

BRAMHAM PARK

BRAMHAM PARK, the seat of George Lane Fox, Esq. in the parish of Bramham, wapentake of Barkston-Ash, liberty of St. Peter;

This noble residence was built in the reign of Queen Anne, by Robert, Lord Bingley, who employed for that purpose an Italian artist. It is designed upon a scale of much grandeur, consisting of a large centre, in which are the grand apartments and wings, for the domestic offices, connected by corridors of the doric order: the whole fronting a spacious court, elevated 5 feet above. Amongst a collection of excellent Portraits in this magnificent Mansion, is "a fine original portrait of Queen Anne, presented by her Majesty to Lord Bingley, as an acknowledgement of the attention of his Lordship during a visit to this seat." It stands in a fine sporting country, and his present Majesty once spent two nights at this venerable Mansion, and partook of the delights of the chase. This estate was a grant from the crown in the reign of William and Mary, and was the first enclosure on Bramham Moor. It was cultivated and planted by the father of the first Lord Bingley, who afterwards erected the present noble edifice. --Neale's Views.

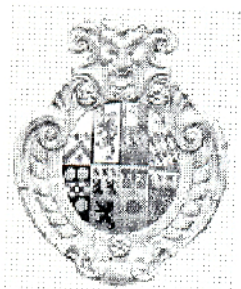
In the Chapel adjoining the house as the effigies of the ancestors of the family.

[Description(s) from Langdale's *Topographical Dictionary of Yorkshire*. (1822)]
- for details on symbols etc., please see the above Dictionary.

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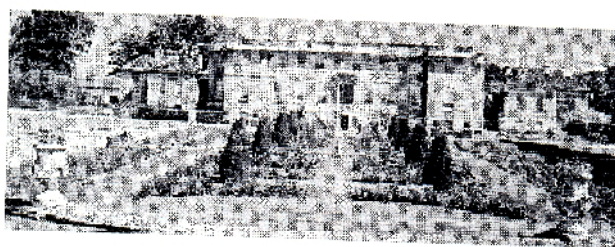


Bramham Park

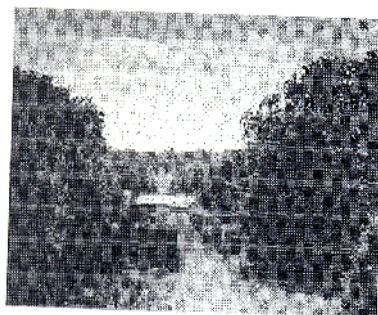
A walk in the grounds

Inspiration for the design of the garden at Bramham was French and formal, but the manner in which it was adapted to the natural landscape is relaxed and entirely English. It is still completely original, perhaps the only large-scale formal garden to survive virtually unchanged from the early eighteenth century.

Bramham is a garden of walks and vistas, architectural features and reflecting water. Its main axis runs from north to south across the house front, not centred squarely on the house in the French manner. As you walk around the garden, you experience a growing feeling of anticipation - what will I see around the next corner?

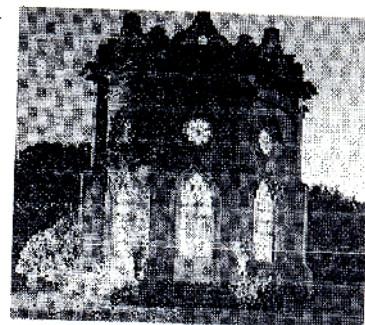


Leaving the house, the elegant double flight of steps from the Long Gallery is a copy of one at Fontainebleau. Ahead is the rose garden, and at the northern end of the walk is the Chapel, originally an orangery built in the 1750s.



Vistas open out before you, with Bramham's beech allees leading into the distance, the hedges up to 25 feet high. The 2 miles of beech hedges in the garden need clipping every year - previously employing two men all year round before mechanisation.

The Gothic Temple, an octagonal building still used as a venue for picnics and parties, is probably the most charming of Bramham's architectural features. The nearby Obelisk Ponds are the most formal part of the original design, with water cascading through a series of ponds bordered by flights of steps.



