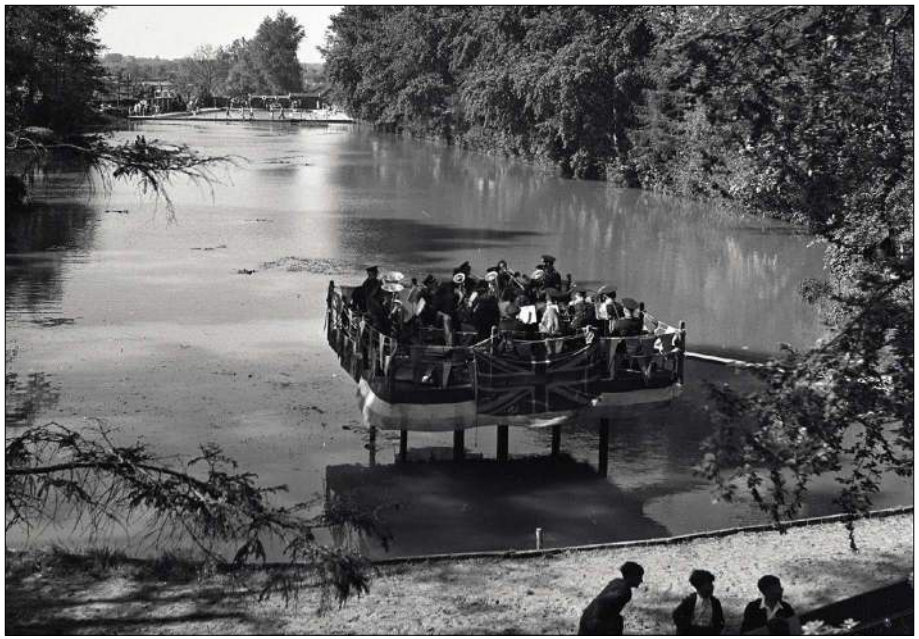
Bowling green and bandstand, c.1920. Credit: Museum for Watton.

transition was stalled in 1938 when its waters were deemed unfit and bathing and swimming were prohibited. Swimming resumed after the Second World War when, with assistance from USAAF engineers from Watton airfield, a concrete-lined pool was installed at the Loch's north end.

Inaugurated on May Day 1948, the event was captured by a local photographer, Ruth Dvornik whose images show a brass band performing on a bandstand set in the Loch's shallow south end. Revitalisation had, however, left the Loch Neaton Recreation Ground Committee in debt, requiring £500 to put the pool 'in Ministry of Health condition'. After several appeals during the 1950s, Loch Neaton was conveyed to Watton Parish Council in 1962. By the 1980s spiralling costs made further improvements untenable, while in the same decade the Loch's bowling club moved to the Watton Leisure Centre. Proposals to repurpose the swimming pool proved fruitless and it was grassed over, becoming the picnic area it is today.

In 2014, local Conservative MP George Freeman described Watton as 'a town on the edge' – a common perception of a town that has endured economic and social hardship in recent decades. However, Loch Neaton offers a different narrative of Watton, one of community endeavour and civic pride. For this alone the location is worth preserving. Moreover, the same spirit that created and sustained the Loch for over a century continues; in 2017 a local charitable management committee took over and has begun a project of regeneration and we hope the Loch remains a source of communal pride for future generations.

Garden History







Three views by Ruth Dvornik of 1948 re-opening. Credit: Museum for Watton



New boardwalk constructed by the Loch Neaton Management Committee, January 2022 (by author).

The Parochial Nurserymen - Youell and Sons

by Francesca Murray



Fig1 Gladiolus x Brenchleyensis

At their peak in the nineteenth century the Youell family ran the largest nursery and market garden in Great Yarmouth, pioneering mail order and developing innovative styles of advertising in the gardening press. They were involved in key moments of nineteenth-century plant introduction, including the Chilean *Araucaria imbricata*, Russian rhubarb, new fruit varieties, and masses of Victorian bedding. And they championed *Gladiolus x Brenchleyensis* whose use by Gertrude Jekyll would later make it famous.

From the early 1800s Yarmouth was a holiday destination; the customer base was eclectic and seasonal, but the counties of Norfolk and Suffolk offered a thriving community of amateur florists and landowning estates. The Youell family were embedded in Yarmouth society through the local bank Lacons, Youell and Kemp, established in 1791. The corn merchant William Youell (1745-1821) appears to be the first of the Youell nurserymen and we know his early gardening exploits from his diaries.

Market gardening had become established in the northern area of the town where John Youell, the second son, moved. In May 1809 the *Norfolk Chronicle* noted, *'J Youell's Nursery and Seedsman'* were selling auriculas at the North Gates of Yarmouth. In 1813 *'John Youell seedsman'* was noted to grow gooseberries of *'an extraordinary size ... measuring three inches and a half in circumference and two inches and a quarter in length'*. Loudon



Fig 2 Lacon Youell & Co. Credit: Great Yarmouth Local History and Archaeological Society.

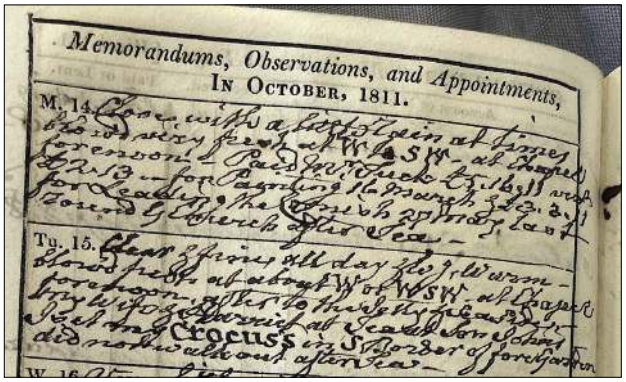
reported in 1828 that John was trading florists' flowers from Chile and the seeds of *'Tetragonia expansa'* were sown in open ground at Yarmouth. William and Frederick joined the business and opened a seed and florist shop in the town at 1 Marketplace.

In 1835 the inaugural flower show of the Yarmouth Horticultural Society was held at the Angel Inn. William took subscriptions at the shop and *'contributed very liberally towards the show, sending in a superb collection of pelargoniums, and variety of other plants.'* Youells carried off the principal prizes.

By the 1850s, Youells were placing over 30 adverts annually in the Gardeners' Chronicle, offering mail order via the new rail and existing maritime networks.

The firm also supplied the local press with colourful editorial about their activities at the Norwich florists' shows. As market gardeners in the early 1830s the Youells became famous for their introduction of the Russian 'Tobolsk' rhubarb and made full use of the Queen's appreciation of its flavour. In 1839 the partnership between the three brothers was dissolved by mutual consent and Henry, aged 20, went to Woolwich with his family to establish a new business. That July, the Yarmouth branch of the firm gained Royal Warrants of Appointment to HRH Prince Albert and to the Queen Dowager Adelaide.

In 1841 the Youell nursery was visited by James Grigor, a nurseryman and botanist from Old Lakenham in Norwich, who


Memorandums, Observations, and Appointments,
In October, 1811.

M. 14. Gave with a sprig of Cocus at times
Tu. 15. Gave a sprig all day the first warm
Crocuss in S. Border of Forefarden

Fig 3. Diary of Wm Youell the elder. Credit: Norfolk Record Office.

