

Lancashire Gardens Trust

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 29 SPRING 2023

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NEWS

The summer show season is upon us and I for one hope to see some designed gardens which I can identify with. I enjoyed TV coverage of Chelsea where there were plants to admire but felt quite bored by the drabness of the now fashionable habitat designs.



Chelsea 2023: a S Korean forest

Tatton show comes in mid-July (19-23); there is a class for young designers to the theme

Wellbeing and Health, where one entry is a forest setting, and another is about resilience not of plants but of people. I shall be looking instead for the category Terrace Gardens: a place of function and form is the recommendation, combining practical ideas in beautiful outdoor spaces. Now that sounds like an enjoyable garden. Also new for Tatton is the Long Border category, an invitation to new designers to try their skills.

FUTURE EVENTS

JULY 11 Guided walk round Fairhaven Lake, Lytham St. Anne's, 11.00.

AUGUST 15 Yewbarrow garden, Grange-over-Sands, tour with the owner Jonathan Denby (see his website); 10.30.

SEPTEMBER 26 Norton Priory, Cheshire, to see the Quince collection: follows the AGM.

OCTOBER 19 Worden Park, Leyland; talk, lunch and guided walk in the Victorian garden.

NOVEMBER Social gathering; Samlesbury Memorial Hall

AUDREY DAWSON BEQUEST

This year we awarded a grant to Myerscough college for their visit to Bodnant Gardens on a one-day trip; 39 students from the landscape, photography, RHS and floristry courses were accompanied by the necessary proportion of staff.

Of great importance to us is the fact that most of these students had never been in an historic garden before. Did you ever visit one as a teenager?

The Gardens Trust has a mission to encourage new audiences to enjoy historic gardens. Teenagers studying on 'land-based' courses are a valuable section of the community with regard to appreciating Historic Designed

Landscapes; memories made now will stay with them throughout life. My first awakening to the wonder of gardens was at the Southport show, and my second was on a visit to Bodnant.

The course tutor Lara Hurley oversees Landscape Architecture BSc, and writes:

MYERSCOUGH COLLEGE'S TRIP TO BODNANT

I have fond memories of Audrey from when she was a student at Myerscough. I taught her Garden History, a subject that she had a great passion for. She went on to join the Lancashire Gardens Trust. It is to this group and Audrey Dawson's generous bursary that we owe a special debt of thanks for our trip to Bodnant this year, as well as last year's trips to Trentham, Chatsworth and Bodnant.



Audrey Dawson

This year, the students were very eager to go on trips. News had spread of last year's adventures, and we were able to take nearly 40 students to Bodnant. When asked which gardens they would most like to visit, Bodnant topped the list, with some students keen to make a return visit to see the bits they'd missed previously. The RHS Level 2 groups, our Horticulture, Landscape Architecture and Floristry degree students, and a large and enthusiastic group of photography students who took some amazing shots of the flowers and landscapes of the garden participated. The RHS group had recently studied the Arts and Crafts movement, so it was an excellent opportunity for them to apply their knowledge to identify the features of the style. The weather was

glorious. The laburnum arch was just about to come into full bloom, held back a little by the cooler spring weather.



The Head Gardener, Ned Lomax, has been in post for just over a year. Speaking to him last year, it had been a tough start due to storm damage bringing down some of the larger trees. On this visit, the damaged areas had already been replanted with tree ferns and other foliage plants. It would have been a dramatic addition to the garden if at least some of the fallen timber could have remained in-situ – perhaps carved into a bench or worked into the landscape as a feature. Last year's students really appreciated the immense scale of these trees when seen on the ground.



Contractors working on the fallen *Sequoia sempervirens*.

An area on the top terrace has had some controversial additions. The Landscape Architecture and Garden Design students were questioning the logic of these as they will eventually obscure the magnificent view to the mountains unless they are topiarised.



Controversial planting

Ed. What about damage from roots?



Image by Sophia Murphy, photography student

Some of our students have never visited gardens before. Seeing the positive effects of beauty and nature uplift them was a highlight of the trip for the staff. Ice cream and cakes at the teashops were a well-earned necessity! Thank you again for supporting Myerscough's students on their garden adventures.

