

# Restoration News

PROGRESS IN THE JAPANESE GARDEN; FUNDED BY HERITAGE LOTTERY & IN PARTNERSHIP WITH HBC.

*What is going on behind the fence, and when will you be able to go and have a look?*

The security fence will come down when the contractors leave the site, which should be by the end of August. TWS from Thirsk have been doing all the main groundwork and they are also building the bridges and the gateways. Other important people involved in the construction are the FOVG volunteer gardeners, Members of the Japanese Garden Society (JGS), Johnny Clasper a local sculptor, Grove Academy Horticulture staff and students and Horticap staff and students.

## WHAT HAVE WE ACHIEVED SO FAR?

The Heritage Lottery Grant was received in January this year, three months of work every Tuesday from the faithful band of FOVG garden volunteers followed, pruning overgrown and dead shrubs and tidying the woodland area; we calculated that we filled the gardener's trailer at least 18 times. During this period we also had two days of work by Arboriculturalist 'Tree Saw' to sort out some of the issues with trees. This has resulted in many more inviting areas and vistas through the woodland and around the garden. Grove Academy and Horticap students were also involved.

TWS, a family construction business, came in on April 24th for a 4 month contract. They have created additional drainage, removed silt from the watercourse, constructed a path through the woodland with steps at each end, created new pathways and a turning circle, and commenced work on the timber bridges and gateways.



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### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

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## HOW TO MOVE ROCKS

Members of the JGS came for 3 days in May to arrange rocks. We now have 4 arrangements in the garden. TWS assisted JGS to get large rocks across the stream. From there they were lifted and moved to the correct position by this tripod construction and a low trolley. Plus of course 'men power' The arrangement in progress is the Crane. If you are able to look at the website, then there is a full explanation of the significance of these rock arrangements in Ann's Blog which has a link from the project page. The other arrangements are a triad at the top of the slope, the Sacred Mountains and a Turtle Island.

Another intensive 3 days of work in June saw the commencement of the complete remodelling of the watercourse. Removing the silt left us with a very large hole, too deep for safety and maintenance. We now have a gentle winding stream which varies in width and is edged with rock, much of which was discovered during the process and reused.

*Thanks are due to Kim who provided accommodation at the Camberley Lodge, plus an excellent breakfast to set them up for the day. ,*

*"The art of stone in a Japanese Garden is that of placement, its ideal does not deviate from that of nature." Isamu Naguchi.*

## GROVE ACADEMY HORTICULTURE



## WHAT WILL THEY LEARN?

The students at Grove Academy study NVQ Horticulture on their allotment at Grove House. Here they grow vegetables, have a small greenhouse, and a 'posh' shed as a classroom.

We approached Pauline Wilkinson, the Head of Horticulture, during the application process and received a very positive response.

The plan is for them to work in the garden on a regular basis, learning pruning, propagation and how to work as a team.

Secondly there will be a visit to a Japanese Garden belonging to a member of the JGS, and he will help them design a Japanese style garden for the school, which they will construct as a Time Out Space adjacent to their buildings.

So far they have worked during the first three months in the garden with Julia, a new volunteer, they potted up plants which would have been destroyed by the heavy machinery, and divided plants which have been donated to the scheme by Dr. Andy Bolton, our local JGS member. In this way we now have over 200 plants up at the HBC nursery waiting for them to come in and help us plant during the autumn and spring terms.