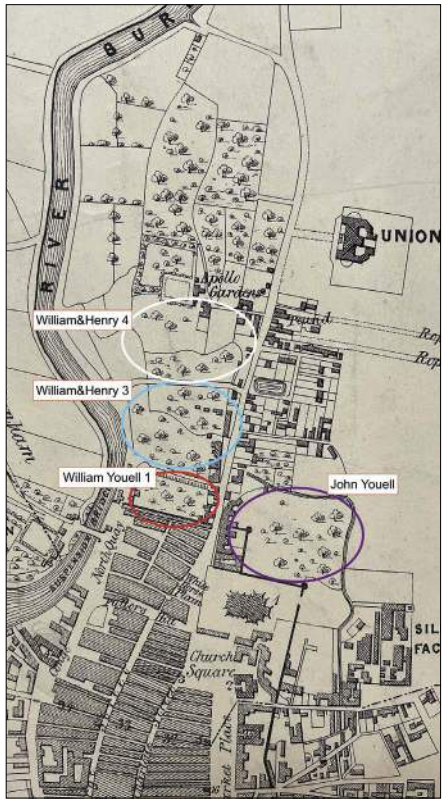


Fig 4. Four Youell's sites, circled on Manning's 1842 map of Gt Yarmouth. NRO. Credit: Norfolk Record Office

reported *'the very extensive stock valuable and healthy plants of that beautiful tree Araucaria imbricata ... The young plants of tree here occupy three houses and several borders in the open ground.'* Youells were importing seeds directly from their contacts in Chile and supplying them to the aristocracy and the royal gardens at Windsor. Their sales pitch declared: *'our plants are growing within 500 yards of the wash of the sea in this the most easterly point of England, and consequently fully exposed to the gales of the North Sea and German Ocean, which they stand with impunity'.*

The Youells cultivated thousands of wholesale bedding plants and sourced varieties from local amateur growers, buying stock of a plant, hybridising it and then selling it on with their own titles. This was not unusual – they just did it with full publicity and without the usual secrecy. The term *'kindly presented to Mr Youell and Co'* became a regular strapline to their advertising. Amongst their offerings were: *Picotee* 'Lady Alice Peel' and 'Burroughs Duke of Newcastle' raised by the Reverend Jeremiah Burroughs of Lynnwood Lodge, Norfolk; *'V. Laconii'* grown by Mr Edmonds, gardener to the banker John Lacon of Ormesby Hall; and *Gloxinia* 'Petoiana' named after Samuel Morton Peto of Somerleyton Hall, Suffolk – the man who built the Great Yarmouth to Norwich railway line.

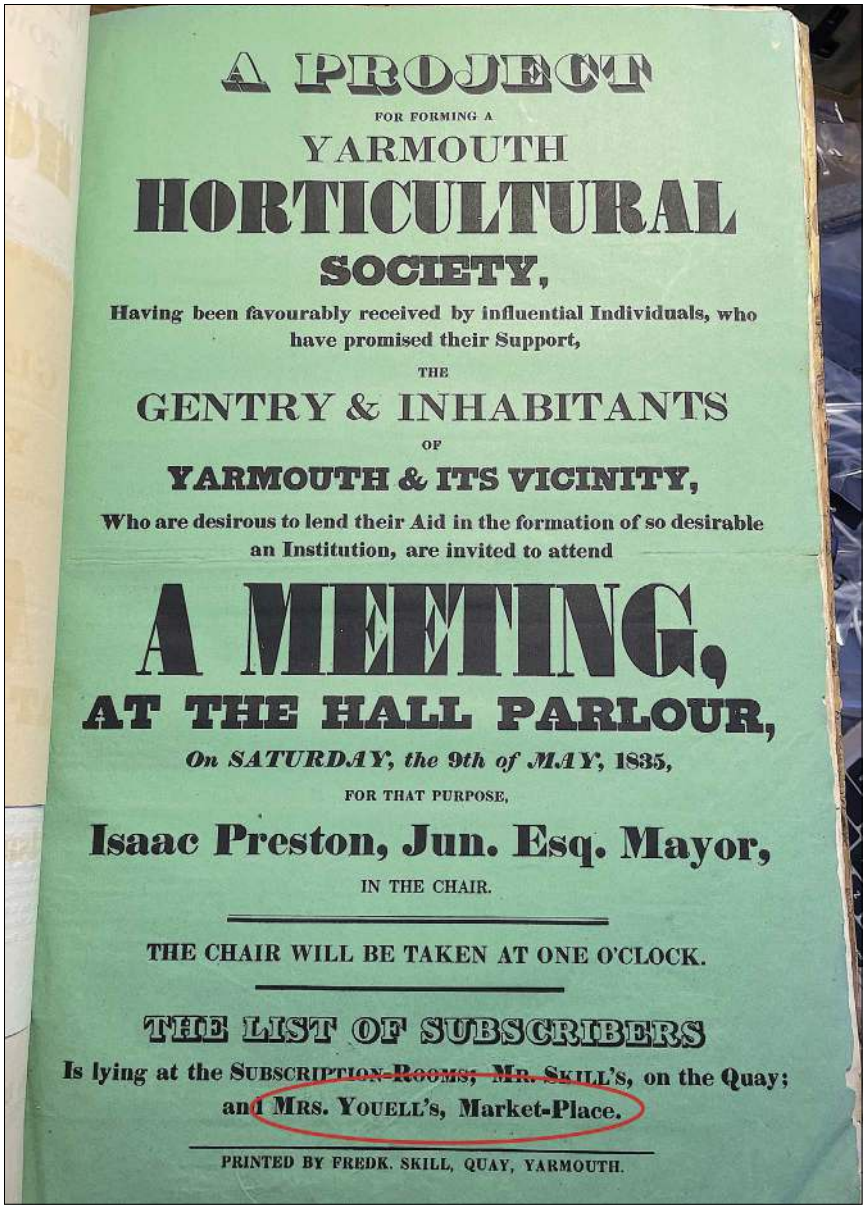
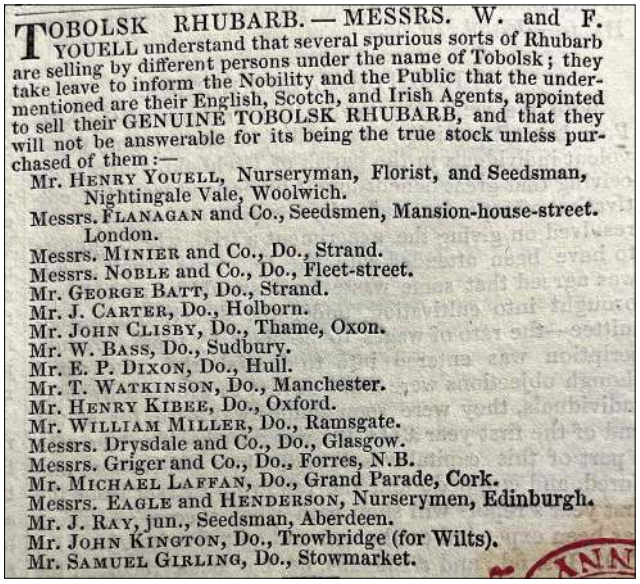

A PROJECT
FOR FORMING A
YARMOUTH
HORTICULTURAL
SOCIETY,
Having been favourably received by influential Individuals, who have promised their Support,
THE
GENTRY & INHABITANTS
OF
YARMOUTH & ITS VICINITY,
Who are desirous to lend their Aid in the formation of so desirable an Institution, are invited to attend
A MEETING,
AT THE HALL PARLOUR,
On SATURDAY, the 9th of MAY, 1835,
FOR THAT PURPOSE,
Isaac Preston, Jun. Esq. Mayor,
IN THE CHAIR.
THE CHAIR WILL BE TAKEN AT ONE O'CLOCK.
THE LIST OF SUBSCRIBERS
Is lying at the Subscription-Rooms; Mr. Skill's, on the Quay; and Mrs. Youell's, Market-Place.
PRINTED BY FREDK. SKILL, QUAY, YARMOUTH.

