



WINTER 2001/2002

The restoration of the gardens at Laugharne Castle

by Elisabeth Whittle

On a rocky bluff above the shore of the Taf estuary, in the small seaside town of Laugharne in south-west Wales, stands the imposing, picturesque ruin of Laugharne Castle. Built as a Norman stronghold from the late 12th century onwards, it was altered and extended in the 16th century and finally abandoned as a dwelling in the middle of the 17th century.

There is a long history of using its inner and outer wards as gardens. The first was made by a prominent and wealthy Pembrokeshire knight, Sir John Perrot, who was granted the property by Elizabeth I in 1575. In the late 1580s and early 1590s he converted the castle into a Tudor mansion, transforming the outer ward into a garden and adorning the inner ward with decorative cobbling and a fountain. Some of the cobbling remains but the fountain has gone.

By the beginning of the 19th century, when a garden is next heard of, the castle, now in ruins, was in the possession of the Starke family, its owner, Elizabeth Ravens-croft, having married Colonel Richard Isaac Starke in 1798. The Starkes lived in Castle House, a mansion of about 1730 adjacent to the castle, which they altered in about 1810. The outer castle ward became an integral part of the gardens of Castle House while the ruined castle itself provided a magnificent and picturesque backdrop. The curtain walls on the north and west were rebuilt and given mock battlements, and a raised walk was made along the inside of the south-east curtain wall.

Some time before 1830, half-way along this walk, a gazebo was built on the foundations of a medieval tower. From the walk and gazebo, both of which survive, there are panoramic views out over the Taf estuary.



*A mature cedar of lebanon planted within the walls of Laugharne Castle.
Photo: Rosemary and John Thornton.*

Also in the early 19th century, a garden was laid out in the outer ward, with lawns, paths, borders and shrubberies, a layout that appears to have been little changed throughout the garden's active use by the Starke family.

The only period when Castle House was not occupied by the family was 1934-47, when it was rented by the author Richard Hughes, who is known to have used the gazebo for writing. The town of Laugharne was also the home of the poet Dylan Thomas, whose house, now open to the public, is situated on the shore a short distance from the castle.

The garden fell into dereliction after the Second World War but continued to be an integral part of the grounds of Castle House until 1973, when Miss Anne Starke placed the castle in the guardianship of the Secretary of State for Wales. Since then, it has been in the care of Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments, which has carried out much archaeological investigation and consolidation, under the direction of Richard Avent.

When the project to reinstate the Victorian garden was initiated by Cadw in 1990, the outer ward was in a sorry state. The gardens had been neglected for so long that seedling trees and shrubs had taken over and the original layout had become obscured. However, it was thought that enough of the historic structure and layout of the garden survived to warrant



*Restored and original Tudor cobbling forms a patchwork in the inner ward.
Photo: Rosemary and John Thornton.*

reconstruction, so the next stage was to research its past appearance and planting.

The first, if slightly disapproving, view of the garden was found in Benjamin Heath Malkin's *The scenery, antiquities and biography of south Wales*, published in 1804. He found the castle "a picturesque subject ... but the proprietor has laid out the inner court as a modern garden, and in every respect done his utmost to destroy the character of the ruin towards the water. Not only the area, but even one of the towers, is converted to the purposes of horticulture, and filled with the incongruous ornaments of evergreens and flowering shrubs."

There are no other 19th century descriptions of Laugharne, but its likely style may be surmised from the account by Henry Bright (*The English Flower Garden 1881*) of what must have been a similar garden in south-west England. "One of the most beautiful gardens I ever knew depended almost entirely on the arrangement of its lawns and shrubberies ... The various lawns were divided by thick shrubberies, so that you wandered on from one to the other, and always came on something new. In front of these shrubberies was a large margin of flower border, gay with the most effective plants and annuals. At one corner of the lawn a standard *Magnolia grandiflora* of great size held up its chalice blossoms; at another a tulip-tree was laden with hundreds of yellow flowers. Here a magnificent *Salisburia Ginkgo biloba* mocked the foliage of the maidenhair; and here an old cedar swept the grass with its huge pendant branches."

An invaluable series of photographs, taken by a member of the Starke family in the 1920s, shows a mature garden with glasshouses, lawns, borders, winding crushed cockleshell paths, dense shrubberies and an area of small formal rose beds edged with box. All these features, with the exception of the glasshouses, survived and have been reinstated and replanted.

Because the archaeological sensitivity of the outer ward was an important factor in the overall scheme, to minimise disturbance of the ground in the shrubbery it was decided to import additional soil, which raised the whole area slightly.

In Cadw's replanting of the Victorian garden there were three major considerations. First, only plants known to have been used in gardens of the period have been used. Secondly, the style of planting, particularly of the shrubberies, has followed an early 19th



The early 19th century gazebo overlooks the estuary from the south-east curtain wall.
Photo: Rosemary and John Thornton.

century model that Richard Isaac Starke would probably have been familiar with. Thirdly, since ease of maintenance is now so important, the perennials, annuals and bulbs known to have been in the garden in the 1920s have been omitted, new planting being restricted to trees, shrubs and climbers.