With almost 70 acres to cover, visitors can extend their walk into Black Fen, the woods that surround the Round House temple and the 100 foot high obelisk built by Lord Bingley's daughter Harriet in memory of her only son. In this more natural and wilder habitat nature trails have been established amongst the magnificent Cedar, Copper Beech, and Spanish

Chestnut rides radiating from the obelisk into the far corners of Black Fen.

For a complete tour, a descriptive booklet is available which covers both the house and the grounds of Bramham Park.

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Contact details



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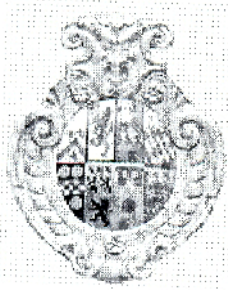
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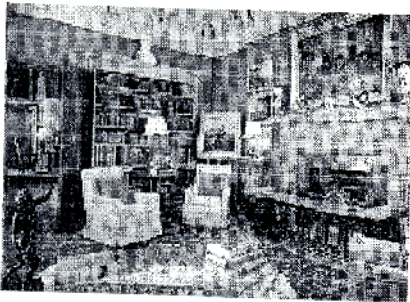


Bramham Park

A short tour of the house

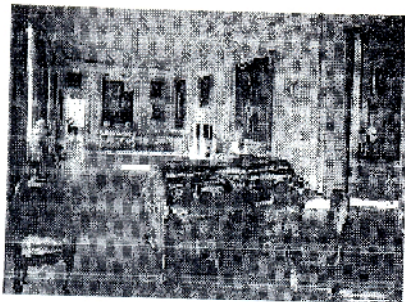
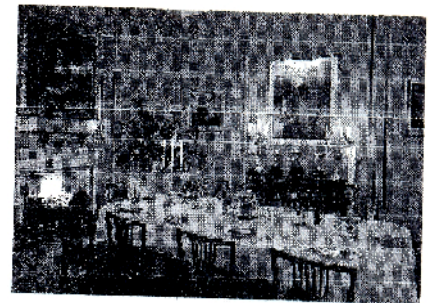
Bramham Park was planned by its creator, Robert Benson, 1st Lord Bingley, as a summer home - somewhere to entertain his friends when Court and Parliament were in recess. The house is built in the style of a Florentine villa of the sixteenth century, an idea brought back by Benson from Italy in 1697, and it is still lived in by his descendents, the Lane Fox family.

Entering into the house, the **Hall** is a perfect cube, 10 metres square. For nearly 80 years after a disastrous fire in 1828, a 'temporary' roof protected the fine stone mouldings. From 1909 until 1989, the roof of the rebuilt house also formed the ceiling of the room. In 1990, the family were able at last to install a ceiling in the original style, thus completing the restoration.



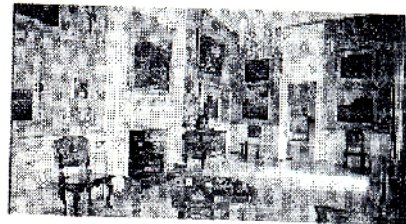
Bramham Park had a much larger **Library** before the fire. The books in this room include all that remain of Robert Benson's original collection, many somewhat fire damaged. Pride of place over the fireplace goes to an eighteenth century hunting scene by Walker. The dark blue porcelain on the mantelpiece is from a Meissen dessert service.

After the house was restored in 1906 the **East Room** was for many years the best spare bedroom. It was converted into a dining room in the early 1970s and its furniture includes a set of Sheraton dining chairs. A number of sporting trophies are on display, and a gilt service presented in 1872 to George Lane Fox, the Squire, to mark his 25 years as Master of the Bramham Moor Hunt.



The **Long Gallery** is the room used for dancing when there is a ball at Bramham Park. Most of the pictures are of family members. The furniture is mostly eighteenth century French style, with the dos-a-dos bureau thought to have been made for King Louis XV of France.

Mrs Lane Fox's **Sitting Room** includes an overmantel above the fireplace and a wood carving above the door in the style of Grinling Gibbons. The door frame is thought to be the work of Jacques Berain, a Huguenot wood carver. Furniture includes a walnut and ivory bureau and chest, probably South German c.1800.





A tour of the house continues through the various upstairs rooms. The old kitchens, dating from the building of the house in 1698, are now an interesting museum and photograph gallery. A huge log fire often burns in the kitchen fireplace, where parts of the spit apparatus may be seen.

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