Fig 5. Advertisement

Garden History

The boom years of the 1850s saw the nursery selling a full range of market garden produce: vegetables and fruit including their famous Fastolff raspberry, sea kale, asparagus, their cucumber 'Norfolk Hero' at the huge 16-20 inches in length, and a full range of ornamental conifers, hardy shrubs and trees, climbers, greenhouse and stove plants, in addition to hardy bulbs, herbaceous and Victorian bedding. They had also acquired more land next to the Apollo Gardens. The census of 1861 lists that Henry Youell employed eleven men and five boys along with his son. For a coastal town nursery this was a large scale of production. Henry specialised in the colourful *Gladiolus* x Brenchleyensis later favoured by Gertrude Jekyll, and which their enthusiasm for publicity suggested was solely their introduction. George Bunyard later commented that Youells had purchased bulbs from him, and their *'sandy soil, soon enabled him to flood the country with it'*. Their innovative displays certainly won awards and recognition at the Crystal Palace and the Royal Horticultural Society flower shows during the 1860s.



TOBOLSK RHUBARB.—MESSRS. W. and F. YOUELL understand that several spurious sorts of Rhubarb are selling by different persons under the name of Tobolsk; they take leave to inform the Nobility and the Public that the undermentioned are their English, Scotch, and Irish Agents, appointed to sell their GENUINE TOBOLSK RHUBARB, and that they will not be answerable for its being the true stock unless purchased of them:—

Mr. HENRY YOUELL, Nurseryman, Florist, and Seedsman, Nightingale Vale, Woolwich.
Messrs. FLANAGAN and Co., Seedsmen, Mansion-house-street. London.
Messrs. MINIER and Co., Do., Strand.
Messrs. NOBLE and Co., Do., Fleet-street.
Mr. GEORGE BATT, Do., Strand.
Mr. J. CARTER, Do., Holborn.
Mr. JOHN CLISBY, Do., Thame, Oxon.
Mr. W. BASS, Do., Sudbury.
Mr. E. P. DIXON, Do., Hull.
Mr. T. WATKINSON, Do., Manchester.
Mr. HENRY KIBEE, Do., Oxford.
Mr. WILLIAM MILLER, Do., Ramsgate.
Messrs. Drysdale and Co., Do., Glasgow.
Messrs. Griger and Co., Do., Forres, N.B.
Mr. MICHAEL LAFFAN, Do., Grand Parade, Cork.
Messrs. EAGLE and HENDERSON, Nurserymen, Edinburgh.
Mr. J. RAY, jun., Seedsman, Aberdeen.
Mr. JOHN KINGTON, Do., Trowbridge (for Wilts).
Mr. SAMUEL GIRLING, Do., Stowmarket.

Fig 6. Youell's Tobolsk rhubarb. The Gardener's Gazette #162, 1840. British Library

The late 1860s also saw the rapid decline of the Youell's business. In January, two former employees broke in and stole cash from the nursery. Another theft – by 'a malicious servant' William Griffin, who had been sacked for being drunk – caused considerable damage at the lower nursery. He returned to pick off hundreds of labels and in his rage pulled up plants. Unfortunately, Griffin wore an adapted leather boot and had a limping gait; the local police inspector (Inspector Berry, of course), protected the guilty footprints with a bell jar.

In 1863, John Youell died in his 90s with only £100 to his name; Henry died a year later, aged 47, five weeks after his wife. Then Fred died in 1867, leaving William to fight for survival against new local competitors. Alone, and without available heirs (they had emigrated to America), William sold the business that had left him in reduced circumstances. In 1881 at the age of 70 he successfully petitioned for a Gardeners' Royal Benevolent Institution pension. In 1883, a small obituary appeared in the *Gardeners Chronicle* announcing his death, written by a youngster who knew nothing of the scale of Youells' success over the last hundred years. It mentioned that William's speciality was gladioli but this was not the upbeat celebration enjoyed by other nurserymen, for *'late in life misfortunes came upon him; he lost his business'*.



Important Unreserved Sale of Plants at the Royal Nurseries, Great Yarmouth.

MR. J. C. STEVENS begs to announce that he has been favoured with instructions from Messrs. Youell & Co, (in consequence of the Death of one of the members of the Firm, and Dissolution of Partnership), to SELL by AUCTION, on the Premises, the Royal Nurseries, Great Yarmouth, during the month of February, the whole of the valuable NURSERY STOCK, consisting of Hardy Conifers, Roses, Shrubs, Fruit Trees, Herbaceous Plants, Greenhouse and Hothouse Plants, 50,000 choice Gladioli, &c., together with the Greenhouses, Pits, Frames, Propagating Houses, Garden Implements, Carts, &c., and LEASE and GOODWILL of this desirable Nursery. More detailed particulars in future advertisements.

CATALOGUES will be ready shortly, and will be forwarded to any address on receipt of 12 postage stamps.

Auction Rooms and Offices, 38, King Street, Covent Garden, W.C.

Fig 7. Sale of Youell's stock 1868. Gardener's Chronicle & Agricultural Gazette. British Library.

© 2022 Francesca Murray is a second year PhD student at QMUL researching horticultural mutual aid associations and the forgotten pensioner gardeners of the Gardeners' Royal Benevolent Institution. She is a co-author of 'The Eighth Wonder of the World, Exbury Gardens and The Rothschilds'.



Fig 8. Wm Youell the younger's house on Church Plain 1881.

Gardens around the City Walls

by Vanessa Trevelyan, Museum Consultant & Adviser.

Norwich city walls were built between 1294 and 1320 and formed the longest circuit of urban defences in Britain, eclipsing even those of London. The walls provided an encircling arm around the city, although, on the east, the river was assumed to provide sufficient protection. As with so many major building projects, money was tight and a local entrepreneur, Richard Spynk, eventually stepped in to finish the walls and arm them against attackers. The defences were rarely put to the test and, by the end of the 18th century, the walls had fallen into disrepair and the gates demolished to improve traffic flow.

The idea of a walled city suggests cramped buildings huddled inside defensive walls, but this was not true of Norwich. Throughout the medieval period much land inside the walls seems to have been open without buildings. In 1406 the citizens of Norwich *"claimed four acres and an (sic) half of ground which belonged to Chapel in the Field ... lying in Chapel-field Croft, within the city ditch, on which it abutted south..."* This open area was much larger than the modern area of Chapelfield Gardens and extended south almost to St Stephen's.