In planning the shrubberies, some of the advice that Henry Phillips gave on making them in his *Sylva Florifera* (1823) has been followed. Henry Phillips was one of the first members of the Horticultural Society, and published several books on horticultural subjects. Most of the plants used are to be found in his list of "plants suitable for shrubberies", which he advised should be natural-looking, enclosing flower gardens. Phillips was writing of a picturesque style of gardening, with flowers and shrubs being, in W S Gilpin's phrase, "amenable to the rules of composition" – as had landscapes been before them. It is very probable that the Laugharne Castle shrubberies were planted in this style at the very beginning of the 19th century.

The recreated garden has now been in existence for enough years to have taken on an established, mature appearance. Most plants have thrived; some, such as daphnes, have not. The climbing roses have begun to colonise the curtain walls. Already some thinning, particularly of laurel, has been necessary in the shrubberies. The major trees planted – a tulip tree *Liriodendron tulipifera* and Monterey pine *Pinus radiata*, the latter eventually to replace the ageing cedar of Lebanon – are beginning to make an impact. Perhaps something of the feel of a 19th century garden is starting to emerge, albeit one in an unusual, highly picturesque location.

Laugharne lies about eight miles south-west of Carmarthen. The castle is open from 1st May to 30th September daily. Tel: 02920 500 200.

Elisabeth Whittle is Cadw's Inspector of Historic Parks and Gardens. She was responsible for the restoration scheme at Laugharne Castle.

This article first appeared in the Autumn 2000 issue of *Historic Gardens Review*, a full-colour magazine published three times a year by an international not-for-profit organisation in support of garden heritage. For more information please look at www.historicgardens.freeserve.co.uk. If you would like subscription details or a free back issue, please contact: The Historic Gardens Foundation, 34 River Court, Upper Ground, London SE1 9PE. Tel: +44 (0)20 7633 9165. Fax: +44 (0)20 7401 7072. Email: histgard@aol.com



Box edged formal rose beds and cockleshell paths reconstruct the photographic record of the 1920's garden. Photo: Rosemary and John Thornton.

Thomas Edward's Other Summerhouse

by Brian Ll. James

The book of maps of the estate of Thomas Edwards of Llandaff House, surveyed by Edward Thomas of Eglwysynydd in 1776,¹ shows two summerhouses. One is now well known, standing in its ruined state in the grounds of Rookwood Hospital in Llandaff,² while the other, on Map 13 entitled 'Plan of the Summer House at the Heath in the Parish of Whitchurch', standing in a formal garden of some seven acres, is hitherto unknown to the literature of garden history. But it is not easy to locate in modern-day terms; what was in 1776 an out-of-the-way spot adjoining the desolate expanses of the Great Heath, would now be somewhere within the built-up area of the northern suburbs of Cardiff.

Through the study of later maps it has proved possible to identify the site and, to my surprise, not only is the garden still in existence, but it is only a hundred yards from where I have lived for the past twenty years. Of course, it is no longer the formal pleasure garden laid out by Edwards, but still a garden, some of its original features miraculously surviving more than a century's use as a nursery and municipal allotments.

As shown on the 1776 map, the garden was long and narrow, with more or less regular boundaries on its north, south and east sides, but the west side was irregular since it was bounded there (for the most part) by a stream.³ A long, straight path or drive led north from the summerhouse, placed near the southern end of the garden; this path was flanked by plantations of trees. By contrast, a serpentine path branched off to the west and followed the course of the stream, more or less. To the east a path led through the main entrance on to a broad, straight carriageway, now a footpath continuation of Grove Place. The paths which service the present-day allotment garden seem to follow the lines of the original paths, and the main gate is in the same position. The summerhouse, alas, is long gone. It is difficult to visualise this curious building from the tiny representation of it on the map. It seems to have been somewhat eccentric in design, something of a folly. There was a central gable and five upright embellishments which might be interpreted as Gothick pinnacles. The map shows the rear view of the summerhouse, so no door is visible; there was a rear window in the gable. Although it is difficult to appreciate the scale of the building, it seems likely that it consisted of a single room. Nearby stood a small cottage, which was presumably occupied by a gardener or caretaker.

The most puzzling aspect of the garden is its location. Why did Thomas Edwards create it some 2½ miles from his house in Llandaff? The prospect from the summerhouse would have been featureless – flat farmland on three sides and the blasted heath on the fourth. All the summerhouses known to have been built by the Glamorgan gentry in the eighteenth century were sited to command extensive views; but not this one. It may however have been a pleasant and private place for a family outing from Llandaff on a summer's afternoon.