Lara Hurley



RHS students enjoying the gardens

LGT MARCH VISIT TO MAYFIELD

Mayfield is Manchester's first new park in over 100 years and opened in September 2022. It covers 6.5 acres and is on a site previously occupied by a brewery and the former Mayfield rail goods depot. The brewery had several wells, some of which are still functional and are used to irrigate the park. Many parts of the goods depot have been retained and re-purposed as an entertainment venue. Where possible existing materials have been reused, to diminish the carbon footprint, and where new materials were required there was an emphasis on sourcing locally. Another previous occupant was a dye-works supplying Manchester's famous textile industry, but a source of much pollution.



The clearance of the site has allowed the river Medlock to see daylight again. The park is basically linear, with the river snaking through it. Bridges have been built to provide a variety of walking routes so the visitor is encouraged to look around and enjoy the surroundings rather than hurry through. Paths are firm and dry even near the river. Discrete areas have been landscaped differently; a lawn space to be used for events, a children's playpark with as its centrepiece a 60ft (18 m) long slide across the river; a quiet contemplation zone and a wildscape for biodiversity.



142 trees and 120,000 shrubs have been planted, including wildflower and wetland species, to increase biodiversity; measures have been put in place to encourage wildlife – kingfisher posts, bat bricks and bird boxes – all of which are bringing results.



For the recent much awaited football match between Manchester City and Istanbul, 4 large screens were placed around the park, accommodating over 20,000 spectators.

George Walker

APRIL VISIT TO GRAPPENHALL, CHESHIRE

The visit to Grappenhall Heys Walled Garden began as members gathered to eat lunch outside the refurbished Victorian Glasshouses in warm April sunshine. We were greeted by Head

Gardener and Manager, Mr Graham Richardson, who began our guided tour by explaining the history of the garden.

Grappenhall Heys was created by a wealthy Warrington banker, Thomas Parr around 1830, when he built a new house and estate for his family. The landscape that existed at the time was incorporated into the estate and many of the features remain today, including woodlands, ponds and avenues. The estate was at its height between 1875 and 1899 but gradually, the family used their other properties more frequently and the house fell into decline. The house was eventually demolished in 1975 but thankfully, the 4-acre walled garden was retained and refurbished by English Partnerships to provide a local amenity as part of their development of the area and new housing. Several organisations were also involved including the Grappenhall Heys Walled Garden Conservation Project charity, the Warrington Organic and Wildlife Gardening Society and the Woodland Trust.

In 2005, Grappenhall and Thelwall Parish Council took ownership of the garden and funding was secured from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF). This enabled the Friends of Grappenhall Heys Walled Garden to develop and maintain the beautiful garden we see today. During our visit we witnessed local people enjoying the gardens and an Art Group meeting in one of the Glasshouses. Several other groups and societies meet there to use the garden as a resource for horticulture, education and enjoyment.

As we were guided around the kitchen garden, we learned that many local volunteers work in the gardens and witnessed some preparing the beds for new planting. Graham Richardson explained that few original records remain of the original planting schemes, but restoration work gave clues and the current planting scheme includes old varieties of Apple trees and espalier Pear trees, fruit bushes and a variety of vegetables. The on-site café takes some of the produce but mostly it is sold to the public from an 'Honesty Cart' to supplement the grant income.



An original sandstone wall surrounds the whole garden and the gardens also feature very attractive oak gates and ornamental fencing.



The Kitchen Garden is enclosed by a brick wall, 8 fully refurbished Victorian glasshouses and several outbuildings and is separated from the Pleasure Garden by a Yew hedge. The central glasshouse space now incorporates the Café and a community space.

The Pleasure Garden has 3 ponds and well stocked herbaceous borders. We completed our tour by taking the 'Holly Walk', which Graham explained would be the walk taken by the Parr family from the house into the gardens.



After the tour, we explored the gardens at leisure and were tempted back to the Café for cakes and drinks to conclude a lovely day.

Finally, a special thanks to Graham Richardson for his time and excellent guided tour. Members commented how much they had enjoyed discovering this delightful gem of a garden.

