



Summer 2003

The Japanese Garden at Shirenewton Hall, Monmouthshire

"The importation of exotic motives into garden design in England is dangerous, not only because they are rarely understood, but because there are few sites where they can take their place at all naturally. The disposition of a few typical ornaments, of a bronze stork here and a stone lantern there, does not make a Japanese garden; it only makes an English garden speak with a Japanese accent." (Lawrence Weaver, Country Life, 27 February 1915, p. 277)

A craze for all things Japanese, including gardens, swept the higher echelons of society in the Edwardian period, following the opening up of Japan at the Meiji restoration in 1868. This led to the creation of many gardens, not just in England but in Britain as a whole, which spoke with a Japanese accent. Only a handful of gardens were made which could truly be called Japanese gardens. Shirenewton Hall is one of these, and the only one in Wales.



An original Japanese pagoda at Shirenewton Hall

The more genuine Japanese gardens had several things in common. First, they were only made from about 1900 until the 1920s, that is, later in the period of Japanese garden-making. Secondly, their owners were concerned for authenticity. Some of them had been in Japan, as diplomats or traders, and seen the real thing. This led to the third common strand in these more authentic gardens – their design and sometimes even their maintenance by Japanese experts and gardeners. Lastly, many of them were constructed with buildings, ornaments and even plants imported from Japan.

The Japanese garden at Shirenewton Hall was made by Charles Liddell, a shipping merchant in the Far Eastern trade, who bought the property in 1900. It was laid out in the early years of the twentieth century as a separate entity, detached from the main



The genuine cedar wood Japanese tea house

garden around the house. There is strong evidence that Liddell was not only concerned with authenticity but that he probably employed a Japanese designer to lay out the garden. He certainly brought in genuine Japanese artefacts and plants to the garden.

Although quite small, the garden is so cunningly laid out that it gives an impression of much greater size. The main path enters the garden at the north end, where it passes under a red-painted, Shinto arch. There then follows a most intricate layout of paths, narrow, rock-lined watercourses, with many small cascades, six ponds, small islands and bridges. At the heart of the garden, on a small terrace above the uppermost pond, is a genuine Japanese tea-house, for which architect's drawings on rice paper, and labelled in Japanese, exist at the Hall. They appear to show how the building should be reassembled after dismantling, a clear indication that it was imported from Japan. This delightful small building of cedar wood is entirely unaltered. It has two rooms, one with a 'moon' window, sliding walls and doors and terracotta-tiled roof ridges ornamented with fantastical creatures.

The planting of the garden contains many Japanese elements. Trees, mainly around the perimeter and at the north end, include pines, maples and cedars. There are bonsai trees and shrubs, particularly pines and Japanese maples, and, remarkably, there are a number of Japanese acers, which show direct evidence of having been imported: they are still in, or partly in, their glazed pots, which were not removed on planting. These can be seen lining the terrace below the tea-house.

The garden is so designed that none of the ponds are intervisible but are hidden from each other by screening evergreen tree and shrub planting. Bridges cross them, or reach small islands. The two bridges are strongly Japanese in character; one is an

arched, red-lacquered wooden bridge, the other stone, with parapets incorporating glazed green Japanese tiles. The sinuous shape of the ponds also has the effect of concealing their true extent: they appear to continue further than they actually do. Water is circulated through the channels and ponds by means of a pump.

Throughout the garden are a number of genuine Japanese ornaments. There are two Shinto arches, a number of *Kasuga* stone lanterns, a stone pagoda, a stone mushroom, a well and a bronze statue of a crane, which stands guard over the top pond. The disposition of these around the garden is difficult for the layman to understand but they may well have been carefully positioned on a 'path of life' through the garden.

To put the Japanese garden at Shirenewton Hall in context one must look both at the comparable gardens in Britain, that were attempting serious authenticity, and at the remaining gardens of the Edwardian period in Wales that speak with a Japanese accent. There are several Japanese gardens in Britain that could be thought of as Shirenewton Hall's peers. Heale House, Wiltshire, was laid out by a Japanese garden designer in about 1901, for the Hon. Louis Greville, 2nd Secretary at the British Embassy in Tokyo in 1882–87. Like Shirenewton Hall, it includes a genuine teahouse, with sliding walls, that was erected by two Japanese carpenters. Another garden to use only Japanese designs, artefacts and plants was New Place, Haslemere, Hampshire. The Japanese garden at Fanhams Hall, Ware, Hertfordshire, was designed by Professor Suzuki and laid out between 1905 and 1933. It had a 'fox' lake (for wisdom and good fortune), a genuine tea-house and other artefacts, imported Japanese plants, and was maintained by Japanese gardeners each summer. It is now a centre for the study of the Japanese tea ceremony. In Scotland a fine Japanese garden was



The arched, red-lacquer bridge in situ

from 1905 onwards and with a design finalised in 1923–26 by Seyemon Kusumoto for Herbert Goode, another Far East merchant.

In Wales a few gardens with a Japanese flavour were made in the Edwardian period. The most important of these is Coedarhydyglyn, in the Vale of Glamorgan. Here, in a small valley known as the Dell, a water garden, complete with some genuine Japanese artefacts, was made at the beginning of the twentieth century. The garden was probably laid out for the Traherne family by Alfred Parsons, aided by his partners Captain Walter Partridge and Charles Tudway. They are known to have worked for a 'Mr Traherne' in 1904–05 and this could have been either here or at Bryngarw, near Bridgend, which also has a Japanese-style garden. Whatever the truth of the matter, the Dell contains a Japanese teahouse, covered gate and bridge and its planting includes bamboos, ferns and acers. Alfred Parsons visited Japan in 1892–94 and published *Notes in Japan* (1896), making him one of the few British garden designers with first-hand experience of Japanese gardens.

Other gardens in Wales that have Japanese-style areas include Trawscoed, Ceredigion, made by Regina, Countess of Lisburne, in the 1920s; Llysdinam and Llandinam, Powys; Gredington, Wrexham and Llantilio Court, Monmouthshire. The garden at Trawscoed has become obscured by vegetation, its water channel dry and its fine rockwork cascade invisible and disused. The most visible pointer here to the presence of a garden in Japanese style is a prominent stone lantern. Some, like Llantilio Court, where only a skeletal Japanese bridge survives, have been abandoned and contain only echoes of their Japanese character.

This brief survey of the small stock of Japanese and Japanese-style gardens in Wales leads us to one conclusion. Not much of this brief and exotic flowering survives. Head and shoulders above the rest is Shirenewton Hall, a well preserved, well kept secret. Together with the garden-around the house (and that is another Far Eastern story), it is graded II* on the Cadw/ICOMOS Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales. It is well cared for at present and the water is running through channels and ponds again after a long absence. It is a rare and fragile jewel in the Welsh crown; we need to make every effort to ensure its survival.