Thomas Edwards was a powerful and wealthy man, a lawyer, since 1758 the chief steward of the Cardiff Castle Estate and since 1763 clerk of the peace for the county of Glamorgan. He was an avid estate builder on his own account, as his book of maps demonstrates.⁴ It is not known when he acquired the seven acres which he made into a garden. Since the land lay next to the Great Heath, its acquisition may have had something to do with Edwards's ambition to enclose the Great Heath on behalf of his employer, Alice, Viscountess Windsor. The local diarist, William Thomas, believed that enclosure would bring Edwards 'gains to his own pocket'.⁵ He would be able to claim an allocation of the common land as an adjoining freeholder. Having failed to secure this objective in 1763-65, one might suppose that Edwards turned some land, otherwise of little value, into a garden. The most likely date for this would be between 1770 and

A PLAN of the
SUMMER HOUSE
at the Heath
in the Parish of
WHITCHURCH.



1773. In the former year a new bridge was built over the Taff at Llandaff making the route between house and garden feasible for a carriage.⁶ In 1773 Edwards's wife died.

The later history of the garden on the Heath is by no means fully documented. Thomas Edwards died in 1794 but his family's ownership continued down to 1863 when outlying parts of the Llandaff House Estate – including 'a freehold parcel of land called the Summer House Field', in the parish of Whitchurch – were offered for sale.⁷ No map after 1776 marks a summerhouse, though its former existence was evidently remembered nearly ninety years later. In the meantime, the 'field' had been let to neighbouring farmers. By 1883 the owner was William Treseder, the Cardiff nurseryman, and Nursery Cottage still stands close by in Grove Place. Many years ago the nursery became allotments, municipally owned but managed by Cardiff and District Allotment Association.

¹ N.L.W. Maps, vol.28 (formerly MS 6631E); copies in the Glamorgan Record Office and Cardiff Central Library. For a full description, see Hilary M. Thomas, *A catalogue of Glamorgan estate maps* (Cardiff, 1992), 80-1.

² Matthew Williams, *A 'Gothick' summer house at Llandaff* (Llandaff Society occasional papers 10) (Llandaff, 1995); Patricia Moore, 'Llandaff House summerhouse in Rookwood Hospital grounds', *Bulletin of the Welsh Historic Gardens Trust* (Summer 2000); Hilary M. Thomas, 'Roman antiquities in a Gothick summerhouse', *Arch. Camb.*, CXLVII (2001 for 1998), 80-95; *Glamorgan. Register of landscapes, parks and gardens of special historic interest in Wales. Part 1: Parks and gardens* (Cardiff, 2000), 74-6.

³ The Pant-bach or the Philog brook.

⁴ He owned 2,500 acres in Glamorgan in 1776; it seems that he had acquired most of it by purchase or lease.

⁵ *The Diary of William Thomas, 1762-1795* ed. R.T.W. Denning (Cardiff, South Wales Record Society publications, no 11) (Cardiff, 1995), 83 and 129.

⁶ J.B. Hilling, *Llandaff past and present* (Barry, 1978), 43; *Cardiff records*, ed. J. Hobson Matthews, vol. III (Cardiff, 1901), 242.

⁷ Glamorgan Record Office. D/D SA 2/16. I owe this reference to the kindness of Mr Keith Edwards.

BRECON & RADNORSHIRE BRANCH

Friday February 15th: **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** – Tredustan Court, near Talgarth, at 6.45 pm for 7 pm followed by a talk by Mr T. Oliver on Croome Park, and a buffet and social gathering.

Wednesday April 24th: **SPRING LECTURE** – Dr Tim Mowl gives a talk on Repton. At Ffrwdgrech House, Brecon, by kind permission of Mr & Mrs Evans. Meet 6.30 pm for 7 pm.

Saturday May 11th: **VISIT TO STANAGE PARK**. Details subject to confirmation.

Saturday September 14th: **WORKSHOP DAY – How to carry out research on an historic garden**, at Penpont, Brecknock. The workshop will run from 10.00-5.00 and cost £12 which includes coffee, a light lunch and tea. Early booking essential. Please register your interest as soon as possible with Geoff Johnson-Brett (01544 267255) or Robin Whalley (01874 665353) Registration and payment will have to be completed by August 14th.

Thursday October 31st: **AUTUMN LECTURE** – at the Metropole Hotel, Llandrindod Wells, 7 pm. Val Hurlston-Gardiner talks on ‘The History of Gardens through Paintings’. Charge, including coffee, £3

See the Gateway Project in action. On May 2nd. A party of 30 children, 8 to 9 years old, will probably go on a creative writing project to Tretower Court, near Crickhowell. If so, the Branch is likely to be asked to provide assistance. If you think you would like to attend this event, please register your interest in advance with Geoff Johnson-Brett (Phone 01544 267255 or e-mail siliyahouse@btinternet.com). Only those registered will be contacted further.