Daniel Defoe described a charmingly pastoral city during his tour of Britain, 1724-26. *"The walls of this city are reckoned three miles in circumference, taking in more ground than the city of London; but much of the ground lying open in pasture-fields and gardens; nor does it seem to be, like some ancient places, a decayed declining town...; but the walls seem to be placed, as if they expected that the city would in time increase sufficiently to fill them with buildings."*

When the inner ring road was planned, following a survey by the City Council in 1945, it was proposed that the road should follow the lines of the walls. Assurances were given that the many sections of wall that would be exposed by this development would be set in roadside gardens; no part of the wall should be hidden or demolished if it could be avoided. This article looks at



Chapelfield roadside

Garden History



Barn Road



Bakers Road



Chapel Field by Frederick George Kitton 1880



Chapelfield Gardens

the extent to which this aspiration has been achieved.

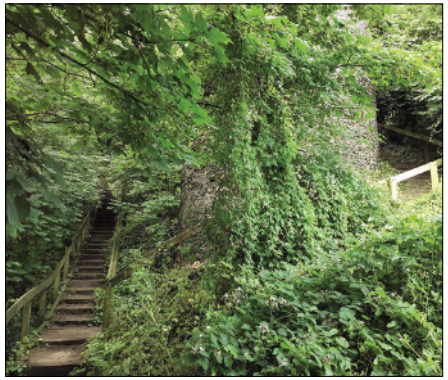
A long section of medieval city wall marks the Chapelfield boundary along the inner ring road, but this is obscured by buildings on the park side. Chapelfield Gardens are the earliest surviving ornamental public open space in Norwich. The land was owned by St Mary-in-the-Fields until the Dissolution in 1545. It was sold to the city in 1569 and was initially used as archery butts and grazing land. By 1655 the space was granted for the *"rights of citizens... to walk for their recreation at all times"*.

In 1707 the grounds were railed in and, in the mid-18th century, Sir Thomas Churchman planted avenues of elms, creating three walks around the perimeter of the area. In the late 18th century there was a change of use when a water company built a large reservoir over much of the park. In Georgian Norwich, parish boundaries were taken very seriously. Beating the bounds took place every seven years or so to ensure that no encroachments had occurred, and each boundary had to be physically walked whatever had been built on top. The parish boundary of St Giles passed through the middle of what was now the reservoir and, in 1814, it was recorded that a volunteer was paid the not inconsiderable sum of half-a-crown to swim across to complete the beating of the bounds. In 1852 the water company gave up their lease on condition that the area was laid out as a public garden,

Garden History

which was officially opened in 1880.

The craze for pleasure gardens started in London in the late 1600s, the most famous being Vauxhall, Ranelagh and Marylebone. Anyone who could afford the modest entrance fee would be entertained by music, dancing, acrobats, fireworks, food and drink. There would often be exotic animals on display, exhibitions of a scientific nature or balloon ascents. The gardens were very ornate, with walkways weaving through the trees, decorative lighting, elaborate archways and grandiose pavilions.



Carrow Hill site of pleasure grounds

Norwich, with its traditional love of gardens, was not going to be left out. From the late 17th century until the mid-19th century Norwich was home to a succession of such gardens and was considered to be the equal of any city in England outside of London. In 1748 the City granted a one hundred-year lease on part of Butter Hills to be made into a pleasure gardens known as The Wilderness. This opened around 1750 just inside the city wall by the junction of Bracondale and Carrow Hill and became



Carrow Hill Black Tower



Chantry Place access road

very popular. In 1768 public breakfasts were held in the gardens, in the evenings the walls were illuminated and there were walks through the gardens and views from the city wall towers. The proximity of the walls would have added a fashionable aesthetic element to the entertainments. The Picturesque, an appreciation of the roughness and variety in nature and buildings, especially ruins, which flourished in the late 18th and early 19th centuries, provided the inspiration for artists and enthused those of artistic sensibilities.

The decade from 1780 was the golden age of the "aerostatic globe" as balloons were called, and the people of Norwich were enthusiastic about them. There were many demonstration flights, both manned and unmanned, from the various gardens. In 1785 a Balloon Display took place in Quantrell's Gardens when it was noted that Parson Woodforde stood on Bracondale to watch the ascent. Sadly, the "gardens" surrounding the city walls alongside Carrow Hill are now overgrown, although well worth a visit to see one of the best stretches of remaining wall. Some of the green spaces alongside the walls have significant historic associations. Bakers Road, off Oak Street, provides an unexpected haven of calm. You can view both sides of the medieval wall here and it is well worth exploring. This is part of an area called Gildencroft, also known as the Jousting Acre. Here, Norwich's knights and men-at-arms once practiced martial skills such as archery and tilting at quintains with lances on horseback. Edward III, Queen Phillippa and their young son, Edward the Black Prince, are known to have attended a jousting tournament in Norwich on St Valentines Day, 1340. This is commemorated on the brick sculpture at the St Augustine's/ Gildencroft junction.

The section of the Riverside Walk passing the Cow Tower and the Great Hospital Meadows is particularly attractive with some planting introduced by local residents. This looks very peaceful now but in July and August 1549 this area was at the epicentre of Kett's Rebellion, when Norwich was besieged by Robert Kett and his followers demanding justice for the removal of common grazing rights that had led to widespread poverty. Kett and his followers camped on Mousehold Heath,

Garden History



Residents' planting, river bank opposite Cow Tower

with what is now Kett's Heights acting as headquarters. The ineffectiveness of the river as part of the city defences was demonstrated on 22nd July when thousands of rebels charged down from Mousehold and began swimming the Wensum between the Cow Tower and Bishop Gate in order to capture the city. The route across Bishop Bridge and up Bishopgate proved too narrow for so many people so the walls of the Great Hospital meadow were pulled down to allow better access.

Elsewhere in Norwich, some stretches of medieval wall have been enhanced by attractive roadside verges. At the junction of Westwick Street and Barn Road stood Helgate or Heigham Gate. Various origins of the name "Helgate" have been suggested: the land was low-lying and marshy, and probably not very healthy, the mills and dyers' yards would have polluted the river, and it may not have been a very safe place, particularly at night. Some attempt has been made here to place the walls in attractive surroundings.

The development of Intu Chapelfield, now Chantry Place, provided the opportunity to place an access road on the inner side of the walls, which is attractively planted and has become a useful pedestrian throughway slightly apart from the busy road.

You can find various trails on the Norwich Society's website which will take you round the walls and enable you to discover the various gardens and green spaces associated with them https://www.thenorwichsociety.org.uk/explore-norwich/trails

Note: All photos ©Vanessa Trevelyan except for engraving of Chapelfield Gardens

Bagthorpe Hall, Bagthorpe, Kings Lynn

by the owners, Donald and Gina Morton

Thorpe was the Viking name for settlement. Whether there is any connection to the famous Bagge family is not known, but they were certainly established in the area as one member was arrested for stealing in the 10th century. The Domesday Book lists Bagthorpe as having 10 households and even now there are only 13.