Elisabeth Whittle

Photographs © Elisabeth Whittle



The stone bridge with its green-glazed tiled parapet

laid out, following strict principles, in 1907 at Cowden. It was designed by Taki Honda for Ella Christie. Two other exceptionally fine and authentic Japanese gardens should be mentioned: Tully, Kildare, in Ireland, designed partly by Tassa Eida and his son for Lord Wavertree in 1906–10, and Cottered, Hertfordshire, laid out

The Georgian Group

Founded in 1937, The Georgian Group promotes the protection and enjoyment of Georgian buildings, monuments, parks and gardens. It is a statutory amenity society in England and Wales and has been of enormous support to the WHGT on many fronts, particularly concerning planning applications such as those concerning YFaenol in Gwynedd. All members and branches should be aware of how to contact The Group, and its new Caseworker for Wales, Simon Wardle, who will be based in Llandovery, working on Mondays and Wednesdays (telephone: 0150 8 760 242). There is a Welsh group of members headed up by Michael Tree, our new Vice Chairman (see contacts on the back page of this issue), who receive their own newsletter and have social meetings and events.

If you are a lover of all things Georgian – roughly from 1700 to 1840 – it is definitely worth considering becoming a member. Over 40% of the listed buildings in England and Wales are Georgian or contain Georgian work but every year The Group is consulted on over 6,000 planning applications involving alterations or demolition. The Group is not opposed to change, but their intervention has helped to protect many buildings and sites from harmful alteration.

Membership of The Georgian Group is open to all. As well as helping them to continue and expand their work, a subscription would give you access to a wide range of benefits: visits to a wide range of Georgian houses and gardens not normally open to the public; a members room in London to allow you to relax, consult the reference library and view exhibitions; discounts on a range of books, goods and services; lectures and study days; a thrice-yearly magazine + an annual Journal. If you are under 30 there is a Young Georgian Group that organizes visits and parties throughout the year. Ordinary membership is £30; Joint membership £42; Young Georgian £20.

The Georgian Group, 6 Fitzroy Square, London W1T 5DX
Telephone: 0207 529 8920 Fax: 0207 529 8939
e-mail: office@georgiangroup.org.uk
Website: www.georgiangroup.org.uk

SPAB – A Caseworker for Wales.

The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings has appointed Judith Leigh as their Welsh Officer. She has lived in Wales for many years and has extensive conservation experience including working for Cadw. She will be in post from early Summer to deal with cases involving pre-1720 buildings. Contact her at: White Lion Cottage, Tregaer, Raglan, Monmouthshire NP15 2LH or on the SPAB line: 01291 691 451.

People

Changes at the Assembly

Following the local elections in May, various changes have been made to the Welsh Assembly Cabinet of ministers and portfolios and we must bid farewell to Sue Essex as the Minister in charge of Environment and thus, indirectly, the WHGT. She has been moved on to Finance and we will all miss the well-informed expertise that she brought to her post.

Our work and affairs now fall under the aegis of a new portfolio and a new Minister: Alun Pugh (AM for Clwyd West), now

Minister in charge of Culture, Sport and the Languages of Wales, including the arts, libraries, museums, sport and recreation. This seems a very wide remit and we hope that care for the historic environment does not fall between so many stools.

The Trust Committee

At this time of year, following the AGM, the WHGT often welcomes new faces and says goodbye to old friends. This year is no exception, but we are losing some very valuable Trustees who have served the Trust loyally for over a decade. We bade farewell to **Dr Peter Elmes**, Chairman of Mid & South Glamorgan and our Vice-Chairman in the Spring issue. He will be much missed, as will **John Borron**, who has acted as our Treasurer for the past two years. He has left everything in immaculate order and we have a surplus in the accounts, something that did not exist when I took over as Chairman six years ago. John also served as Chairman of the Publications Committee, overseeing the production and content of *The Bulletin* and *Gerddi*. Given that he left Wales for Cumbria several years ago and has loyally made the journey to Wales for every Trust Committee meeting thereafter, we owe him a great debt of thanks.

The new faces around the Committee table are very welcome indeed. **Tom Lloyd**, known to many as not just the Chairman of the Historic Buildings Council for Wales, but also as a renowned antiquarian and historian of Wales's built heritage, is now your Chairman. His book, *The Lost Houses of Wales*, should be in every library. Might this new direction with the WHGT lead to *The Lost Gardens of Wales*? In any event, his first literary effort addressed to you will appear in the Autumn *Bulletin*.

Tom has a new Vice-Chairman, **Michael Tree** from Gwynedd. We are very lucky indeed to have Michael with us as he heads The Georgian Group in Wales and serves on the Executive Committee of the Historic Houses Association. These are links that will be of great benefit to the WHGT.

Our new Treasurer is **Jeremy Rye**, known to many of you as an expert in fine art in Wales. With his location just south of Welshpool, the Officers of the Trust are now well placed to cover the whole of the country – Tom in South Wales, Michael in the North, Jeremy on the East and our invaluable Administrator, **Ros Laidlaw**, on the West.

We welcome a new Chairman for Mid & South Glamorgan in **Dan Clayton Jones**. His links with organisations such as the HHA and the National Trust Committee for Wales and as erstwhile Chairman of the National Botanic Garden for Wales will give both his branch and the Trust Committee a great injection of expertise and energy.

Finally, I would like to bid you all farewell myself. I have served you for a total of 12 years – as Chairman of Gwynedd, then as Vice-Chairman to Professor Tom Pritchard and, for the last six years, as your Chairman. It has been an education, often great fun, occasionally dementing and never, ever dull. I will miss the Trust Committee and its Officers enormously – we have all become great friends over the years. I have not vanished from sight entirely – I will be editing the Autumn edition of *The Bulletin* and will be around in the background as a newly elected member of the Trust's Council. The Gateway beckons and we will maintain close links with the WHGT. I would like to thank everyone for all the help and support extended to me over the years. It has been a privilege to work for the Welsh Historic Gardens Trust.

Bettina Harden

Urban Parks Study Day

With the help and support of CCW and the City & County of Swansea, this innovative Study Day, held at the Dylan Thomas Centre in Swansea, has been accounted a great success. It was attended by a broad cross-section of delegates, many of whom represented urban parks across Wales and from as far afield as Bristol. The first seminar of its kind in Wales, it has already been suggested that there should be another one to maintain the interest and momentum generated last month.