CLWYD BRANCH

Saturday 16 February – Lunch at Highfield Hall, Northophall

Saturday 24 March – AGM. Talk by Glynis Shaw of Vaux le Vicompte. Leeswood Hall 2.30pm

Saturday 27 April – Study Day on 17th Century Gardens. Speakers: Elisabeth Whittle, Lindsay Evans

At Chirk Parish Hall. Followed by lunch at the Hand Hotel, Chirk and a visit to Whitehurst Gardens

Saturday 25 May – Visit to Foxall and old Fox Hall near Henllan. 2.30pm.

Sunday 23 June – Visit to Craflwyn near Beddgelert, an important Victorian garden being restored by the National Trust.

CEREDIGION BRANCH (Outline programme)

June – An exploration of the walled garden at Dolecothi

July – A visit to Highmead

September – A field day at Hafod, with Michael Norman

GWENT BRANCH (outline programme)

May – Visit to Tredegar House and Garden, expert talk on the mineral parterre.

June – Visit to Troftrey Lodge, tour of garden, cream tea.

Saturday 7 September Visit to Croome Park, Worcestershire hosted by Tom Oliver.

GWYNEDD BRANCH

Thursday 14 March – AGM and Luncheon at Oswald’s in Bangor

Thursday 4 May – Annual Plant fair at Crug Farm

Friday 24 May – Visit to Gwydir Castle, Llanrwst, hosted by Mrs Julie Welford. 2-4.30pm

Sunday 2 June – Visits to three private gardens: ‘Marian’, Talwrn, Ynys Mon, Plas Llanddyfnan, and Plas Cadnant. Day visit with picnic lunch.

Friday 22 July – Visit to Tatton Park

September – Michaelmas Luncheon at Castell Deudraeth, Portmeirion

SOUTH AND MID WALES BRANCH (outline programme)

The programme has not been determined, but we are in negotiations with the owners of Llansannor House, Ash Hall, the Italian Gardens at St Fagans and Pwllwyrach with a view to arranging visits during the summer

WEST GLAMORGAN BRANCH

Thursday, 28th March 7pm AGM

Followed by a talk on *Old Fashioned Roses* by Colonel Richard Gilbertson.

Memorial Baptist Church, Walter Road, Swansea. Entrance in Burman Street.

PEMBROKESHIRE BRANCH

Monday 18 March – Tregwynt mansion – Its Garden of History and Mystery by Mrs Ann Sayer. Cottesmore 7.00pm.

Monday 15 April – AGM. Followed by a talk on Irish Gardens by Col. Richard Gilbertson. Cottesmore 7.00pm

Saturday 27 April – Visit to Upton Castle Gardens, 2.30pm, tea at the Carew Tide Mill

Wednesday 22 May – Visit to Ffynone 2.30pm

Saturday 15 June – Visit to Laugharne castle, 2.30pm, tea

Wednesday 17 July – Visit to Llanerchaeron 2.30pm.

Gateway Golden Jubilee Garden Parties

In 2002 The Gateway Project is launching another initiative, *Gateway Golden Jubilee Garden Parties*, to include as many people as possible in the Trust’s Golden Jubilee celebrations. We are currently working with 50 charities and organizations throughout Wales of which the Queen is Patron, from Barnardo’s Cymru and Cruse Bereavement Care to I CAN, the Red Cross and the Stroke Association, to provide 50 free garden visits with a special afternoon tea – Golden Jubilee Garden parties for as wide a cross section of the modern Welsh community as possible. Any Trust members who would like to be involved in helping out on the day – and joining in the fun – should contact Sharron Kerr on 01792 390261. Any branches that felt they would like to sponsor a visit, at a cost of £500, should also speak to Sharron. Our thanks go to the Clwyd Branch who have already kindly sent us a £500 cheque for a Gateway Garden Party in their area. Smaller donations

are also being gratefully received. We estimate that it will cost £10 to provide a garden party place for each guest. Cheques can be sent to The Gateway Project c/o Sharron at New House Farm, Overton, Port Eynon, Swansea, SA3 1NR. Please help us to offer hundreds of people the chance to enjoy some of the loveliest gardens in Wales this Summer and feel part of the Golden Jubilee celebrations as well.

As well as our Garden Parties, we’d also like to celebrate the Golden Jubilee and at the same time pay tribute to the work of the WHGT with the planting of commemorative trees in Branches’ favourite gardens. Chairman, Bettina Harden, would be delighted to hear of your ideas!

Gateway staff changes

Education Officer John Rees has moved on to pastures new and the Gateway team looks forward to working with a new post-holder (re-named Learning and Access Officer) in April.



Last words from the Editor!

This is my last Bulletin, for I am forsaking such active involvement in WHGT publications in favour of remunerative employment. It has been a pleasure, (and sometimes a challenge) to weld together the disparate pieces of information and opinion which have passed through these columns in the past four years. I believe that in addition to the visible improvements in the appearance of *The Bulletin* (which are a credit to Y Lolfa, Talybont and especially to the page layout skills of Ceri Jones), *The Bulletin* has evolved to fulfil a very important and far from ephemeral role.