Terry and Sue Kelly

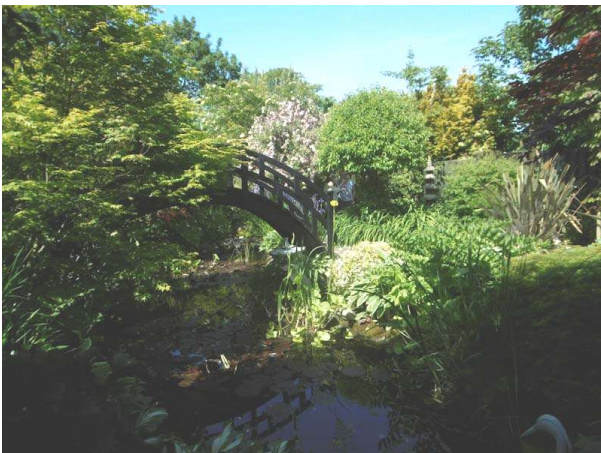
MAY VISIT TO LITTLE KYOTO

In 2011 Linda Kidd found herself with an empty nest and decided to make some changes to the space which had been her sons' football playground; she wanted somewhere tranquil and refreshing. Work to create such a transformation has been just the opposite, but the satisfaction is immense.



Little Kyoto is an immersive Japanese experience, a mysterious journey from one special garden type to the next, each separated and hidden by screens of varied foliage. In front of the house is the most recent creation, the FLAT garden, hira niwa, (the text-book terminology is Josiah Conder's, from his Landscape Gardening in Japan, 1893). Here the surface is sand and gravel with just a few arranged rocks and a multi-stem *Pinus mugo*. (a DRY garden would imitate a river bed and be devoid of plants).

To proceed to the next space, we pass through the TORII, a tall, square red-painted gate. We enter the COURTYARD, tsubo niwa, where plants are arranged in pots as a nursery display; trees, including a *Ginkgo biloba*, are carefully pruned to be kept low and display their branches; precious flowers such as peonies and chrysanthemums are introduced in their flowering season. A water basin with gravity-fed bamboo pipe invites us to wash hands, and a gleaming Buddha keeps a watchful eye. A tall, spreading *Fatsia japonica* hides our view.



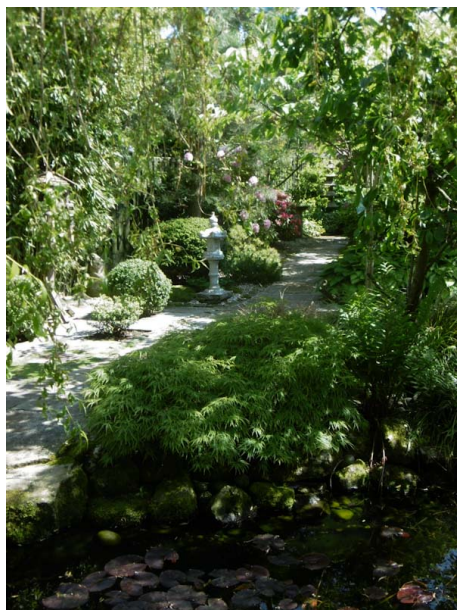
It is such a surprise next to discover the sight and sound of a bubbling stream descending a waterfall, rushing over pebbles and rocks, and entering a pool decorated with waterlilies. In this, the ROCK AND WATER garden, kaiyushiki teien, a large single-arch bridge painted black invites us to climb it and peer into the water to see fish swimming; they dart between the lilies and deep blue *Iris kaempferi* (syn. *Iris ensata*). The feathery foliage of ferns

Osmunda regalis and *Polystichum polyblepharum* frame the water's edge; our pebble path is lined with *Hosta* varieties – glaucous blue, white-rimmed, large and tiny, whilst beside us, hiding the perimeter, are *Acer palmatum* varieties in maroon and lime shades. Several tall, narrow *Prunus Sakura* had flowered in April, but just appearing are lipstick pink buds of *Kurume azaleas*.



Appearing ahead are 2 little wooden buildings related to the Tea Ceremony; the first is the Waiting room. Beside it, a tall bamboo fence and gate announces a very private space, the TEA GARDEN, cha niwa, where the simplicity of nature rules. Stepping-stones lead past a wash basin to the Tea House where mats are laid and the ceremony takes place. This shady sanctuary is adorned only with mosses and ferns, *Cyrtomium falcatum* and *Dryopteris erythrosora*, and guarded by a tall granite lantern.

We return along the other side of the stream passing a second splashing waterfall; beside us are glossy *Camellia japonica* and tall bamboo. Did I mention the glorious white *Wistaria* trained as an umbrella? Or the high moon gate built with a single row of stones? Or the turtle and the crane?



So many delights; foliage is glossy, feathery, pencil slim, huge or fine. Many colours are shown in flowering shrubs, irises and *Hemerocallis*, day lilies, whilst in late summer and autumn Japanese *hydrangeas* will carry the baton alongside foliage turning red and gold. We admired the artistry and pruning skills displayed throughout the garden.