Dr Stewart Harding, whose address to the WHGT's AGM last year provided the spark that ignited this event, opened with a thought-provoking and lively address urging Wales to get on with the preservation and restoration of its Urban Parks. It is a subject that needs moving up the agenda in Wales and is important enough to merit a Parks Minister at the Assembly (as there is in England). We should get lobbying now! Peter Wilkinson from Bristol Urban Park Development then gave an account of how Bristol has tackled the task of maintaining their many historic parks whilst also developing a £6m scheme at Ashton Court.

The afternoon was devoted to two workshops: Professor Charles Stirton's workshop on biophilia, demanding that urban parks should satisfy people's need to re-connect with the natural world. Hot issues were the order of the day as David Lambert stressed the need to address the conflicts that arise between the conservation of an historic setting and public access and amenity in the 21st Century. It is critical that parks do not get embedded in the aspic of their historic past: the past has to be re-evaluated for its relevance and use today.

The important issues raised here deserve an in-depth assessment and this will be presented to you in the Autumn edition of *The Bulletin*.

Jo Coulson

West Glamorgan Branch

PlantNet

The Plant Collections Network of Britain & Ireland
Spring Conference

Gardens as Visitor Attractions

PlantNet is the national network of botanic gardens, arboreta and other documented plant collections promoting botanical collections as a resource for research, conservation and education. It also facilitates networking and training through conferences and workshops. The theme of this conference was how plant collections and gardens can be best presented as public attractions.

The WHGT was invited to participate on the second day, held at Portmeirion, and I gave a presentation on the WHGT and the work of The Gateway Project as it provides so many gardens with visitors they do not expect and may not be prepared for. Gardens that open to the public should know how useful organizations such as the WHGT can be, both centrally (e.g. as in this newsletter, providing publicity and information free of charge about events and developments) and locally, with the help of the branches who can give so much support to an individual garden. Certainly, many of the gardens represented at the conference were unaware of the work of The Gateway and, if we are successful in moving in England, we are now sure of support through PlantNet, linking in and working with their members in the West Midlands.

It is impossible to give the detail of all the fascinating talks I heard that morning: Robin Llewelyn's introduction to Portmeirion; developing publicity and media PR; learning how the Royal Botanic Garden in Edinburgh sets out its stall for the city and beyond (NB: they have an excellent website – www.rbge.org.uk); Chris Hall from

Plas Tan-y-Bwlch relating how they use the native flora and fauna to attract visitors (I shut my eyes for his slides of grass snakes); a wonderful story of promoting Ireland's historic gardens. The cream of the crop came from Mike Calnan, Head of Gardens for the National Trust with 'Measuring the Unmeasurable – Balancing Access and Conservation'. This set out the Trust's current work to assess how they balance access to their most popular gardens with preserving their inherent character. The facts themselves were fascinating: 60% of NT members join in order to visit gardens; the NT stages some 4,000 garden events a year; their top 10 gardens each attract 300,000 visitors a year **but** very few are financially self sufficient. The Trust has to face the fact that costs always go up but attracting more visitors can cause overcrowding which affects the physical and spiritual perception of a garden. They have to guard against the loss of tranquility and compromising their conservation aims while maintaining public access and fulfilling the public's expectations. The work at the moment is to provide Property Managers with a 'Tool Kit' to help them assess all this. It is to be hoped that when it is complete the 'kit' will be widely available for it will deal with matters that affect all historic parks and gardens open to the public. It is a subject worthy of a Study Day in itself.

Bettina Harden

Gardens under threat

Bodnant Gardens, Tal-y-Cafn, Colwyn Bay, Conwy

Since the last edition of *The Bulletin* appeared we understand that the much-debated plans for the 'shelters' at Bodnant and other parts of the development have been referred back to the Architecture Committee of the National Trust. They plan to hold an on-site meeting there at some point this Summer to consider them. We very much hope that this visit will produce a rethink about some of the more assertive and unsympathetically sited structures.

Bettina Harden

Margam Park, Port Talbot

Community Power Ltd, the developers of the proposed wind energy cluster above Margam Park, has appealed the rejection of their Planning Application. As a result a Public Enquiry is to be held in Cardiff, starting on the 1st July. Written views had to be sent before this edition of *The Bulletin* reached you. However, both the Chairman and the West Glamorgan branch have written in stating their objections to this unfortunate proposed development.

Ann Gardner

Y Faenol, Bangor, Gwynedd

In spite of considerable local opposition, in south Gwynedd particularly, and views expressed by bodies such as ourselves, the decision has been taken to stage the National Eisteddfod 2005 at Y Faenol. This inevitably raises a lot of questions about how to protect this Grade I site from the ravages of traffic, hundreds of people, caravans, unsightly access routes and so on. At the moment the National Eisteddfod executive are in negotiation with the two owners of the site and the National Trust, whose own land holdings on the site are affected. The WHGT will meet with representatives of the Eisteddfod in September to 'walk the course' and assess what damage is threatened to this lovely early-nineteenth-century landscape. We hope that this consultation will help to minimize the damage done to the site, but it remains our view that no Grade I landscape should host such an event.

Bettina Harden

June, July, August & September

*The Guide to the Historic Parks & Gardens of Wales only exists on our website – <http://gardensofwales.org.uk> – this year, but if you are on line, do, please, seek it out to check directions to most of the gardens listed below and times when they are generally open to the public. This list of events includes branch events, garden openings and special events as well as a couple of gardens not known to us before (marked **). Gardens included in the Guide have their number in brackets if you want to look them up in last year's Guide or get more details on line. Have a wonderful Summer exploring the gardens of Wales!*

Brecon & Radnor

**BRECON & RADNOR BRANCH SUMMER EVENT:
THE GREAT HOUSE, DILWYN, HEREFORDSHIRE**

Saturday 14 June, 2.30 p.m. Admission: £5.00.

As well as a chance to see the garden, there will be bookstall run by Mary Bland, the well-known dealer in gardening books, a plant stall, croquet and a strawberry tea. For more details please contact Geoff Johnson-Brett – tel: 01544 267 255,

e-mail: "geoff j-b" siliahouse@btinternet.com

****FFRWDRGRECH HOUSE, Brecon**

Originally set out in the 1820s and added to and enhanced in the 1880s, these Victorian pleasure grounds have exceptionally fine trees in a magnificent setting at the foot of the Brecon Beacons. Lawns, a pool, and a picturesque dingle with waterfalls, all ornamentally laid out and planted.

Gardens open throughout the year. Tel: 01437 751 519

**LLYSDINAM, Newbridge-on-Wye,
Llandrindod Wells, Powys [35]**

NGS Open Day: Sunday 10 August.

2.00 – 6.00pm. Admission: Adults £2.00, Children free.