Many important discoveries are, in themselves too small to find their way into a more substantial historical journal. Many of our members might also lack the will and stamina to submit a fully polished article to a more august publication. Many fully polished articles wait years to attain publication. Yet important knowledge is constantly lost, because people take what they know for granted, and fail to write it down. The Bulletin accepts contributions from members irrespective of their levels of technological skill at the computer, and converts their work to its publishable form. Sometimes, this task can be quite arduous.

The Bulletin is thus the ideal vehicle for small yet important pieces of research in historic gardens. It is also preserved for posterity, for it is archived by The National Library of Wales, and

distributed to the Garden History Society, The Association for Gardens Trusts and its branches, and other relevant bodies. It is my hope that my successor will follow the tradition which *The Bulletin* upholds. It is a repository not merely of news, but of knowledge, and a valuable contribution to the record of gardens and garden matters in Wales.

A new editor is urgently needed to take up the baton. If it appeals to you, please contact the administrator or Bettina, and this rewarding post, and a small honorarium could be yours...

Caroline Palmer



Conservation matters

Threat to Clyne Gardens, Swansea

We were alerted, by residents of St Carwg Walk, to an application made by the Estates Department of the Local Authority for outline building permission for a residential development on the former nursery area in Clyne, once the kitchen garden of Clyne Castle. Another planning application had already been made by the Director for Recreation and Culture for a much larger car park (forty spaces) next to what is usually called Clyne Chapel.

Local residents met with the Planning Officer dealing with the residential plan. It emerged that land now owned by the University was to be included in a housing development. A total of thirty-nine units of executive-style housing was envisaged with access via the cul de sac.

I consulted with Elizabeth Whittle and I alerted David Lambert of the situation. Members of the WHGT gave valuable advice. The Director of Horticulture at the Botanic Garden of Wales, Ivor Stokes, who had previously been in charge of Clyne came to meet us. Ivor thought the residential plan was definitely to be opposed on principle. With regard to the car park, he agreed that at present car parking for visitors to Clyne was inadequate. He favoured an area of the park further to the north.

The residents also obtained a copy of a leaked document written by the Director of Development. This indicated that the University College, Swansea wishes to dispose of of Clyne Castle and its grounds, which include two halls of residence dating from the 1960s. The paper outlined various possible uses for the castle including an hotel and conference centre.

The West Glamorgan branch sent two letters of objection, against the request for outline planning permission for residential housing and against the car park, on the grounds that there seemed to be no comprehensive plan for Clyne's future.

It appears that insufficient consultation took place even WITHIN the council and considerable resentment was caused. All plans are now on hold.

Ann Gardner

The Vaynol, Bangor

The parkland at The Vaynol, just outside Bangor, is another Grade I landscape under threat. The Gwynedd Branch have been leading a campaign to protect this lovely landscape running gently down to the Menai Straits and which, until last year, had managed to avoid development and destruction. The small city of Bangor is squashed between the sea, the railway line and the mountains and the only way it can grow is sideways along the coast where you are halted by the bastions of Penrhyn Castle (National Trust) and The Vaynol. Consequently these two important garden sites are being harried and chipped away at by unsympathetic development plans.

The Gwynedd Branch failed in an attempt to prevent a very unsuitable car park development last Summer and since then have been on full alert for more planning applications. Fuelled by Objective I funding, a HUGE plan for a book distribution center with parking for 400 cars was lodged this Autumn. It involved development in the parkland within the estate walls, dwarfing the Lodge (still lived in) and it was clear that, to quote the Visual Impact Assessment commissioned by the developers "the impact on the historic park is significant in cultural, historic and built form terms". On these grounds alone planning should have been refused.

Moreover, no Environmental Impact Assessment was put in hand. **Everyone** had written forcefully to Gwynedd Council – Cadw, CCW, the GHS, The Georgian Group, CPRW – but the planning application was allowed in late December. Since then Gwynedd Branch has been battling to try and get the decision reversed. It emerged that the Council had failed to present most of the letters of objection to the Planning Committee. Gwynedd Branch took a case for maladministration to the Local Ombudsman who has forwarded the papers to Gwynedd Council for comment. At the same time, a valiant local member has stepped forward so that the Branch can help him in the quest for Judicial Review to overturn the planning decision. It is unclear whether he will be successful. Counsel's opinion is that there is a very strong case – watch this space!

Bettina Harden

Clay Pots from Cardigan

by Peter Davies

Some years ago I bought a postcard-sized printed price list of 'flower pots and garden requisites', issued by the operators of the brickworks at Cardigan in 1888. This may be of interest to Welsh garden historians, since it reveals a local source for these items, once found in almost every garden throughout the land.

