



FRIENDS OF OLD DURHAM GARDENS

The amiable Mr Spence: Sermons and gardens in mid-eighteenth century Durham

A talk by Martin Roberts

Council Chamber, County Hall, Durham DH1 5UL
6.30pm, Wednesday 29th August 2018



2018 is the 250th anniversary of the death of Joseph Spence.

Joseph Spence (1699 – 1768) was Professor of Poetry and, later, of Modern History at Oxford University. He is most well known for his records of his long friendship with a number of influential eighteenth-century writers and poets, notably Alexander Pope. Spence shared Pope's passion for landscape garden design and he was, in his own right, an able and innovative garden designer. These skills were brought to the North East of England, and County Durham specifically, in 1754 when Spence was installed as a Canon of Durham Cathedral. His largest commissions in the county were the advice he gave in the great landscaped parks of Auckland and Raby Castles, but he also designed a number of smaller gardens and landscapes, including those on his own church estates. This talk will explore those County Durham landscapes Spence is known to have designed, and those he may have designed or influenced.

**Important: To book a place, please contact Martin at martin.fleece@gmail.com
There will be an opportunity to make a donation to support the work of the Friends
www.olddurhamgardens.co.uk**