ROYAL WELSH SHOW,

Llaenelwedd, Builth Wells, Powys

*Monday 21 July to Thursday 24 July,
8.00 a.m. onwards*

The WHGT stand will be in the Horticultural Tent as usual. Members are welcome to come and see us and, indeed help on the stand. If you can volunteer your services for part of any day please contact either Anne Carter or Ros Laidlaw (see Contacts on the back page of this issue).

On Stage Programme (in the Horticultural Tent)

WHGT Talk: Historic Garden Question Time

Wednesday 23 June, 12 noon – 1.00 p.m.

A chance to hear enthusiasts discuss their favourite historic gardens, ask them questions and learn more about historic parks and gardens all over Wales.

Carmarthenshire

**NATIONAL BOTANIC GARDEN OF WALES,
Middleton, Llanarthne, Carmarthen [56]**

The Double Walled Garden will be officially opened to the public on Saturday 14 June. There is an explanatory leaflet setting out the history of the garden and explaining the systematic planting within it.

A new introduction in the NBGW is the production of a series of leaflets offering self-guided tours of the garden along themed trails. The subjects currently available are:

The History and Heritage of the Middleton Estate; The History of Plants as Medicinal Herbs; Plants & Water.

From late Summer onwards there will another self-guided tour available, *The Plant Hunter Trail* relating how the great plant hunting expeditions of the past led to the introduction of many of the garden plants, tree and shrubs known in gardens today.

Ceredigion

CEREDIGION BRANCH SUMMER EVENT:

Sunday 13 July: Visit to Blaenpant, Llandygywdd,

followed by tea at Cennarth Falls. Leader: Caroline Palmer.

For further details please contact Ros Laidlaw (01970 832 268) or Caroline Palmer (01970 615 403)

LLANLYR, Talsarn, Lampeter [41]

NGS Open Day: Sunday 22 June.

2.00 – 6.00 p.m.

Admission: Adults £2.50, Children 50p.

HAFOD, Pontrhydygroes, Ceredigion [37]

'Exploring Hafod' A day of guided tours:

Saturday 28 June.

From 11.00 a.m. onwards. Booking essential.

Admission: Adults £4.00, Concessions £2.00,

Children under 16 free.

Late afternoon Barbecue only: £2.00 a head.

Woodcraft Weekend:

19th & 20th July

Dry Stone Walling Weekend:

2nd & 3rd August

Weekend courses for

which booking is

essential. For details

please contact

The Estate Office,

Hafod, Pontrhydygroes,

Ceredigion SY25 6DX,

Tel: 01974 282 568.



Clwyd

BODELWYDDAN CASTLE, Bodelwyddan, Denbighshire [18]
North Wales Garden & Fine Food Festival: Saturday 24 & Sunday 25 August.
Special admission charges on those days.
Website: www.bodelwyddan-castle.co.uk

BODYSGALLEN HALL, near Llandudno [16]
NGS Open Day: Monday 11 August.
2.00 – 5.00 p.m. Admission: Adults £3.00, Children 50p.

ERDDIG HALL, near Wrexham [25]
NGS Open Day: Sunday 15 August.
12 noon – 4.00 p.m. Admission: Adults £2.00, Children free.
GWAENYNOG, Denbigh, Denbighshire [20]
Open day in aid of Red Cross: Sunday 22 June.
Admission: Adults £2.00, Children 50p.
e.mail: gwaenynog@fsbdial.co.uk

GWYSANEY HALL, Mold [21]
NGS Open Day: Sunday 24 August.
2.00 – 5.30 p.m. Admission:
Adults £3.00, Children 50p.

**** NANTCLWYD HALL, Ruthin**
NGS Open Day: Sunday 22 June
2.00 – 6.00 p.m. Admission: Adults £3.00, Children 50p.
A rare opportunity to see this lovely garden with follies designed by both Clough Williams-Ellis and Belinda Eade.

PLAS NEWYDD, Hill Street, Llangollen, Denbighshire [26]
Garden Fete: Sunday 7 June.

Gwent

****CEFNILLA, Usk**
NGS Open Days, Saturday 24 & Sunday 25 August
12 noon – 5.00 p.m. Admission: Adults £2.50, Children free.
The home of Lord Raglan, Cefnilla has a small landscaped park (1850s) and gardens containing a topiary walk and lily pond as well as the remains of a formal Jacobean garden.

CLYTHA PARK, Abergavenny [85]
NGS Open Day: Sunday 15 June
2.00 – 6.00 p.m. Admission: Adults £2.30, Children over 8 £1.00.

MONMOUTH OPEN GARDENS WEEKEND
inc. THE KING'S GARDEN, THE CASTLE and THE NELSON GARDEN [88 & 89]
NGS Weekend: Saturday & Sunday 14 & 15 June.
10.00 a.m. – 5.00 p.m. Admission: Adults £4.00, Children free.
Special weekend ticket for both days £6.00.
e-mail: monmouthgardens@aol.com

TREDEGAR HOUSE & PARK, Newport [78]
NGS Open Day: Sunday 25 August.
11.00 a.m. – 5.00 p.m. Admission: Adults £2.00, Children 50p.

****TREWEN, Wonastow, near Monmouth**
Open June, July, August & September on Fridays, 10.00 a.m. – 4 p.m.
This Grade I Tudor mansion sits in the remains of its original mid-sixteenth century formal garden with raised terraces and an orchard.

Gwynedd

GWYNEDD BRANCH SUMMER EVENT:
Tuesday 8 July: A visit to Arley Hall and Gardens, Northwich, Cheshire.
Arley Hall has over 100 acres of gardens and park owned and managed by the same family for 500 years. Members interested in this event need to apply to Joan K. Jones with a cheque for £16 no later than 20th June.

PLAS TAN-Y-BWLCH, Maentwrog, Gwynedd [3]
Open Day with free guided tour: Friday 18 July.
Admission: Adults £2.50, Families: £5.00.

CRÛG FARM PLANTS, Griffiths Crossing, Caernarfon, Gwynedd [9]
Special Open Days – RHS (tickets only, available in advance):
Wednesdays 2 July, 6 August & 3 September; NGS Open Days:
Sunday 20 July & Sunday 24 August. 10.00am – 6.00pm
Admission: Adults £1.50, Children free.
Website: www.crug-farm.co.uk

Montgomery

GLANSEVERN HALL, Berriew, Welshpool, Powys [31]
NGS Open Days, Fridays 12 & 19 September.
12.00 – 6.00pm. Admission: Adults £3.00, Senior citizens £2.00,
Children free.