The price list came from a Cardigan printer's 'spike', part of a large purchase of old spiked papers by ephemera dealer Tony Clarke-Grenfell around 1990, when the printer was clearing-out his loft. The annotated white card, originally produced as a retail price list, seems to have been sent to the printer for him to print a batch of trade price cards. The trade prices are added in manuscript, in red ink. A note '200 yellow 8/-' in pencil at top left is presumably the printer's quotation; the batch to be printed on yellow card. The reverse side of the card is blank, except for a pencilled note, '2 over allowed for breakages', which repeats the information already added on the front, '14 to the dozen'. The range of flower-pot sizes, and the wide variety of products on offer, are rather remarkable. The prices are sobering, in the light of today's values. A nurseryman could, for example, obtain 14 5-inch pots for sixpence. (To place this in context, however, a Welsh labourer's wage around 1890 was about 10 to 15/- a week.)

The Cardigan brick and tile works had a lengthy if somewhat chequered history. A brickyard was certainly in operation there by 1817, when it is mentioned in papers of the Neuadd estate at Llanarth, Cardiganshire.² The estate purchased 3 dozen ridge tiles for a shilling, and carriage from the brickyard (to a vessel in the river) cost another sixpence. The yard must however have ceased to function subsequently, since Cardigan historian W.J. Lewis³ says that 'the first to see the need for a local brickworks was the Rev. R.H. Miles, who succeeded to the Priory in 1845'. The Miles family, wealthy Bristol bankers, had acquired a mortgage interest in the Priory Estate at Cardigan in 1807, and became sole owners in 1820.⁴ Lewis records that the old Poor Houses in upper Mwldan were demolished in 1858, and the brickworks built on that site soon afterwards. There is no reference to the works in *Slater's Directory* for 1858-59,⁵ but Lewis notes that the first tenant of the new works, George B. Osborne, was installed by 1860. Osborne evidently struggled to make the business pay, and gave up the tenancy around 1870. William Woodward, a local builder who had been Steward and Agent at the Priory, then took over in 1871, in partnership with Canon Miles. He expanded and modernised the works, and vastly increased the output of bricks, many of which were exported to Ireland. After an expensive setback in 1875, when the brickworks dam failed, causing widespread damage and two fatalities further down the Mwldan, Woodward embarked on further expansion in 1876, erecting a new kiln for the production of glazed bricks, and domestic pottery in glazed earthenware, some of which carried the printed mark 'CARDIGAN POTTERY WOODWARD & CO. CARDIGAN'. The firm traded as 'Woodward & Co.' in the 1870s and as 'Miles, Woodward & Co.' by 1880. The household pottery side of the enterprise proved unable to compete with the large manufactories in England, however, and by the late 1880s Woodward was ready to call it a day, and retired from the business.

The 'Miles, Chavasse & Co.' of the 1888 garden pottery list was presumably formed after Woodward's departure. Perhaps the garden pottery was part of a fresh attempt at diversification of the brickworks output, by the new management. Since Mr. Chavasse first appears on the scene at this time, it may be that he had some particular expertise in the production of garden ware, but I have been unable to discover anything about him. He does not appear

Trade Price List
200 yellow 8/- 14 to the dozen
A. MILES, CHAVASSE & CO.'S
LIST OF
FLOWER POTS AND GARDEN REQUISITES.
Address:—CARDIGAN, South Wales.

No	Clear Inside Diameter. Inches.	Price Per Doz. s. d.	No.	Clear Inside Diameter. Inches.	Price Per Doz. s. d.
1	2	0 3	13	10	4 0
2	2½	0 4	14	11	5 0
3	3	0 5	15	12	6 0
4	3½	0 6	16	14	12 0
5	4	0 7	17	15	15 0
6	4½	0 8	18	16	21 0
7	5	0 9	19	18	2 6
8	5½	1 0	20	20	4 0
9	6	1 4	21	22	6 0
10	7	2 0	22	24	10 0
11	8	2 6	23	27	15 0
12	9	3 0	24	30	25 0

SACCCERS—Same prices as in Pots.
SEED PANS—12 inches, 7/6; 10 inches, 5/-; 8 inches, 4/-; 6 inches, 3/-, per dozen.
SEASALE POTS—Small 12/- per doz.; Large, 15/- do.
RHUBARB POTS—Small 18/-; Large, 24/- do.
ORLONG WINDOW BOXES—1, 2, and 3—each.