Plants of Japanese origin are underlined.

THE PHILOSOPHY behind the Japanese garden is a love of Nature; poetry and painting have always been linked to their garden making, much like our English ideas in Georgian times. Chinese ink and brush sketches were sometimes the model, and garden layouts large and small became natural landscapes in miniature. Pebbles and rocks are arranged to suggest mountain scenery, with the all-important element of water completing the composition.

It is often asked: ‘what is the role of the various lanterns?’ and Conder simply stated that they were ornamental. He went to teach Architecture in Japan, and settled there. It is also said that flowers and colour were unimportant; again Conder described places which were planted for exuberant colour in spring, when crowds of people travelled to witness the glorious displays

of wistaria, iris and cherry blossom – and still do.

Editor

LITTLE KYOTO (KINGTON COTTAGE)
OPEN DAYS – PR4 3SD
Sunday 9th JULY, 13th AUGUST
Adults £4, children free

JUNE VISIT TO HALTON PARK HOUSE

Melissa and Duncan Bowring left London a decade ago to live in Halton, the family home for three generations. Situated on the crest of a hill overlooking the Crook o’ Lune, the house commands a panoramic view down a little valley to the river and benefits from the shelter of the hill behind. From the road, the drive climbs through pasture to the sound of bleating sheep, and through hedges of perfumed hawthorn.

On the approach to the house, tall trees create a windbreak – stately beech, pine, oak and Chamaecyparis. Surrounding a tennis court, the once closely-shaven lawn now has tall grasses and wildflowers with an inviting path cut through. The tall, stone house in gothic style plays host to an immense Rosa Wedding Day, which is attempting to enter by the attic window. The family purchased Halton Park in 1912; it is thought that Great Aunt Lotty was the creative force behind an inspired layout.

Beneath the house and its front (croquet) lawn, the land falls sharply in two parts; one descent faces south west and the other south east. The first one is shaped into terraces supported by low stone walls which are cut by flights of steps leading the visitor ever downwards. Once the steep embankments between paths were cultivated with fruit and vegetables which the previous generation remember picking and processing. It’s incredible to think that parts were also planted with seasonal bedding.

Now the long borders are home to a thriving collection of choice shrubs and small trees, the snowdrop tree *Halesia monticola* and *Magnolia liliiflora* among them. The warm stone walls are host to many climbing roses including American Pillar, whilst above these are the spreading white *Rosa Lancashire*, arranged between clipped globes and cones of *Buxus*.

A focal point is the Arts & Crafts style summer house which overlooks an Edwardian rose garden; enclosed by a low stone wall to achieve the desired 'sunken' effect, this paved feature has geometric beds containing the favourite sturdy roses we used to plant, including Peace. A dainty sundial stands in the centre for that touch of nostalgia.

From here, we walk along the south-east facing slope, the top path backed by a high stone wall; many climbers appreciate its warmth, Clematis and Actinidia, and *Centranthus* white variety has taken root in the cracks.



This path is lined with richly planted perennials in a galaxy of colours and forms – cardoon, campanula, astrantia, and persicaria are augmented by newly introduced peony and iris. A lower level is home to an array of vegetables neatly ordered, peas and beans soon to ripen, asparagus in full flow, and leeks to follow on their slow life cycle. Prolific verbascum seedlings ornament the beds prettily as do wigwams of sweet peas.



Some members took the opportunity to sit back and contemplate the view over this intricate hillside garden from a cleverly sited belvedere under the shade of a spreading oak tree; glimpses of the Lune valley below can be seen through its branches, and the round hills of Caton Moor spread across the horizon. A favourite sunset spot.

Sloping away below this is the recently-made orchard where apple, pear, plum and damson trees rise above a haze of grasses and wild flowers – ox-eye daisy, ragged robin, campion, orchid, buttercup, mallow and Camassia, and the all-important yellow rattle to weaken the vigorous grasses.