****LLANGEDWYN HALL, Llangedwyn**
[In the middle of Llangedwyn village, off the B4396]
NGS Open Day: Sunday 13 July
2.00 – 6.00 p.m. Admission: Adults £2.00, Children 50p.
This is a marvellous chance to see a rarely-viewed garden of formal terraces designed and laid out in the late-seventeenth and early-eighteenth centuries. There is a sunken rose garden and a small water garden.

VAYNOR PARK, Berriew, Welshpool, Powys [32]
Open Day in aid of Marie Curie Cancer Care: Sunday 29 June.
2.00 p.m. – 6.00 p.m.

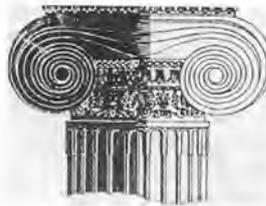
Pembrokeshire

****COED-Y-FFYNNON, Lampeter Velfrey, Narberth, Pembrokeshire**
NGS Open Day: Saturday 28 June & Sunday 6 July.
2.00 p.m. – 6.00 p.m. Admission: Adults £2.50, Children free. Plants for sale.
This is Richard Gilbertson's garden, full of wonderful old roses, his specialty. He will also open by appointment – tel: 01834 831 396.
[Directions: 2½ miles SE of Narberth. From Penblewin roundabout on A40 follow signs to Narberth and then crematorium. Straight on through Llanmill & Lampeter Velfrey. Garden is ½ mile on left.]

PICTON CASTLE & WOODLAND GARDENS, The Rhos, Haverfordwest Pembrokeshire. [49]
NGS Open Day: Sunday 20 July.
10.30 a.m. – 5.00 p.m. Admission: Adults £3.95, Children £1.95.

West Glamorgan

SINGLETON PARK, Swansea [63]
'Botanics in Bloom' free programme of events and activities throughout August including Rare Plants Sale: Sunday 17 August.
10.00 a.m. – 5.00 p.m.



WHGT/GEORGIAN GROUP STUDY WEEKEND

CWRT, LLANACHAER, NEAR FISHGUARD, PEMBROKESHIRE

By kind permission of Mr & Mrs Gwyn Rees

EXPLORING THE PAST TO SAVE THE FUTURE

Saturday 13th & Sunday 14th September 2003

Why have this Study Weekend?

Based on an eighteenth-century estate, Cwrt, in Pembrokeshire, this Study Weekend will provide a unique opportunity to explore the development of a house, its gardens and park and its estate buildings: looking at its place in local history; exploring its archives, archaeology and architecture on the ground; assessing ways forward to restore, recreate – or not, as the case may be; locating specialists to help with the work; sharing views and opinions.

Cwrt – the name alone tells us that this is somewhere very special. What is on the ground now is a veritable Marie Celeste of a small eighteenth-century farming estate that remains astonishingly little altered by either the 19th or the 20th Century. It consists of a 5-bay stucco house incorporating much

earlier structures together with a wealth of contemporary farm buildings including a stand-alone kitchen together with bellcote. This is a very rare survivor from an earlier age that needs every effort to ensure its survival with minimum impact from 21st Century change. This is a first time opportunity for most of us to see the entire picture relating to the rescue of a property such as this, not only including gardens, buildings and history, but also conservation options, evaluation and pragmatic alternatives.

Who should come?

Anyone and everyone who really loves Georgian heritage in terms of the Welsh countryside and its decorative buildings: who wants to know how to tackle such an enterprise; to discover how to research a house and garden's history; who needs to find specialists; has the ambition to become a polymath – or indeed has a house, park or garden to restore.



Application form:

Please send me details of the Study Weekend. I/We would like places for *Saturday (@ £30) /*Sunday (@ £20)/*the weekend (@ £50). I/We would/would not like to attend the Dinner on Friday 12th September (@ £15). Please send details of local B&Bs/accommodation .

(Please delete or tick where applicable). Costs include Coffee and Tea but not Lunches or the Dinner. Cheques should be made payable to Welsh Historic Gardens Trust.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Tel: _____

e-mail: _____

Programme

Friday 12th September

Dinner **At Berry Hill House, Newport,
Pembrokeshire SA42 ONW**
*By kind invitation of Alan and Guynedd
Hayward*

All delegates are cordially invited for this very pleasant opportunity to meet one another and some of the guest speakers on the eve of the Study Weekend. Cost: £15 a head.

STUDY WEEKEND

A full Programme, together with details of the Speakers, will be supplied on receipt of your application form.

Saturday 13th September

10.00 a.m. **Registration & Coffee**

10.30 a.m. **Welcome:**
Michael Tree, Vice Chairman of the
WHGT & Mr Gwyn Rees, owner of Cwrt

*Cwrt in the context of local history and
Pembrokeshire*

11.15 a.m. **Looking at Maps, Humps & Bumps**
Emma Plunkett Dillon, Archaeologist for
The National Trust in Wales

12 noon: **Tour of the house and estate:**
accompanied by a local historian, Emma
Plunkett Dillon, Elisabeth Whittle, Chief
Inspector of Parks & Gardens for
Cadw, Peter Welford, architectural historian
and the owners.

1.00 p.m. **Luncheon**

2.00 p.m. **Buildings and their Archaeology**
The Museum of Welsh Life, St Fagans.

2.45 p.m. **Structural Restoration Policy**
Giffords Engineering Consultants

3.30 p.m. **Tea & Questions.**

4.00 p.m. **The valuation of houses and estates.**
Jonathan Major, Strutt & Parker.

4.45 p.m. Optional additional visit round the estate.

Sunday 14th September

10.00 a.m. **The use of specialist materials & where to
find them:**

10.30 a.m. **Pragmatic conservation of listed
buildings.**
Graham Holland, Conservation Architect.

11.30 a.m. **An Owner's Viewpoint,** including vital Dos
and Donts.
Bettina Harden.

12.30 p.m. **Lunch**

1.45 p.m. **Michael Tree** on our conclusions and
resolutions.

Afternoon: Participants in the weekend will have the
opportunity to explore another local house
and garden in the area. Details to follow.



RETURN TO:

*MICHAEL TREE ESQ
THE NEW HOUSE
PLAS ISAF
GLAN CONWY
LL28 5PD*

Garden Recording and the Creation of a Database in Clwyd

The WHGT, through the efforts of its branches, is in the process of establishing a Gazetteer and database of the historic parks and gardens of local importance in Wales, excluding those on the Cadw/ICOMOS Registers. This work is invaluable in gathering in essential information about the historic environment in Wales. Branches are at different stages in gathering together information and we felt that the inspiring tale of the work done in Clwyd might encourage those branches that are not as far advanced as well as inform the wider membership of the superb voluntary work carried out by some of their number.