Long Tom Flower Pots, Vine Pots, Deep and Shallow Italian Baskets, Rustic Pots, Vases and Stands, Rustic Stumps, Deep and Shallow Rustic Baskets and Brackets, Garden Vases, and every garden requisite made at the Works in a rich red terracotta. Prices on application.

in the census returns for the Cardigan area in 1881 or 1891. The name is evidently very unusual in Britain, but Dr. Helen Palmer (Ceredigion Archivist) informs me that there was a cluster of Chavasse families in the Walsall and Brierley area of south Staffordshire in 1881, and there may be some connection. Miles, Chavasse & Co. did not operate for long. The firm is still listed under that name in *Kelly's Directory* for 1891, but in that year the Miles family tried to sell the works as a going concern, though there were no takers. According to J.P. Cushion⁶ the production of household domestic pottery was discontinued in 1890. The brick and tile works stayed in business, however, trading as 'Cardigan Brickworks Co.', under the management of Richard M. Thomas, until final closure about 1925. The manufacture of 'flower pots and garden ware' continued, according to successive issues of *Kelly's Directory*, until the final closure. The firm was still listed in the 1926 directory, but had certainly closed by then, and Lewis says that the buildings were demolished in 1927.

The production of garden ware continued for almost 40 years, so it is very likely that some of the Cardigan brickworks garden products still survive, in West Wales gardens or in coastal districts elsewhere, which were visited by vessels trading with Cardigan. Unless they are shown to have been marked at the pottery, however, or proved to have distinctive features of materials or design, it will be difficult to identify them.

¹ Davies, D.L. *Watermill*. Llangollen, 1997

² National Library of Wales, *Lucas MS 1525*

³ Lewis, W.J. *The Gateway to Wales*. Dyfed County Council, Carmarthen, 1990

⁴ *Cardiganshire County History, Vol. 3: 373-379*. Cardiff, 1998

⁵ Directories consulted during the preparation of this article included *Slater's* for 1858-59, 1868, and 1880; *Worrall's* 1875; *Kelly's* for 1884, 1891, 1895, 1901, 1906, 1910, 1914, 1920, 1923, and 1926.

⁶ Cushion, J.P. *Handbook of Pottery and Porcelain Marks (4th ed.)*. London, 1980

A Rustic Stump



© RCAHMY

We are grateful to Dr Stephen Briggs for the above photograph of a Rustic Stump pot which stands in a garden in North Wales. While there is no reason to link this particular pot with Miles Chavasse and Co., a similar stump pot was known in the Nanteos walled garden in Ceredigion, until it was broken some 15 years ago. Members may, themselves, own examples of this distinctive style and might like to scrutinise them for any imprinted makers' marks.

C. Palmer

Advance Notice -

Annual General Meeting

Saturday, 8th June 2002
Sketty Hall, Swansea

PROGRAMME

10.30 am Coffee and Registration

11.00 am AGM

11.45 am Lecture, speaker to be

1.00pm Lunch

2.30pm tour

of the grounds of Penrice Castle, Oxwich, Gower

News from the Penllergare Trust

Founder Chairman. Hal Moggridge, OBE, VMH and eminent historic landscape consultant, has been elected as chairman of the Penllergare Trust. Founder members of the WHGT will remember that Hal was vice-chairman of the Lampeter conference, Welsh Gardens Under Threat in April 1990, but his connections with Wales go much further back. His great-grandmother was Fanny, John Dillwyn Llewelyn's elder sister, who married the notable archaeologist called Matthew Moggridge. Among Hal's many commissions have been advisor to the Royal Parks in London, the restoration of Capability Brown's masterpiece at Blenheim Park, and Brown's smallest park at Cadland. More recently he has worked at Aberglasney and the National Botanic Garden of Wales.

Penllergare Database. Designed by Ken Murphy of Cambria Archaeology and assisted by Tom Pert, on attachment through Cymru Prosper Wales, the Penllergare database is a unique electronic record of the cultural, archaeological and historic development of Penllergare and its setting: of the place, its people and imagery.

Now operational, the database has three main functions:

- to enable informed decisions on the historic fabric of Penllergare by development control and planning staffs;
- as the basis for the further research, planning, management and interpretation of the proposed restoration project; and,
- to inform the public, for whom Penllergare is part of their heritage as well as a place for quiet enjoyment of landscape and nature.



Hal Moggridge, OBE, VMH, PPLI, FI Hort, RIBA, AA Dipl

The initial (January 2002) version of the database contains 20 groups of maps and 203 data points (previously there were records of only five such points for Penllergare), together with some 220 images, as well as 25 text records of significant locations and 111 people associated with the estate.

The database is currently available to a limited number of users on CD-ROM: but see below.

The project was made possible through generous grants from the Swansea Development Fund and The Gower Society.

Other Projects. A Bird Usage Survey for Penllergare has been carried out by the Shared Earth Trust (Denmark Farm). A Penllergare Website is planned and it is hoped that it will feature public access to the Database. Community Development continues, with the successful Walk & Talk programme for primary schools as its main activity.

For further information please contact Michael Norman on 01558 650735; or e-mail Michael.Norman@care4free.net

Gerddi-WWW.