Back in the 1910s and 20s, Great Aunt Lotty investigated the steep slope and discovered a vertical rock face; why not add a new dimension to the formal terraced garden, and create a good old-fashioned Picturesque one beside it? Water was gathered into a tank buried

up on the hill and transported through a pipe to the rock, where it would emerge and cascade down a rocky gully to fill a pond lower down. Nowadays the natural progression of the water is augmented by the domestic supply; a satisfying little cascade makes its way through lush foliage down to the Dell, a favourite addition to an Edwardian large garden. Tall specimens survive from the days when this charming dell was made – Lawson’s cypress, a *Robinia pseudo-acacia* (and its small progeny) with flowers like a white laburnum, together with varieties of *Rhododendron* and azalea. The pond is home to iris, royal and shuttlecock ferns, and alive with flitting damselflies.



How do you treat a steep hillside for good looks and maintenance? You can put it to grass and swing a Flymo down on a rope; or you can take inspiration from elsewhere. The Bowrings have used a solution I have seen before in Italian Renaissance gardens above Rome; there the holm oak, *Quercus ilex*, is planted en masse as ground cover and clipped to waist height. Here the *Prunus lusitanica* has been planted, and clipped in the same way; there are even several Italian cypresses, *Cupressus sempervirens*, to complete the picture – *memori di Roma*.

Our final treat was a look into the new greenhouse, where we admired rows of chilli peppers, tall tomato plants laden with small green fruit and several ripe peaches ready for

picking. Ah, the heady aroma of a productive greenhouse! One of my 7 Wonders of the Garden World.

Editor

HALTON PARK HOUSE
LA2 6PD
OPEN DAYS
Saturday and Sunday
9th and 10th September
Adults £5, children free

RSPB CAMPAIGN from their website

We’re facing a nature and climate crisis. Millions of birds are gone from our skies, nearly all our wildflower meadows are lost, and a quarter of all our mammals are at risk of extinction.

But it's not too late if we act now.

The [People's Plan for Nature](#) was produced earlier this year by a representative group of ordinary citizens who came together as the ‘People’s Assembly for Nature’. Their plan outlines a compelling roadmap to protect and restore our country's natural habitats and is supported by the RSPB, WWF, and the National Trust.

This plan deserves a political response.

Particularly now when the Retained EU Law Bill is on the verge of becoming law. A Bill with the power to deliver the single biggest modification of environmental law in the UK in recent history.

Many of the laws impacted are vital to nature’s recovery. They help improve the quality of our rivers and coasts, keep dangerous chemical use at bay, and protect some of our rarest and most important habitats and species.

Given that MPs have already voted three times against an amendment introducing a guarantee that environmental protections would not be

weakened, and with a General Election on the horizon, now is the time to challenge them to respond to the People's Plan for Nature and say how they will act to tackle the climate and nature crisis.

YOUR EDITOR WRITES:

Our parks and large gardens on Historic England's Register are not only works of art but are also havens for wildlife, having been mostly undisturbed for decades and beyond. We should impress upon our MPs the value of keeping them so; they are not protected enough in the planning system and can be given over to building development under spurious excuses (eg. Housing needs, regeneration schemes). They are a valuable resource as environment oases and need stronger protection by legislation. The 'material consideration' is too weak.

Please contact your MP before the vote.

ACCESS TO A PARK OR OTHER GREEN SPACE



Almost 8 million households in England do not have access to parks, woods, rivers or any natural environment within 15 minutes of their home. The government promised in January this year that everyone in England would be within a 15-minute walk of green spaces or water under its plan for improving the environment. The pandemic had highlighted inequalities in access to nature.

Research has now revealed the huge gap in nature access that will need to be filled to meet the commitment. Using government data, an

alliance of green groups, including the National Trust, the CPRE and the Ramblers, found that in a third of local authorities more than 70 per cent of the population were further than a 15-minute walk to a natural space. The figure is equivalent to about 7.8 million homes, according to the coalition, the Wildlife and Countryside Link.

We are fortunate in the northwest to have a larger than average compliment of public parks for town-dwellers to access; however they are vulnerable to change of use and neglect through budget cuts.



Winckley Square, Preston; a rus in urbe, (the country in the town) rescued from a concrete covering by residents.

A spokesman for the Department of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs said: 'We already have a number of measures in place to take this forward, including the Levelling-Up Parks Fund, which will improve the condition and availability of green space for over 100 urban communities.'