1. Aerial view of the Old Hall, postwar

It was when we did bed and breakfast that we discovered the history of Bagthorpe. This was in 2013 when Houghton Hall held their major exhibition of Sir Robert Walpole's paintings that had been bought in their entirety in 1779 by Catherine the Great and were then back on loan. People came from all over the world to stay, but one in particular was Christophe Orlebar, who was the son and heir who should have inherited Bagthorpe. His wife booked the stay as a surprise for him and it is how we discovered the true details of what originally happened to the main house.



2. Renovating the coach house



3. One side of the courtyard

Surrounded by the Whig estates of Houghton and Raynham, Bagthorpe was always a small estate. The 1834 tithe map shows the estate had large fields and relatively little woodland, but this was about to change, as a member of the Chad family (Pinckney) bought the estate and launched into a phase of building and tree planting that was continued by the Cattrel and Dugmore families. During this period the old house, The Mount, was rebuilt along with the church and various cottages.

Harry Dugmore was the last squire of Bagthorpe, who died just after the Second World War. He was one of seven siblings and not one of them had any children, so he left his estate to his godson. After being occupied



4. Long view to the courtyard

by the RAF the Hall was returned to the godson and we see it in the aerial photograph. However, the godson decided to demolish the main house and build a smaller one over the cellars. But no sooner was it demolished than he eloped to the Isle of Wight with his secretary, who he had met whilst working at the War Ministry. His long suffering wife and son were left abandoned in Northampton. The son became a renowned Concorde pilot.

In 1966 the estate was sold to Donald's father and grandfather and the Hall site lay neglected for 20 years until we bought the site from the family. We would like to have built a house on the footprint of the old cellars; the planners would not agree but, with the support of our MP and County Councillor, we finally got permission to renovate the very derelict coach house – a task that involved raising the height of the first floor [Fig 2]. We moved in to celebrate the millennium and gradually began the process of restoring the garden. [Fig 3]

As well as coins minted at Kings Lynn the restoration revealed countless medieval coins from the Low Countries and France, indicating the importance of this area for trade. Covered in stones and bricks from the demolition of the old house, the garden took us many hours to clear before grassing it over. The vaulted cellars (now filled in) are still underground where the holly vista is now situated. Repairing the walls of the walled garden involved hand-making bricks to cap the wall. When mending the wall we discovered that a ten-metre section on the north side was a double wall with a cavity used for heating the wall, in what was presumably a peach



5. Long vista to the rose garden

house. The whitewashed walls mark where the greenhouses once stood.

Behind the north side of the wall there is also a magnificent icehouse, brick built and brick lined. Two big underground water tanks had been used to store rainwater for the greenhouses. Now there is a borehole down in the farmyard that helps supply the garden independently of any hosepipe ban.

Ideas have evolved over time and grand schemes have been tempered by the amount of work required. Verity Hanson-Smith designed the centre of the courtyard and the lime walk and vegetable sections in the walled garden. But now that we have more time, we are doing the garden ourselves (except for hedge trimming).

Rather than break the garden into rooms we created long garden vistas that were

Garden History



6. Giant catmint and long-flowering mutabilis



7. View from the courtyard

more sympathetic to the layout of the house. Long walkways seemed to work. The centre of the walled garden had a huge mound in it called Mount Ida, but we took it out and since have used the wonderful space for our daughter's wedding and various parties.

We also had an Austrian architect staying who stood in our main hallway and suggested a vista going right down to the wood at the end of the large wall. The line wasn't strictly accurate but the eye is deceived by the brick pillars we placed on the lawn. Because many of the old trees had died we planted a lot more in the park; we are also in the process of creating an arboretum in the south front, near where we have built a luxury tree house. The stipulation for the planting in the garden is that there are no self-seeding plants, or anything invasive that needs controlling. The vegetable area is being converted to shrubs, which should require less work, but we continue to keep the fruit.

The surrounding woods are carpeted in February with an abundance of snowdrops and winter aconites, which always seem to have been there and we open in February for the NGS every year.

A walk in the garden at Dale Farm

By Susan Grice



Looking over lake to south facade. Photos by author

Fifteen years ago, Graham and Sally Watts left careers in horticulture to take on a new challenge at Dale Farm, a 1.8-acre property on the western edge of East Dereham. Today it is an exuberantly-planted naturalistic garden full of discovery, delight and detail.

Despite modern housing and a main road close by, Dale Farm is a plant-lover's garden, defined by its natural features and a sense of seclusion. At its centre is a large spring-fed pond and waterside gardens, surrounded by sweeping lawn, meandering pathways and abundant borders, punctuated by arbours and monumental sculptures. A visitor arriving for the first time has no sense of the treasures beyond the front garden.

I was fortunate to have Graham as my guide one early summer morning. Commanding attention at the gate is a spectacular *Hydrangea macrophylla* 'Zorro', planted 14 years ago and now a mass of pink and lilac flowers, literally stopping visitors in their tracks. A skilled propagator, Sally takes up to 50 cuttings every year; they are a sell-out, the proceeds going to charity.

The front garden posed an early problem. An overgrown *Leylandii* hedge on the northern boundary had become a real nuisance to neighbouring homes

Garden History



Boardwalk across west end of lake

and was summarily removed. The stark aspect of a new close-board fence had to be addressed within a narrow border giving onto the drive. A line of fastigiate hornbeam and yew, the latter pruned to resemble a row of Grenadier Guards, under-planted with *Nepeta* 'Walkers Low' and *Hakonchloa macra* 'Aureola', has softened the effect and created year-round interest and screening.



Lush planting, east end of Lake

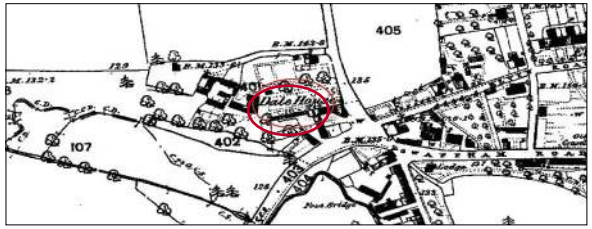
The other side of the drive, shaded from sunlight during the winter months and baked to a crust in the summer, was a challenge too. The answer lay in several *Stipa gigantea* rising airily above a mix of summer flowering perennials and rose cultivars.

Central to the front garden is a perfectly balanced *Acer platanoides* 'Drummondii', its dark green leaves tinged by creamy white edges. Ranged along the house wall, are benches of young plants awaiting sale to the summer visitors who visit to Dale Farm.



Boardwalk across west end of lake

Dale Farm lies at the lowest point of Dereham where the water table is close to the surface. Faden's map of Norfolk (1789) shows that a pond, possibly an old gravel pit, has been there since the mid-8th century. Re-excavated and extended by the previous owners, it is over six feet at its deepest point. A rowing boat moored at one of two jetties has a practical purpose, allowing Graham to keep the rampant bog bean and waterlilies under control.



OS map 1880s showing Dale Farm

A path, which encompasses the entire lake, takes a curving route across the contour of the garden through generously planted borders to the water garden at the western end of the lake. Here it merges seamlessly into the water meadows beyond where muntjac roam but denied entrance by a wire fence disguised by planting.

At the pond side, Calla lilies (*Zantedeschia aethiopica*) stand proud among the large-leafed, textures of *Gunnera manicata, Rogersia* and Umbrella Plant (*Darmera peltata*). Beyond the pond, a belt of trees makes a stunning backdrop, enclosing the garden and its hidden water feature. Seven years ago, 14 ash trees stricken by die-back were felled enabling new planting south of the lake. This also revealed a borrowed landscape including two majestic *Wellingtonia*.