The gestation of the Clwyd branch database must be the longest ever – a preliminary meeting was held in September 1995, and about thirty have been held since then. The first meeting was a prolonged and lively discussion of whether what we wanted to produce should be based simply on archival material, or whether a visit to each garden should be attempted. This dichotomy has never been resolved and in fact we nearly always do both. The original aim was to produce a printed gazetteer for sale to the public, but this threw up problems of confidentiality, and was eventually abandoned in favour of an inventory, and finally, as members of the group became computer-literate, of a computer database. This is now functional, and holds details of one hundred and ten Flintshire gardens of historic interest that have been loaded to the local Sites and Monuments Record. Brief details of thirty-six gardens discovered but not considered interesting enough for the database are kept on paper.

Our aim has never been primarily to promote tourism or create employment or any of the terrifyingly virtuous aims now current. The members of the group, with interests including archaeology, horticulture, local history, vernacular architecture, or simply, 'satiabile curiosity', felt that this research for its own sake would be a good use of their time. One member did an enormous amount of work in the record offices, recording references on a card index. We use the first edition OS 25-inch plan (a lovely map, which deserves its own fan club. If I were on a desert island it would be my one luxury!). We designed a recording form – and have redesigned it frequently since!

We started by recording gardens owned by members and friends, those for which there was archival information, or which looked promising on an early map. Probably the criteria we use now are not very different, although we are running out of members and friends with historic gardens. Nearly all the recorders up till now have lived in Flintshire, and are finding that their local contacts are beginning to fail as they record Denbighshire. Our area, the former Clwyd, is huge.

The computer database is now our record of choice, but we have a considerable archive on paper, destined for the relevant record offices (Though there are problems here. If documents are deposited with limits on their availability to the public, the garden recorders cannot use them either.) Flintshire records are numbered in roughly alphabetical order. Denbighshire records are stored with records from each community council kept together, and this will probably be the system in Conwy and Wrexham too. Every garden has its own punched pocket, containing relevant maps, the rough field notes, the completed recording form, the list of database elements, any correspondence with the owner, photographs (though this may change, and photographs may be stored digitally in future), archival material like post-cards and sale particulars, photocopies of relevant documents, a bibliography and the 'long description' deposited with the database.

Readers may wonder how we prioritised. The simple answer is that we didn't. There seemed no urgency. We selected an area with a group of potentially rewarding gardens, and worked through it. If it seems a disgrace to have taken so long to complete one county, it is worth pointing out that while finishing off awkward gardens in Flintshire we have recorded more than one hundred gardens in Denbighshire, have coped with loss of access to gardens through long months of foot-and-mouth disease, and encountered the closure of the Denbighshire record office for a year's rebuild just as we wanted access to all its maps. (Readers wondering what makes a garden 'awkward' are invited to use their imagination.)

The number of recorders has varied over the years but we are normally able to field two teams of two recorders. We do not include gardens surveyed by Liz Whittle for the CADW Register and now listed (although, of course, we know many of them); our brief is gardens of local importance. We have three levels of recording – a 'survey', inferring measurement (hardly ever used); a 'visit' where we record a garden's points of interest with the full knowledge, and usually the help, of the owner; and a 'viewing' where we record all we can see from a public road. During the course of the project there has been a dramatic increase in properties with no one there in the daytime, and 'viewing' has to be the next, but less satisfactory, option. A rump of our visits starts as cold calling. The arrival of elderly ladies bearing a 25-inch 1st edition map is not normally seen as a threat, and we have been refused access only twice. On one occasion the owner had just had all his garden ornaments stolen and was horrified to find that we had a copy of his sale particulars and a map of his garden. Security gates, usually installed by newly arrived incomers, are beginning to be a problem, as are frequent changes of ownership that are becoming the norm.

At first we promised that the information derived from our visit would be confidential, but this has caused problems, and we now try not to give limiting undertakings. (Although of course the data still is confidential.) There are other problems – the optimum garden-surveying season for neglected gardens can be quite short, from after the last snow until new brambles become impenetrable. Obtaining maps has its difficulties: the record offices are always helpful, but getting a map for each garden is enormously time-consuming. We hope that the improving quality of maps available on the Internet will solve some of these problems.

Finding the boundaries and acreage is frequently difficult. Owners, particularly newcomers, often do not know. We have never decided whether to include as part of the acreage of the garden a park now used for agriculture. Frequently the estate has been split up with boundaries not yet mapped. Grid references can be tricky. The 25-inch map doesn't have the necessary grid and smaller scale maps don't have enough detail. Technology has the answer of course – a GPS – but this would involve revisiting every garden.

Let's not dwell on the problems however. Recording gardens can be the most intoxicatingly rewarding of activities. Almost every garden has at least one feature good enough to produce a surge of euphoria, and the resulting high can last for days. The personal spin-offs are many – new friends, new members, new skills, a richer understanding of local history, a growth of knowledge, and a sense of achievement.

*Shirley Walls & Rosa Baker
Clwyd Branch*

The Great Storm of 1859

The terrible storm of 1987 and the havoc it wrought in parks and gardens is still too recent to forget, but there have been others, mercifully rare but no less destructive, bringing anguish to previous generations of gardeners.

The night of 25-26 October 1859 witnessed the worst storm of that century: 195 ships were lost at sea around Britain, drowning 648 people. Much the greatest disaster was the loss of the Royal Charter off Anglesey, killing 455 on the last night of their return journey from Australia, many with all the gold they had prospected. The Welsh coast took a battering everywhere: Cwm-yr-Eglwys church near Newport, Pembrokeshire was washed away. Local newspapers would no doubt yield more tales of woe.

One small reminder recording damage to garden trees has recently turned up in a book just bought by the writer. The book is *Practical Hints on Planting Ornamental Trees* by Standish and Noble of Bagshot (London 1852). This bears the signature of W.W.E. Wynne of Peniarth, Merioneth, the famous antiquary and M.P. and the fateful date 1859. Under the authors' glowing testimony on the merits of the Ilex tree and its ability to thrive in coastal, salt wind conditions (p.170), Wynne has noted the following:

"One, blown down at Peniarth the night the "Royal Charter" was wrecked in Angelsea in 1859, was 11 feet in circumference at 5 feet from the ground & there was another very near it, blown down the same night, not very inferior in size"

Standish and Noble assert that a big Ilex could have a diameter of 5 or 6 foot, which, if I can remember my maths properly, means that the Peniarth casualties were big but not massive. In response to this unexpected turmoil, Wynne showed a resourcefulness that many owners in 1987 displayed likewise. The two tree trunks were removed to the Peniarth estate workshops and fashioned by carpenters into a magnificent and ornamental bookcase, with a pedimented centrepiece. Wynne designed this himself for the express purpose of holding his invaluable collection of medieval Welsh manuscripts, which he had acquired that very year from Hengwrt near Dolgellau under the will of Sir Robert Williams Vaughan. Both the bookcase and the manuscripts were presented to the National Library of Wales at its foundation in 1909. The little book on the other hand has now found its way back to the library at Peniarth.