Do investigate your local authority's progress with this measure; what are they doing with the fund? **The first contact will be your local councillor.**

Editor

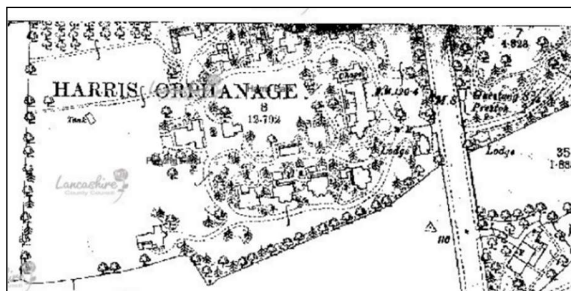
CONSERVATION & PLANNING GROUP

Report June 2023

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

We have continued to review and respond to applications and emerging planning policies as notified to us by The Gardens Trust. Here are a summary of some of the more significant cases we have covered over the last year.

Planning applications for residential development at Harris Knowledge Park, Preston have been covered in numerous past Newsletters. Regrettably Preston City Council eventually approved a slightly reduced scheme at this site. This is not the outcome we had hoped for however, at least the War Memorial is intended to remain in its historic location at the front of the site.



Extract Plan of part of the former Harris Orphanage showing educational buildings, chapel and master's house at the centre, and the eight boys' and girls' villas to north and south.

Although the outcome at Harris Knowledge Park is very disappointing, we can report that a number of planning applications upon which we objected have been refused in recent months, and heritage and environmental issues are included in the local authorities' reasons for the decisions.

In earlier Newsletters we covered the proposed residential development of redundant playing fields at Former Pilkington Group Headquarters in St Helens. The Registered Park and Garden comprises one of the most complete and iconic late twentieth century corporate campuses, laid

out by Maxwell Fry and landscape architect Peter Youngman from 1959 – 1963.

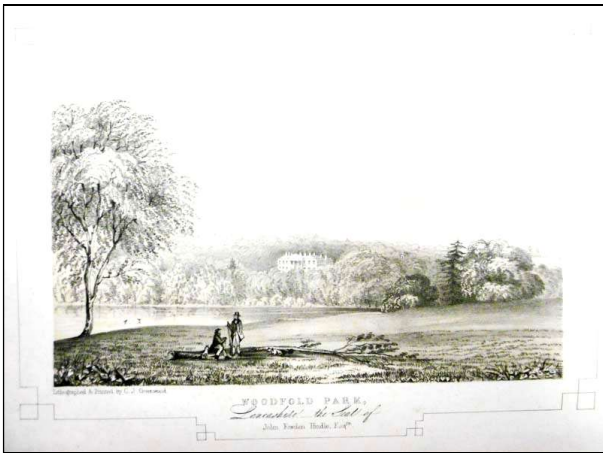


Development site (former playing fields) with Pilkington HQ Office Tower in background

The proposals were over intensive and detrimental to the RPG and adjacent woodland areas. Despite some scheme amendments, St Helens Council recently refused the application.

In the last Newsletter we reported on our objection to replacement of an agricultural building with a dwelling at Clyffes Farm Close which lies within the northern part of Scarisbrick Park. The Park is on Historic England list of At Risk sites due to fragmented ownership and lack of management especially to the plantations, one of which lies within this application. An earlier application was refused by West Lancashire Council partly on heritage grounds, and the Council have also refused this slightly revised application.

Several applications upon which we objected have been refused at Woodfold Park, Blackburn. As reported in the last Newsletter, the Park has had a difficult history and is another on Historic England's At Risk register due to its continuing decline, multiple ownerships and development pressure. The Hall itself was ruinous for nearly 50 years until it was restored into apartments after 2000.



Woodfold Park, E. Twycross, 'The Mansions of England' Vol.1, 1846

The Stud Farm which was part of the enabling development supporting the restoration of the Hall and was subject to an application for considerable enlargement in 2022. Ribble Valley Council have refused this application which has now been appealed by the applicant. We will report further on this in due course.

Also at Woodfold, in early 2023, proposals were submitted for construction of a grand classical-style dwelling on land outside the northern boundary of the Registered Park. We have also objected to this and a decision is awaited from the Council.

Finally, residential development has been proposed in the grounds of one of the unregistered designed landscapes in Ashton on Ribble, Preston. This is at Larches House a listed Victorian villa until recently used as a school and now converted to offices. We have objected to over-intensive development, and inadequate attention to context notably in the surviving trees on site.

CONSERVATION

South Ribble Borough Council have made welcome progress on the restoration and refurbishments at Worden Park, Leyland in recent years. We have supported their most recent planning application for footpaths and

access improvements, and also drawn attention to the need for more challenging and extensive woodland management and tree planting proposals.