Graham and Sally say the garden has had no overarching design. Natural evolution and senescence have played



Approach to House



Borders north side of lake

their part in the garden's development: a weeping willow by the lake's edge has been replaced by a delicate birch. Generous planting is punctuated by features calculated to surprise and please: a sudden burst of colour, a happy combination of growing habits, a piece of sculptural iron work, a bench placed to capture the view. Statement plants – *Stipa gigantea* and *Phormium tenax variegata* – are strategically placed and repeated, lending a sense of continuity within what Graham describes as 'orchestrated chaos'.

Bordering the pond are, perennial 'thugs' such as *Lysmachia punctata* and *Sanguisorba officinalis* with the annual *Persicaria orientalis* ('Kiss Me Over the Garden Gate'), painting ribbons of colour that jostle for space. Flowering 'giants' add architectural interest: the tall branching purplish stems and huge basal leaves of *Inula magnifica*, *Filipendula* and *Inula racemosa*, are topped with showy daisy-like flower clusters which soar up to 2.5m.

Greens dominate but the eye is drawn to pockets of colour. In such rich and varied planting it scarcely matters what the colours are. Sometimes, Graham says modestly, he 'blunders into accuracy', as with a *Vitis vinifera* 'Spetchley Red' which towers over a bench on the south bank of the pond. His philosophy is to 'Have a go', whatever the books say, taking a cue from Charles Unwin, son of the founder of Unwin's Seeds, who once said to him: 'Trouble is, plants don't read text books'.

Among the 1000-plus plant varieties in this remarkable garden is a collection of 140 species and varieties of hydrangea which thrive in this moist woodland environment. The 'Zorro' at the gate was a hint of what was to come. *Hydrangea heteromalla* 'Bretschneider' a native to south east Asia, is resplendent with its peeling bark; and in full bloom. *H. quercifolia* (Oakleaf Hydrangea) is combined to great effect with species roses.

This is a garden that, despite the march of development which reduced its footprint, has not merely survived but prospered under the expert horticultural and artistic eye of dedicated owners.

The 'Sandys-Winsch' daffodils in Heigham Park

By Jonathan Asher - Artist, and member of The Friends of Heigham Park

If my daughter Joanna hadn't pestered so hard for us to get a dog, then the existence of 'Sandys-Winsch' daffodils might never have been uncovered. Without Florrie, our Cairn Terrier, I would not have been taking regular walks around our local park in Norwich. During the first months I became increasingly frustrated at the lack of information so I joined *The Friends of Heigham Park* and volunteered to research it. My initial four pages of notes has snowballed into a comprehensive, fully illustrated book about Heigham Park to be published in early 2022, with profits going towards the betterment of the park.

One chapter will be about the esteemed Captain Sandys-Winsch, Norwich's first and long-serving Parks Superintendent who designed and created several of Norwich's main parks. The small and charming Grade II listed Heigham Park was the first, opening in 1924.

Upon learning that the captain had been a judge and a national authority on daffodils, a cursory check of the Royal



Fig 1. Narcissus 'Edward Buxton', known as the 'Sandys-Winsch daffodil'.

Garden History

Horticultural Society database revealed that he had personally cultivated and registered three new varieties of daffodil. It was like unearthing a long-lost secret. (Fig 1).

Within the Narcissus family, the varieties *'Edward Buxton'*, *'Auric'* and *'Simon'* (named poignantly after Sandys-Winsch's youngest son, killed whilst competing in the Isle of Man TT races in 1954) are all attributed to the captain. *'Edward Buxton'* is the oldest and it won awards; it appears to be the only one still available and then only in very limited numbers. Despite its relative scarcity, *The Friends of Heigham Park* managed to trace the few bulbs for sale that year and planted them in the park that autumn. It was delightful, and quite moving, to see those daffodils burst into flower in April 2018. (Fig 1)

Edward Gurney Buxton (1865-1929) of Catton Hall, and of the Gurney banking dynasty, was a former manager of Barclays Bank in Norwich. In April 1929, he visited the Norfolk Showground during a lunch break, to look at the new flowering bulbs. He was quite taken by this attractive daffodil but on returning to work he suffered a heart attack and died. Because he had shown such a strong liking to this daffodil, the captain decided to name it after him.

In 2019, I sought funding from Norwich City Council to boost the park's numbers of 'Sandys-Winsch' daffodils with a bulk order. Only one supplier would be selling them and so their entire crop of 150 bulbs was pre-ordered. The Eastern Daily Press ran a feature on this story and the journal of *The Daffodil Society* asked me to recount the tale in 2020.

The daffodils' pale lemon-yellow petals and short orange trumpets not only bring colour to the park each spring but also provide a fitting tribute to Captain Sandys-Winsch and his legacy to the people of Norwich. Norfolk's Hoveton Hall, home to the great-grandson of Edward Buxton, has good numbers within its many varieties of snowdrops and other daffodils. While Hoveton Hall has these daffodils to remember Edward Buxton, Heigham Park now has them to honour the great Captain Sandys-Winsch in the knowledge that he would

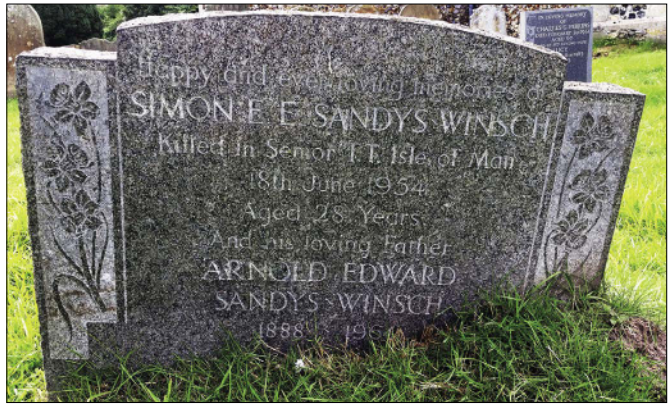


Fig 2. The shared grave of Captain Sandys-Winsch and his son Simon.



Fig 3. Former Heigham Park 'Boy', Fred Greengrass, planting'Sandys-Winsch' daffodil bulbs in 2019. With Roberta Manners and Jonathan Asher from Friends of Heigham Park.

have been developing this daffodil while creating his Norwich parks. It is hoped that 'Friends' groups of those other parks will follow Heigham Park's lead and consider planting 'Sandys-Winsch' daffodils.

The story doesn't quite end there. Another chapter of the Heigham Park book will hold the recollections of former park-keeper Fred Greengrass (who acknowledges his hugely appropriate surname with good humour). Fred began his park-keeping career, aged 15, as an apprentice (customarily known as 'The Boy') in Heigham Park in 1950, and worked there until 1954 – his first three years of apprenticeship overlapping with the last three years of Sandys-Winsch's tenure as Parks Superintendent. (Fig 3) Fred remembers the captain well: always military-like in attitude and barking orders at him such as "Boy, fetch that barrow!" Like most of us, Fred had not been aware of the captain's keen interest in daffodils, but I was thrilled when Fred readily accepted my request to plant the first of the new batch of the bulbs into the park in 2019. (Fig 4)

When I asked Fred what he thought Captain Sandys-Winsch would have made of his first and most prized daffodil being planted in the first of his Norwich

Garden History

parks he replied, "He'd have been honoured. Oh yes, really honoured!"