Tom Lloyd

Alfred Parsons, R.A.

Alfred William Parsons (1847-1920) was the favourite gardener of the Arts & Crafts movement. He was also a well-known painter and illustrator, illustrating Ellen Willmott's book *The Genus Rosa* (1910-14), and William Robinson's *The Wild Garden*, published in 1883.

With Captain Walter Partridge he founded the firm of Parsons & Partridge and contributed plans for some 70 gardens. Parsons is known to have produced designs for three gardens in Wales, but further information is required. Can anyone help?

Bryn Garw & Coedyrhydgllyn, Glamorganshire, for Mr Traherne, 1904-1905. At this period, both estates were the property of the Traherne family, and although Coedyrhydgllyn has an important garden, it is not possible to say precisely where Parsons worked.

Brynbella, Tremeirchion, Flintshire, for Mrs Mainwaring, 1899. Brynbella (originally built by Mrs Piozzi), was bought in 1897 by Mrs Edith Sarah Mainwaring, who lived there until her death in 1920. This remains one of Parsons' finest gardens.

A garden in Monmouthshire, for Lord Byrnes, 1904. No one of this title has ever been traced.

Any information would be gratefully received by:

John Davies, 15 Kingslea Road,
Withington, Manchester M20 4UB

The English Model Farm: Building the Agricultural Ideal 1700 – 1914

Susanna Wade Martins

Windgather Press 2002, £18.99, ISBN 0 9538630 5 0 – 242pp., 126 illustrations.

In this important book Susanna Martins uses the results of English Heritage's national model farm survey to discuss not only model farms, but also their relationship to changing farm requirements. The book is therefore also a study of English farming from 1700 to 1914.

The immense sums of money spent on the land by the major landowners is well described – in the nineteenth century the Dukes of Bedford were spending on their Thorney estate in Cambridgeshire £20,000 (the equivalent of £1,000,000 today). Expenditure of this nature could only come from non-agricultural sources, e.g. in this case from London property. The major schemes of improvement carried out by owners such as the Sykes family of Sledmere in the Yorkshire Wolds also resulted in large programmes of farm building.

It is not clear from the book whether the large sums spent on farm buildings produced an economic return. One is left with the impression that much of it was for show. This is perhaps more evident when landowners employed major architects. One of the most interesting features is the difference between traditional landowners, with their concern for layout, and manufacturers introducing new mechanical techniques onto their recently acquired estates. The apparently unique nature of the farms built by the Strutt family of Belper illustrates this difference.

Susanna Martins also highlights the difference between North and South of England in the nineteenth century. The poverty of the South with its surplus labouring population gave no incentive to mechanise. The high cost of wages in the North due to its industrial prosperity resulted in a wholly different approach. My only serious reservation over this book is that the distinction between model farms, which were presumably intended as role models, and new farm buildings in general is not made clear.

What of Wales? According to Ms Martins "*model farmsteads were never an important building type in Wales, dominated as it was by small gentry and pastoral farms*". This, like all generalizations, is far too dogmatic. It springs from lack of research rather than an assessment of Welsh landowners. The nineteenth century saw a massive rebuilding programme in the Welsh countryside. This affected great estates such as Dynevor or Golden Grove but was most conspicuous on the states acquired by English industrialists: the Waddinghams of Hafod, the Philips family of Abbey Cwmhir, the Watt family of Doldowlod, the Raikes family of Treberfydd all transformed the agriculture of their areas. While in some cases, for example, Hafod, estate papers have disappeared, many of the farm buildings survive. A detailed study of Victorian landowners in Wales is long overdue. I suspect that it would reveal a very different picture to the view of Wales suggested by this author in the above quotation.

There is much more to be discovered about farming and its development. The changing view of the scale and dating of enclosures in Tom Williamson's books and articles are an example of this. The main text is followed by appendices listing, county by county (in England), some of the principal landowners and their model farms. Well produced and reasonably priced, *The English Model Farm* is an important and pioneering book on agriculture. I commend it.

John Barron

The Register: Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire: A Comment

The Ceredigion Branch congratulates Cadw on the publication of the final volume of the *Register of Historic Parks and Gardens*. In it, one of the top three gardens is identified as the 20th C Aberystwyth landscaping which frames the University, the former Welsh College of Agriculture and Coleg Ceredigion and the National Library of Wales. For listing purposes, this has been treated as a single site. Awarded Grade II*, it is exceeded, in Ceredigion, only by Hafod (I), and is on the same level as Nanteos (II*). The descriptive entry names many of the people involved in the development of the three sites, and clearly attributes its importance to the unusually choice and varied planting and the way in which this integrates with the buildings.

There is, however, cause for concern at certain omissions and the interpretations arising from them. At the National Library the landscaping is described as similar to that of the campuses. The gardens here are of a significantly different character, with clipped shrubs, some summer bedding and a large rockery garden, all features typical of that garden's much earlier origins and the influence of Sydney Greenslade, designer of the building and a member of the Arts & Crafts Movement. It is a pity that, while various gardeners past and present have been named at the two other sites, no gardeners are named at the National Library. Tom Hill and John Barrett were, successively, the last two head gardeners, until Barrett's retirement led to the employment of contract gardeners in the 1990s.

On the University campus, the contributions of Professor Lily Newton, as advisor to the buildings office until 1958, and of Brenda Colvin, as designer of a section of land between Pantycelyn Hall and the Edward Llwyd Building are described. However the characteristic planting of the site with shelter belts and salt tolerant shrubs and perennials was mostly done after Lily Newton's retirement, under the aegis of Professor P.F. Wareing, and is generally recognized to have been the work of Basil Fox, and from 1965, of gardener John Corfield. This fact is barely acknowledged.

The Cadw account does name Basil Fox in 1960, as the curator of the Botany Garden. This important teaching resource for botany students had been established in 1948 in the grounds of Plas Penglais. Today it is no longer maintained as a systematic collection. However, Fox's wider involvement in the Penglais campus as a whole has been overlooked. From 1960 until his death in 1983 he was responsible for most of the planting, and for the trialling and breeding of new cultivars that was carried out at the Botany Garden greenhouses. Cotoneasters were hybridized and propagated for use on the site, and from the numerous hebe species planted, a new hybrid *Hebe* 'Pantcelyn' arose and was propagated and planted widely on the Penglais and Llanbardarn campuses. After 1983 the planting was continued by John Corfield, until his retirement in 1998. He has somehow escaped a mention. The small but invaluable pamphlet, *Trees and Shrubs in exposed situations at UCW, Penglais, Aberystwyth* (1973), was the work of Basil Fox, and revealed the local experience of the previous ten years. This booklet influenced the planting in many private gardens in the area. It was re-issued, with updates and an introduction by P. Brownlees, in 1989.