## CHINESE BRUSH PAINTING

*Final Piece:*



*Chinese Brush Painting Workshop at Harrogate High School: Anne Allan and students*

## GCSE JAPANESE ART MODULE

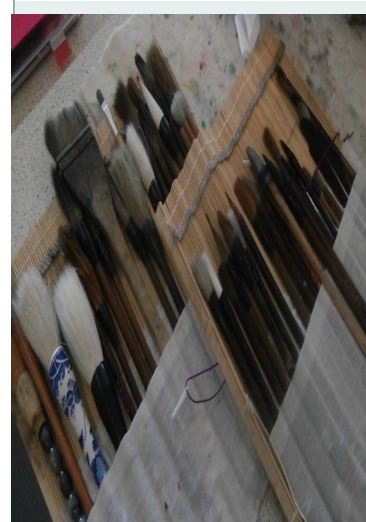
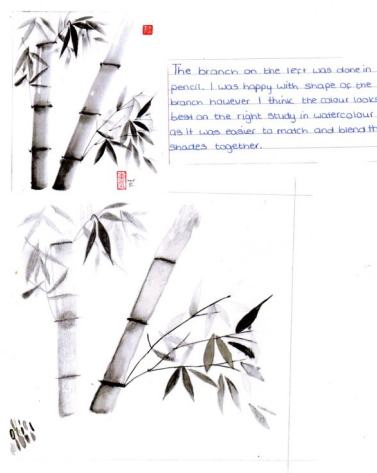
We approached Harrogate High School art department during the project planning and were delighted when Alison Stewart, Head of Art, offered the chance for 2 GCSE groups to do a module on Japanese Art.

A workshop was arranged from Anne Allan, secretary to the Chinese Brush Painting Society, which took place in June.

This is now ongoing and evidence of their work is currently on display in the triangular notice board in the Valley Gardens.

Several of the students enjoyed the workshop so much that we have purchased special brushes and paper through the grant for them to increase their skills.

Prior to this the art project started off with a presentation, by Graham Hardman the garden designer, to the students on the subject of Japanese Garden styles and the basis of garden design. He kept the students involved in various tasks for the full double period, no mean feat for a non teacher! He is quoted as saying 'one of the hardest things I have ever done'



## INCREASED ACCESS FOR ALL



## FOVG & COMMUNITY FUNDS DONATED TO THE PROJECT TOTAL £5,626.55

We have been very fortunate to receive around £1,626.55 from local supermarkets who featured the Japanese Garden in their community funds, as well as a share of the profit from 40's Day. Jane Blayney approached three stores; Waitrose, Asda and the local Co-op, and they all gave us contributions. The Co-op specified the curved wooden bridge, and their

£1,106.55 went towards that.



*The newly installed curved bridge*

## INCREASED ACCESS FOR ALL

During the planning of the garden we determined to improve access for all. An early photo of the bridge adjacent to the Magnesia Well Café, and an aural history record of one in the Japanese Garden, prompted us to plan a level bridge leading to a turning circle suitable for wheelchairs and pushchairs. The original cross braced design was used for the side rails. In addition a new gravel path, a curved bridge, and a new woodland path with 16 steps up the slope from the turning circle and 4 back down at the upper entrance gate. TWS joiner Robert has built a sturdy oak bench to sit and enjoy the view.

## KASUGA LANTERN: (SEE OPPOSITE PAGE)

Harrogate Flower Club committee came to us in February 2017 offering to support the project as they were going to have to wind up the club and had funds available. They were interested to give us a lantern with a small descriptive plaque as a memorable feature in the garden, and hoped we could find the right situation for it. Discussions with the designer followed, and we have settled on a beautiful hand carved granite Kasuga Lantern. This style of lantern is designed to show the way along a route to a tea house or similar. The lantern has now been installed alongside the new path to the lower bridge. New planting around the lantern will be carefully considered, and plants purchased especially for this area.



## NEW PAGODA LANTERN FROM NYCC

Way back in 2016 two County Councilors, Jim Clark and Don Mackenzie offered to give a portion of their community grant to the garden. We were at a very early planning stage, but we felt that a pagoda lantern would be a significant contribution. This was agreed, and they generously gave a grant of £1200 which purchased the 2.2m lantern and paid for the delivery and installation. We were offered one which was already weathered, which we accepted. Since then, the company Rhino Rock in East Peckham have stored it carefully on our Behalf. This was finally installed in the garden last week, and it really does look as though it has been here for a long time. The installation included plenty of resin to glue the 16 sections together, a concrete foundation, and a steel rod through the centre for secure fixing.