It was truly wonderful to witness Fred working in the park again; 'The Boy' performing one last task there to help us remember his old superintendent. Not many of us will return to our first place of work, and muck in once more, 70 years later. (Fig 5)



Fig 4. Part of the second batch of Narcissus 'Edward Buxton' blooming in Heigham Park, April 2020.



Fig 5. Watercolour of the S-W daffodils by Jonathan Asher.

A Holkham Surprise

Sally Bate (Deputy Chair, NGT)

Restoration work can throw up the unexpected as happened at Holkham Walled Garden this winter. Mark Morrell, Holkham's Head Gardener, got in touch with Norfolk Gardens Trust to see if we could help him work out what was going on in the bottom of the sunken glasshouse they are restoring. In a nutshell, it has left us scratching our heads too and we would like to ask if you have any ideas.

We visited on a bright sunny January day, when a team of bricklayers from Messenger Builders, Stamford, were busy repairing the Holkham yellow-brick exterior walls of what is known as the Melon House (Map. Figure 1).



Fig 1. 1-25-inch 1887 OS map showing Holkham walled garden and the sunken pit glasshouse ringed in red.

New timber sashes are being made to accompany the square weights that raise and lower each sash using the channels in the north wall (Figure 2). The garden staff had recently removed the 1950s metal staging, central dividing partition, and later flooring material, which uncovered this layout of earlier walls and floor surface (Figure 3). On closer inspection it was possible to work out the order of construction.

The earliest level is a red brick floor (possibly bricks from the earlier demolished walled garden?), with long divided sections to a path running along the south side, bordered by a retaining wall of Holkham yellow brick. Subsequently, the path was rerouted along the centre with new walls making the planting areas squarer and a long bed running along the south elevation. Late nineteenth century heating pipes have been punched through the north elevation and in the 1950s square concrete blocks were inserted to support the staging supports. Figure 4 shows how the layout has changed over time.

We have contacted Susan Campbell (Walled Kitchen Network) and Johanna Lausen-Higgins (Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh and writer on pineapple pits) and both think that melon growing was more likely (as there are no arched openings for manure application, in the walls) but they couldn't fully explain the layout found. We are interested to see what Mark decides to do, keep to his original plans and cover this all up to preserve it or change the future plans to reflect the new information?

These glasshouses have another mystery feature that none of us can explain or

Garden History



Fig 2. Simon showing the square sash weights in situ.



Fig 3. Mark Morrell surveying the layout uncovered in the bottom of the Melon Pit.

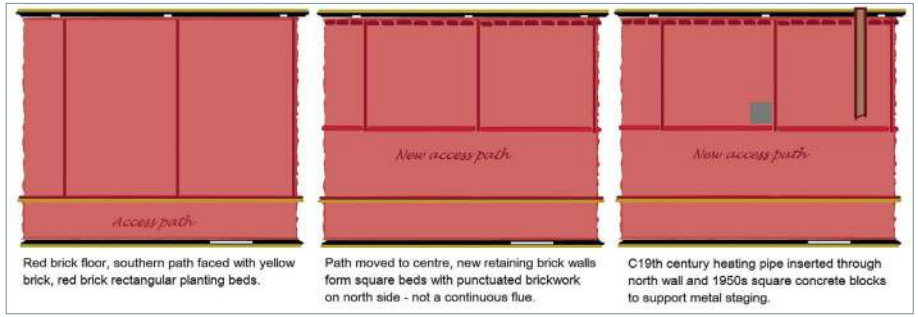


Fig 4. Diagram to show the chronology of the layouts after we inspected the brickwork close up.

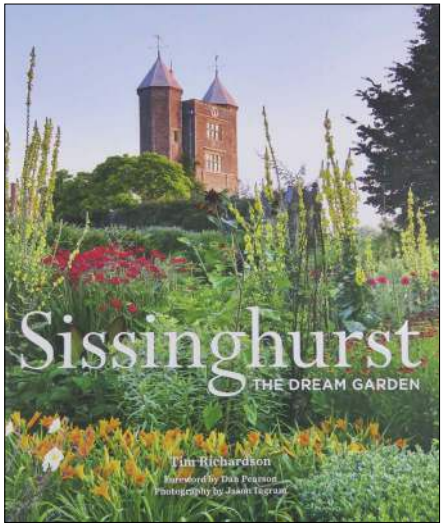
have seen elsewhere. Behind the door, at the top of the steps descending into the melon pit glasshouse, is this ovoid recess with a short hole at the back, carved into a block of stone, five feet above the floor (Figure 5). It is a good size for a hand hold or could it be a housing for something like an oil lamp? Please send Sally your suggestions to: sallybate@thegardenstrust.org



Fig 5. Mystery ovoid recess, behind the door at the top of the steps to the sunken pit.

Sissinghurst - The Dream Garden, by Tim Richardson

Photography by Jason Ingram. Pub: Frances Lincoln



Readers of this Magazine will remember the talks on Oxford College Gardens (2017) and Cambridge College Gardens (2021) based on two books written by Tim. Now he has written a new account of Sissinghurst, accompanied by quotes from Vita Sackville-West, her friends and lovers. After visiting Sissinghurst Castle in 1930 she informed husband Harold Nicolson that she had found the ideal home; while Harold was charmed he was also daunted by the problems he could foresee. And so they bought Sissinghurst, devoting their lives to creating a romantic dream garden that never fails to inspire.

Over the years, much has been written about Sissinghurst; nevertheless it is refreshing to read Tim Richardson's present-day account in which he hopes to tease out the garden's invisible meanings. Or, as Dan Pearson wrote in the foreword, of the *'need for the place to be unlocked from the rigour that had become bound up with the garden's identity since the death of the owners.'* Tim Richardson achieves this in his journey of twelve chapters.

For me, the final chapter, Delos, is the acme in which Troy Scot Smith and Dan Pearson describe how they reimagined 'A Mediterranean Garden' – a garden inspired by the Nicolsons' visit to the Aegean Islands in 1935. During their lifetimes, Vita and Harold knew what they wanted to create yet their attempts were a major disappointment. Now, Troy and Dan, with the great support of the National Trust, have recreated a natural landscape that mirrors conditions on the island of Delos. In the final paragraph Tim writes, *'The renewed Delos adds yet another flavour to Sissinghurst, a fragment of Vita and Harolds's imaginations through which they can still communicate with us to this day'.*

All interested in Garden History will want to have this book on their bookshelves; it is a beautiful book, stunningly illustrated, and one that complements the other ways of looking at Sissinghurst over the years.

Peter Woodrow

A posy fit for the Queen

The NGT is running a competition for Norfolk schools (years 1 - 6) to design a posy fit for the Queen with the chance to win £500 to spend on garden-related projects for their school.

There are two categories:

Competition 1
Draw or paint a bunch of flowers that they think Queen Elizabeth II would enjoy - to celebrate her 70 years on the throne.

Competition 2
Describe in no more than 400 words why the flowers were chosen.

Lady Dannatt, Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Norfolk, will judge the competion and present the prizes on 25 May 2022.