Aline Rodgers is named as the gardener who planted the Welsh Agricultural College (Llanbardarn) campus, but this was derivative of the work on the university campus and was supported by Fox and Corfield with cuttings from the Penglais nursery. It cannot have been the lead event since it was planted ten years later. Her successor, Joy Harris, (formerly an under gardener working for John Corfield), now Grounds Supervisor for the entire campus, is also named.

The combined effects of these omissions have led to a new feminist slant to the history of gardening at Aberystwyth, that is summed up in the 'Primary reason for grading' which ends "*a number of women have played a key role in the development and planting of the whole site*". Though a woman myself, I feel it would be unjust not to acknowledge that a number of men were even more influential.

Caroline Palmer, Ceredigion Branch

Rural crime on the increase – could you be next?



NFU Mutual

According to government statistics burglary rates in the countryside are now three times what they were 20 years ago while in urban areas they have dropped to mid-1980s level. With thieves targeting easily removable and disposable items kept in outbuildings, those in remote areas are most at risk.

Increased crime prevention in urban areas and CCTV surveillance in town centres is causing thieves to transfer their activities to the countryside in search of easier pickings. It is not surprising that statistics also show that people living in the country are feeling increasingly vulnerable.

Typical of those who have been victims is Christopher York who has been burgled twice in the past eight years. The first time was when horse tack was taken but because a neighbour reported a suspicious vehicle the police were able to trace it.

Last November he was not so lucky. Thieves jemmied padlock fastenings off a shed taking easily portable power tools, strimmers and chainsaws. Christopher York thinks that the theft, which took place in the late afternoon when there was no one around the buildings for a couple of hours, was probably opportunist. "Suspicious characters, driving an old pickup with new gates in the back, had been seen in the area and gates had been stolen from neighbouring farms. They could easily have been visiting remote holdings under the pretext of have the gates for sale."



Christopher York (right) and his local NFU Mutual agent, Robert Fairclough, looking at the bolt on one of the outbuildings that was broken into.

Be more security minded

Traditionally county dwellers have been less security minded than those living in towns but it has become essential to ensure that your property is securely protected at all times. While there is some concern that security lighting may help rather than deter criminals, especially where premises are isolated, a light that can be noticed by someone, or their dog, living on or near the premises will help raise the alarm.

As Christopher York points out: "A determined thief will be able to remove most standard security devices. Our visitors just jemmied off the padlock fastenings. We have now fitted bigger, heavier locks with nothing that can levered off but we have also made the equipment more secure. Most important is to keep in contact with your neighbours and exchange information about any unusual activity in the area."

Above all make sure that you are properly insured. NFU Mutual's claims handlers are finding that an increasing number of people are under insured, especially when it comes to garden furniture, fittings and power tools. Having the right cover can make all the difference when a theft occurs. "We have had all our insurance with NFU Mutual for years and have always found it to be very good", said Christopher. "When we had the break-in last November we received full recompense within five weeks with a minimum of fuss and delay. I was also most impressed by the efficient, polite and professional service we received from the loss adjuster."

It is never pleasant to suffer a burglary but knowing that you have done all you can to prevent it, that you are fully covered and that your insurer will meet loss quickly without fuss makes it easier to bear.

For more information on NFU Mutual's range of insurance products, call David Jones on 01286 673 377.

Gerddi-WWW.

<http://gardensofwales.org.uk>

The new WHGT website is now online. It contains information on membership and activities of the Trust as well as regularly updated information on all the 92 gardens listed in the 2002 Guide

In order to keep the information useful and current please could all Branches supply me with:

Contact name (and email if possible, otherwise address or phone number). Names and grades of Cadw-listed gardens in the branch area.

Calendars. Links to their own websites, or those they have contributed to Photographs of gardens in the guide.

Any other information that they would like to be included

Tel: 01446 775 794. e-mail: val.t.caple@care4free.net

<http://www.hg24.dial.pipex.com/clyne/whgt1.shtml>

A Brief History of Clyne Castle Gardens by Ann Gardiner, Chairman of the West Glamorgan Branch of the WHGT.

Val Caple

Books of interest recently published:

The Chinese Garden

Maggie Keswick (Frances Lincoln, £35)

A revised and updated edition of this classic book, originally published in 1978, with lavish illustrations.

Earthy Paradises: Ancient Gardens in History & Archaeology

Maureen Carroll (British Museum Press, £14.99)

Garden Antiques

Rupert van der Werff & Jackie Rees

(Miller's, Mitchell Beazley, £15.99)

An introduction to the subject including: tips and advice on materials; care and maintenance; listings of collections, dealers and museums; bibliography.

A Gardener's Labyrinth: Portraits of People, Plants & Places

Tessa Traeger & Patrick Kinmonth

(Booth.Clibbon Editions, £59.95)

Portraits of outstanding contributors to the world of gardens and plants – the people and the places they have created.

The Picturesque Garden In Europe

John Dixon Hunt (Thames & Hudson, £32)

A beautiful book presenting the view that European countries, including Sweden, Germany, Russia, Poland, Italy, and especially France, took the early 18th Century English landscape and translated it into their own design language.

Seeds of Fortune: A Great Gardening Dynasty

Sue Shephard (Bloomsbury, £18.99)

The story of the Veitch family and its impact on British gardening.

Seeds of Change: Six Plants That Transformed Mankind

Henry Hobhouse (p/b., Pan Books, £10.99)

A classic of historical commentary now including a new chapter on the Coca plant.

Seeds of Wealth: Four Plants That Made Men Rich

Henry Hobhouse (Macmillan, £20)

The effect of plants on humans and their past.

Editor's Note

Views expressed in signed articles and letters are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editor or of the Welsh Historic Gardens Trust.

The copy deadline for the next issue of *The Bulletin* is **14th August**. If branches want their events highlighted in *The Bulletin* they **must** supply The Editor with the necessary information in good time. Copy should be supplied preferably as a word attachment sent via e-mail, although typed copy or a floppy disc is fine; pictures can be sent as a jpeg or as original photographs or slides. They should be addressed to:

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For information, details of The Guide and the very latest news, see our website: <http://gardensofwales.org.uk>



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