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*Tranquility, Simplicity & Harmony in Japanese Garden Design.*

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## PLANTS & PLANTING: COULD YOU HELP?

We are finalizing the planting list, and working out what will grow in the rather difficult soil conditions in some areas of the garden.

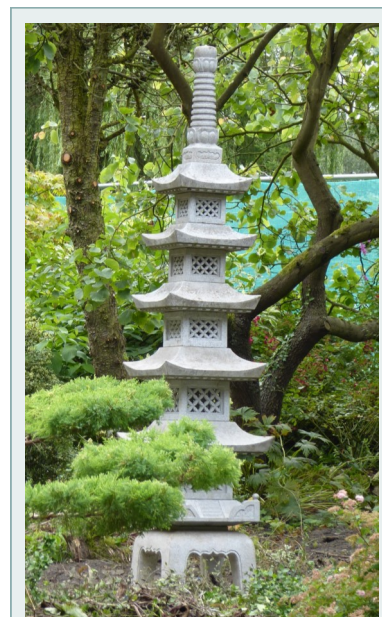
Japanese Gardens tend to have plenty of evergreen shrubs which are trained into architectural shapes to give year round interest and set off the rock arrangements. Shrubs and trees provide screening which directs your viewpoint as you walk around the garden discovering delightful new vistas every few yards. In addition seasonal colour is added with perhaps only one variety of plant dominating each season.

Our Valley Gardens have a wonderful display of trees, shrubs and flowers to enjoy, so the aim is to make the Japanese area different from the rest of the garden. New plant introductions will be Acers, Japanese Azaleas, Camellia Sasanqua which is autumn flowering, Japanese cherry blossom,

Iris ensata, and pines which will be pruned in Japanese style. We will need a lot of ground cover in both sun and shade. Suggested plants are Pachysandra terminalis, Japanese Mondo grass (green not black) Liriope, and a short bamboo also evergreen shrubs with small leaves which can be clipped, we are avoiding box due to continued problem with box blight.

Dr. Andy Bolton has generously offered 4 Pines which we have started to prune at a JGS workshop, and 3 root balled Acers which will need to be collected in a truck as they are too large for an ordinary car.

If you have any plants in your own gardens which could be split, or you could help with planting, collection or anything else; please get in touch with the project leaders:



## IN THE FUTURE

ROSSETT GRAPHIC ART DEPARTMENT GETS INVOLVED

EXHIBITIONS

EVENTS IN THE GARDEN

GUIDED WALKS THROUGH THE GARDEN

WELLNESS SESSIONS?

JUNIOR SCHOOL VISITS

FORMAL OPENING EVENT  
LATER IN 2018

## LINKS WITH HARLOW CARR: EXHIBITION 2018.

The Japanese Garden Society have a travelling exhibition called 'Visions of Paradise' We are adding material to this exhibition about our garden restoration here, and also perhaps the restoration of the Japanese Garden at Grantley Hall .

We have arranged for the exhibition to be staged at Harlow Carr Bath House in January and February next year.

The main area of the Bath House will be arranged by the JGS, They will also use the adjacent greenhouse for interactive displays with gravel to rake and plastic rocks to site...sounds fun.

We do not plan to staff this exhibition between Monday and Friday. At the weekends we are planning to have a series of Pop-Up exhibitions in the library area, and the whole will be staffed on Saturday and Sunday when Harlow Carr is likely to be busier. The Bath House is well visited during the winter months to escape the weather, particularly during Half Term. There are ideas in the pipe line for these including the Bonsai Society, the Japanese Shop, and to showcase the art work and the design for the Grove Academy garden. Plus of course highlighting the work of FOVG and trying to attract more members.

**We will need the support of FOVG members as volunteers for this.**

### CONTACTS

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