In the last Newsletter we reported on the proposals for the Thomas Mawson designed Arts and Crafts garden which survives (in part) at The Willows, at the lower end of Pedders Lane in Preston. It is a Registered Park and Garden on Historic England's List, but to the general public it is not well known. The surviving area forms the grounds for The SPACE Centre, a charitable facility run by Creative Support for severely disabled young adults.

We made comments on the application made last year and asked for greater detail. This was subsequently received and we have supported the project. The application has now been approved by Preston City Council and we look forward to the scheme progressing.



The Willows Garden Ornamental Ironwork by Dan Gibson

Stephen Robson

RESEARCH & RECORDING

LANCASHIRE'S LOCAL LIST OF HERITAGE ASSETS

Following my notes in the Newsletter Autumn 2022, I am pleased to report that progress continues in nominating our Category 1 Historic Designed Landscapes (HDLs). Many Local Authorities have been unable to develop a Local List of Heritage Assets, due to a lack of suitably qualified personnel eg) conservation officers; in a government initiative together with Historic England, Growth Lancashire is one of several bodies nationwide which are funded for a temporary period, 3 years, to address this lacuna. The GL team are gathering information on their most valued buildings thanks to the knowledge and time of several conservation officers; the HDLs have no such back-up, and predictably information is being supplied by us, the volunteers.

We have supplied this information in much detail, with images, using an online form which is accessed on Growth Lancashire's website, using a system of identity and permission to protect privacy. The sites appear in brief on our website, under Parks and Gardens of Local Importance. We have also nominated our War Memorial Parks and Gardens (see website also) some of which were previously unrecognised. The sum total is 58 sites.



Hazelwood, Silverdale, Mawson 1922: not in the Register.

The GL team will conclude the exercise by assessing the significance of entries and drawing up a list of those sites which merit proposal for inclusion in Historic England's Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest (categories are Grade 1, worldwide; Grade II* international; Grade II, national significance). Explanation below -

[Registered Parks & Gardens | Historic England](#)

GARDEN OF THE YEAR HISTORIC HOUSES ASSOCIATION

Voting has begun for the HHA Garden of the Year 2023; these are all private gardens and can be visited on days which are announced on the HHA website and in their booklet.

Previous winners have been Mapperton House, Dorset; Gresgarth Hall, Lancashire (Judges' Choice Award 2022); Gordon Castle, Moray, Scotland; Newby Hall, Yorkshire; Wentworth Woodhouse, Yorkshire.



Newby Hall's replanted borders in 2021

Ursula Cholmeley, chair of the HHA Gardens Committee, says:

'The hard work that's put in to maintaining and evolving these gardens is undisputed, and it's so important that not only the owners are celebrated but also the gardeners and volunteer teams who give up their time and effort day in, day out. These gardens are among the finest in the country'.

www.historichouses.org/vote

Contenders this year are –

Blair Castle, Perthshire:

Dunvegan Castle, Isle of Skye:

Mount Stuart, Isle of Bute:

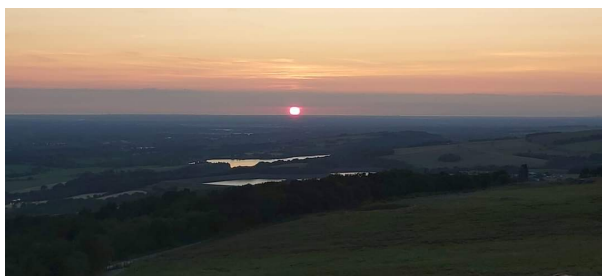
Glenarm Castle Walled Garden, Co. Antrim:

Scampston Walled Garden, Yorkshire.

SUMMER SOLSTICE JUNE 21st



How did you celebrate the summer solstice? On the evening of June 21st a group of garden volunteers climbed through Rivington Terraced Gardens and up to the Pike to watch the setting of the sun on the Longest Day. These 2 photos were taken at official sunset time, 21.46.



The Pike is 1,191 ft above sea level (363 m) and was once a Tudor beacon built during the Armada. It was probably in use long before this, as it commands a wide view of Morecambe Bay 40 miles away. Terrifying to watch the Vikings landing!

Newsletter Editor

Mrs Elaine Taylor

Articles for future Issues may be sent to the chairman's e-mail address as a 'Word' document, or to the website

www.lancsgt.org.uk