Julia Lewis from BBC Radio York toured Bishopthorpe Palace with David Atkinson, Palace Warden as her guide. The five minute programmes were broadcast on BBC Radio York in 2012 in a programme about North Yorkshire’s people, places and passions.

In the first programme, we learn more about how Bishopthorpe Palace was built, its architecture, and when the Archbishop of York first lived at Bishopthorpe. Julia begins her tour at the Gate House and even gets to wind the clock before heading out into the gardens in the next programme.

In the second programme, Julia takes a look around the nine acre gardens and reflects on the main sources of food in the past. This includes a visit to a folly, Warren Pond and walking through the woodland, a site of conservation interest.

In the third programme, Julia finds out more about the Strawberry Hill Gothic Style of the Palace Entrance and the various additions of architecture added in 1241, 1365, 1480, 1645 and 1763. She also gets to sit in Archbishop Vernon Harcourt’s chair!

In the fourth programme, Julia visits the Chapel the oldest part of the palace and finds out about the nursery built above it. The wooden carvings of angels were inspired by the Oberammergau passion plays and the stain glass windows depict a fine collection of Northern Saints.

In the last programme, Julia ends her tour with a visit to the State Banqueting Hall and Drawing Room where she finds out more about a 22ft long Tudor oak table and looks at the coat of arms of each Archbishop since 1660. She takes a closer look at ceilings in the palace and the Palace Warden David reflects on his children’s joy of living at Bishopthorpe.

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