Please email Hilary Talbot for further details including an entry form.

hilary.talbot@ntlworld.com



Garden Visits - Karen Moore

Tuesday 17th May 2 - 5pm Elmham House, North Elmham, Dereham NR20 5JY

An old fashioned English garden laid out in the 1840s but sadly allowed to revert during the first half of the 20th century and now being slowly restored by Tom & Jo. Elmham House is set in parkland with a more formal garden near the house, a shrubbery of azaleas, rhododendrons and many specimen trees leading into a recently cleared woodland area with wild flowers. The 18th century walled garden has a collection of old English apples and other fruit. Within walking distance is a dovecote and game larder, both 1840 and the recently restored 18th century ice house. The game larder has recently been restored and converted into a chapel which is always open to visitors along the newly-opened Pilgrim Route – the Walsingham Way – which passes through the estate on its way from Norwich to Walsingham.

Teas

Open by kind invitation of Tom & Jo Fitzalan Howard





Thursday 9th June
Coach trip to Burghley House, Stamford, Lincolnshire and guided tour of the gardens by Head Gardener, Joe Whitehead.
Further information and booking available from April.



Burghley requires little introduction, being one of the largest and grandest surviving houses of the sixteenth century and a magnificent example of the great Elizabethan 'prodigy' houses. Conceived by William Cecil, Lord High Treasurer to Queen Elizabeth I, between 1555 and 1587, Burghley is a testament to the ambition and vision of the most powerful courtier of the first Elizabethan age.

The gardens and parkland that you see today at Burghley were largely designed by Lancelot 'Capability' Brown in the 18th century. Joe will take us on a guided garden tour taking in the sweeping vistas down to the spires of Stamford, the mesmerising oasis of flowing water in the Garden of Surprises and the tranquil walks next to the lake in the Sculpture Garden. After lunch there will be an introductory talk on the Cecil Family before we explore the house at leisure.

Saturday 18th June 2 - 5pm Bagthorpe Hall, Bagthorpe, Nr Bircham, King's Lynn, PE31 6QY



Donald (Tid) and Gina bought the site of the old Bagthorpe Hall from the family in the 1980s and rebuilt the new Hall on the footprints of the old cellars. Moving in with the new millennium they repaired the walled garden with hand-made bricks and began transforming the grounds. Read how they did this in their article published in this edition.

Teas

Open by kind invitation of Tid & Gina Morton

Thursday 23rd June 2 - 5pm Lexham Hall, East Lexham PE32 2QJ



Nine acres of formal and walled gardens; a terrace garden built out of rubble from the demolished west wing leads to a lawn with a laburnum arch and rose border planted by Richard Beales. Gravel paths meander round the tennis court and shrubs, perennial and herbaceous plants provide year-round interest. A swimming pool garden, east-facing borders with 'swagged' miniature box hedging and a double central border with a central wrought iron wisteria-clad dome and trellising provide height.

On the north side of the kitchen garden is a crinkle-crankle wall thought to be part of the layout of the original garden in the early to mid-18th century. There, a small orchard of dwarf rootstock apple trees has been planted and quince and espaliered plum, pear and fig adorn the walls. In the woodland garden, later flowering specimens – including acers, cornus and hydrangeas – have been planted to prolong the interest; brilliant autumn colour is provided by ornamental trees.

The 200-acre Park, enclosed in 1776 and believed to have been influenced by Capability Brown, is home to many different species of geese and ducks who use it as a temporary habitat during the year. The result of gales over the years has been the loss of a significant numbers of trees although many fine trees remain including some English oaks well in excess of 300 years old and a Tree of Heaven *(Ailanthus altissima)*. The Lake, which is on the course of the River Nar, was created between 1950 and 1960 when further bridges were built over the River Nar. Both the river and the Lake form a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). Some of the 19th-century woodland and the American Garden planted in the 1840s immediately to the south of the River Nar still exist.

Teas

Open by kind invitation of
Neil & Anthea Foster

The Lexham Hall Estate is further described in the Autumn magazine 2021 by the owner, Neil Foster.

Thursday 14th July Shropham Vicarage, Church Road, Shropham NR17 1EJ



Shropham vicarage, built around 1851, is Grade II listed and sits in grounds consisting of approximately 5 acres. The garden itself has several notable features ranging from the parish Church of St Peter and St Paul, a copper beech and holm oak – both thought to be the same age as the house – and a beech hedge containing some wonderful old characterful trees. Thousands of snowdrops carpet the garden in spring.

The main herbaceous border was originally designed by Notcutts in the late 80s and a small winter garden was designed by Richard Ayres.

In 2010 the garden development stepped up a gear under the care of David and Sally Napier and their new gardener, Guy Barker. Since then the garden has evolved steadily with many new additions of herbaceous borders, woodland planting schemes and masses of bulbs. Many rare and unusual trees have been planted over the years to form a good collection that includes oaks, cornus, magnolias, maples, pines and hydrangeas. Around 200 different types of rose are planted throughout the garden with most of them being incorporated into the mixed planting schemes. The wildflower meadow was created about eight years ago from an area of rough lawn in order to enjoy Breckland flowers and increase



biodiversity in the garden. Wasp spiders, numerous species of butterflies and moth, and many wildflowers can now be found in the meadow and rough grass areas.

An avenue of fastigiate tulip trees was planted in 2012, forming one of the newer features in the garden and linking the house to the surrounding grounds. The aim of the garden is to provide colour and interest for 365 days of the year.

Teas

Open by kind invitation of
David & Sally Napier

Sunday 11th September 2 - 5pm
Hunworth Hall Garden, Hunworth, Melton Constable, NR24 2EQ

Set in the picturesque Glaven valley, Hunworth Hall was built in the reign of William & Mary by the Britiffe family who laid out a modest formal garden. This is revealed in a 1726 plan now in the Norfolk Records Office. Through a dowry, the villages of Hunworth & Stody formed part of the Blickling estate for over 200 years. Since 1965, the house has been owned by the Crawley family. Henry and Charlotte moved into the Hall in 1983. Much of the garden then was a paddock for goats.



The modern garden dates from soon afterwards, and is a pastiche of the formal Anglo-Dutch style. Clipped juniper, yews and holly topiary, with many box balls, create important structure. The garden is divided into distinct areas by beech hedges. Two long canals run across the garden with a raised pavilion topped by a lantern at the upper end, and a dining room at the road end. The well-maintained kitchen garden in the southern part of the plot is laid out very much with aesthetics – as well as production – in mind. This is a frost hollow with poor soil, but the undulating setting is delightful.**Teas**

Open by kind permission of Henry and Charlotte Crawley

TALKS

Saturday 15th October 2pm

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

An illustrated talk by John Knowles

Saturday 19th November 2pm

'Six of the Best' "My six favourite gardens in Britain"

(Chatsworth, Powis Castle, Dorothy Clive Garden, Hodnet Hall, Hestercombe and Knighthayes)

An illustrated talk by Andrew Sankey

Both talks will be held at Bawdeswell Village Hall,Reepham Road NR20 4RU

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



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

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HELP!
We are seeking volunteers to help serve tea at our garden events. Any help supporting the NGT would be welcome!

Please contact Karen Moore at:
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Norfolk Gardens Trust

norfolkgt.org.uk