Every time I look for new sites in the web, I find new and interesting information on gardens. However I continue to check on older sites, as the best change regularly, like the NGS site. If you have found interesting site, please contact me. Tel: 01446 775794. e-mail: val.t.caple@care4free.net

<http://www.ngs.org.uk/>

The National Garden Scheme

The site has been updated to include the gardens open for charity in 2002. The database can be searched by area, garden or what is open 'this week' and includes gardens not normally open to the public.

<http://www.nccpg.org.uk/>

National Council for the Conservation of Plants and Gardens includes 'Collection Links', a list by Genus and Collection Owner.

<http://www.ccw.gov.uk/>

The Countryside Council for Wales is the Government's statutory adviser on sustaining natural beauty, wildlife and the opportunity for outdoor enjoyment in Wales and its inshore waters. Grants are available for schemes involving historic landscapes.

<http://www.britainexpress.com/wales/az/gardens/index.htm>.

Britain Express includes the Wales Gardens Gazetteer, a guide to gardens in Wales, highlighting attractions, history, and visitor information.

THE PICTURESQUE SOCIETY

THE WYE VALLEY - A PICTURESQUE TOUR A 'long weekend' Study Tour, 26-28 April, 2002

Accommodation at
LONGWORTH HALL HOTEL
a late 18th century Country House of quality.

Sites to be visited - Foxley Estate, the home of Uvedale Price at the time he wrote his 'Essays on The Picturesque', 1794 and all the important locations mentioned by the Rev. William Gilpin in his 'Observations on the Wye Valley' published in 1770. Sites from Hereford to Tintern Abbey will be looked at in relation to and compared with the writings of Uvedale Price and William Gilpin.

Costs for two and a half days full board with all necessary transport from Longworth Hall:
For two people sharing a room, £144.00 each.
Single room supplement - - - £20.00

For further details and booking form please send SAE to:

Jack Calow, Tour Director,
1 Overbury Road, Hereford HR1 1JE
Telephone: 01432 265875

CONTACTS

Brecon and Radnor	Miss Anne Carter (01982 570279)
Ceredigion	Mr Donald Moore (01970 828777)
Clwyd	Mrs Sara Furse (01352 770360)
Gwent	Mrs Christabel Hutchings (01633 215376)
Gwynedd	Mrs Joan K.Jones (01766 522766)
Montgomery	Mrs Carrie Dalby (01686 625613)
Pembrokeshire	Mr Gerry Hudson (01834 814317)
South and Mid Glam.	Dr Peter Elmes (02920 512102)
West Glam	Mrs Sharron Kerr (01792 390261)
Administrator	Mrs Ros Laidlaw, Ty Leri, Talybont, Ceredigion SY245ER (01970 832268)
Treasurer	Col. Richard Gilbertson, Coed y Ffynnon, Lampeter Velfrey, Narberth, Pems SA67 8UJ (01834 831396)
Bulletin Editor	Dr Caroline Palmer, The Old Laundry, Rhydyfelin, Aberystwyth, SY23 4QF (01970 615403)
Membership Secretary	Mr Peter Williams Llangunnor House, Crickadarn, Powys, LD3PJ (01982 560288)

Or E-mail us

Bettina Harden	bettina.harden@farming.co.uk
Peter Elmes	peter@dawroshouse.co.uk
Ros Laidlaw	historicgardenswales@hotmail.com
Caroline Palmer	caroline@aber64.freereserve.co.uk
Carrie Dalby	Carrie.Dalby@booker-bbs.net
Joan K.Jones	jkj@morannedd49.freereserve.co.uk
Sharron Kerr	Skerr41170@aol.com
Val Caple	val.t.caple@care4free.net
Brian Lewis	Brian@blewis7.fsnet.co.uk



CYNGOR CEFN GWLAD CYMRU
COUNTRYSIDE COUNCIL FOR WALES



Registered Charity No. 1023293



NFU Mutual

IT/Gazetteer Subcommittee

The Trust Committee have agreed to fund the purchase of a WHGT PC that will be used to store the information on Welsh gardens. Liz Whittle also informed us that Cadw were willing to support the database by funding a part time administrator, and the Trust Committee plan to apply for match funding from other sources.

The subcommittee has heard from members of some branches which are not presently represented and who have expressed an interest in starting recording work in their area. The Brecon and Radnorshire Branch are organising a Workshop on researching historic gardens in September.

The next concern to be addressed is the training of members to carry out surveys and file the information. We are looking for funding to set up a Workshop on the use of the MS Access database design that has been used successfully by the Clwyd branch over several years. We hope that each Branch will be able to send a representative who can already use MS Access so that we can quickly move on to the details of how to record individual gardens and their features in a standard format.

The Branch representatives continue to work with the four Welsh Archaeology Trusts to ensure that the Sites and Monuments Records (SMR) include all gardens of local significance. Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust has supplied the two Glamorgan Branches with a copy of the information they hold on gardens in their areas and the Ceredigion Branch is working with Cambria Archaeological Trust to apply for funding to record gardens in their area.

Val Caple