

No. 42  
Spring 2006

# A saviour needed for Hafodunos

by Mark Baker

Hafodunos, at Llangeryw near Conwy, was famed as a thriving Victorian country house, surrounded by magnificent gardens and romantic countryside. Samuel Sandbach bought the estate in 1833 from the Lloyd family, but his son and daughter-in-law were the principal occupants and it was under their influence that the new Hafodunos, Sir George Gilbert Scott's only example of domestic architecture in Wales, was built in 1864. Henry Robertson Sandbach and wife Margaret Roscoe were instrumental in turning a run-down and ramshackle parkland into one of the most efficient and beautiful estates of North Wales. Artists flocked to this rather remote Welsh house, the sculptor John Gibson was a friend of the family and as a result the largest collection of his work was accumulated there. Gladstone was also a friend of Henry Robertson Sandbach and frequently dined within this splendid house.

Since leaving the hands of the Sandbach family in 1933, Hafodunos has had a variety of different functions including a girl's school, accountancy college and nursing home. A period of neglect ensued from 1993 onwards, but CADW recognised the importance of the site, listing the house as Grade I and the gardens Grade II. Sadly the demise culminated in the destruction by arson of the interiors of the main wing of the house in October 2004. Previously, plans had been put forward for proposals to convert the house itself into a four-star Welsh boutique hotel with an enabling development of ninety Scandinavian-style wooden lodges in the grounds. It was suggested that horticulture students could help restore the once magnificent gardens in conjunction with a charitable trust to oversee the restoration of the formal gardens and arboretum. The architects stated that "the total garden is of great



*The garden front in ruins after the fire*

© Mark Baker



© Crown Copyright RCAHMW



© Mark Baker

The front façade, 1954 and c.2000 boarded up before the fire

importance and it will be of national importance that this lost garden of Wales is returned to the fine condition it was created to reflect.” However due to the devastating effect of the fire these plans have been withdrawn. Currently new proposals are being explored and developed.

Some have said that the grounds and gardens of Hafodunos are just as important, or even more so than the house. From the main gates, one approaches the house along the winding and sensuous drive with magnificent *Wellingtonia gigantea* along the right hand side. Most were planted in the 1840s and 1850s. During its peak and maturity in the 1890s there were Tea Roses on the terraces in front of the mansion, nearby were several large plants of Fortune’s Yellow, described as “a most exquisitely beautiful variety...rarely seen doing so well in the open air.” On the terrace walls themselves were many climbing plants which would have had to winter in conservatories and greenhouses but had thrived in the North Wales climate. Very conspicuous was a large plant of *Escallonia macrantha* which in 1899 covered eighty square feet of terrace. Sir William Jackson Hooker of Kew is said to have laid out the grounds and directed the planting, though this seems unlikely. Hooker was, however, a

friend of Sir William Roscoe, grandfather of Margaret Sandbach, and also corresponded with Henry Robertson Sandbach between 1833 and 1852.

At the bottom of the terrace flows a tributary of the River Elwy; along its banks and in other parts of the grounds are superb varieties of Rhododendrons, and many other evergreen and deciduous shrubs. By the Edwardian period many of the Sikkim varieties had grown to sixteen feet high by twenty feet in diameter, and were backed up gracefully by Conifers. Along the dingle, there was a rustic bridge which overlooked a miniature cascade and waterfall. Two stone bridges crossed the stream of the Nant Rhan-hir, being accessed from the terrace garden and forming a small circuit walk. The valley walks were bordered by Conifers, Rhododendrons and many other ever-green plants, while on the valley floor were many varieties of *Pinus* and *Picea*. The Coniferae was always considered the true gem of the estate. Henry Robertson Sandbach had been a lover and planter of conifers, he was also an enthusiastic collector and raiser, with many of the finest and most unique specimens collected as cuttings, whilst he was on his travels, from trees in their natural habitats.

During my research for the publication *Hafodunos Hall – Triumph of the Martyr*, the walled garden was one of the most interesting features of the grounds. It was aligned north-west to south-east and was situated on two slopes running down to the stream which was bridged in two places by large stone slabs. On the south side of the stream was a wall which divided the garden into two, the south side contained a quantity of fruit trees, glasshouses and potting sheds along the wall. Interestingly, the south facing end of the garden was divided up by strips of yew hedging running along the garden’s alignment, an unusual but most attractive feature.

Today the gardens are neglected and overgrown; in 1998 Manchester University carried out a partial restoration of some of the walks and paths but they hit problems and were unable to complete their work. Although the future of Hafodunos is uncertain, so much survives around the house and in the gardens that the lonely martyr, who felt the flames of derision burn through her heart, deserves once again to be resurrected!

*Hafodunos Hall – Triumph of the Martyr – by Mark Baker is priced at £9.99*

*Available to order from [www.hafodunos-hall.co.uk](http://www.hafodunos-hall.co.uk) or telephone 01745 857 139.*



Hafodunos as a school in the late 1950’s (postcard)



Well maintained gardens in 1954

© Crown Copyright RCAHMW

# The Walled Kitchen Gardens Network

by Fiona Grant

The Walled Kitchen Gardens Network is an informal group of national organizations and individual experts, which aims to offer help and support to owners, enthusiasts and professionals who wish to restore or find suitable new roles for these all too often neglected gardens.

The Network operates mainly through the website [www.walledgardens.net](http://www.walledgardens.net) and by e-mail, but also holds regular Forums that provide an opportunity for like-minded people to meet and exchange ideas. The Forum of 2005 was held at Tatton Park where the National Trust and Cheshire County Council are in charge of a major restoration of the walled kitchen gardens.

About 120 people attended from a diverse range of backgrounds: professionals, head gardeners, private owners and others, but all with a shared enthusiasm for walled kitchen gardens. The day started with a brief opening address from Susan Campbell, a key figure in the Network and well known as an authority on the history of walled gardens. Recording of walled kitchen gardens was a supplementary theme and to this end Dr David Jacques, garden historian, author and project manager of the UKPG database, spoke briefly about the forthcoming Parks and Gardens Data Partnership, which will eventually absorb the UKPG database.

Next Dr Stephen Briggs, who runs the database of historic gardens at the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales, addressed the title 'Fields Fit for Bards: Recognising, Recording and Renewing Walled Gardens in Wales'. He reviewed the history of walled gardens and advocated more systematic recording programmes as well as the promotion of greater education about, as well as in, kitchen gardens in both official and public circles. He argued that an understanding of this immense resource (perhaps 2200-2500 in Wales alone) would indubitably lead to greater historical and environmental appreciation.

A break for coffee allowed delegates to browse the stalls that had been set up in the foyer, from organisations such as HDRA (now Garden Organic), Alitex, Thomas Etty Ltd and TLG Orchards (who supplied the fruit trees for the new orchard at Tatton).

After coffee the next speaker was Deborah Evans, the Head Gardener from Tynesfield near Bristol, where they have a delightful two acre walled kitchen garden. Deborah gave a thought provoking talk on 'How to Keep Gardening in a Kitchen Garden', which focused on the conflicts of interest in maintaining the integrity of a small walled garden at the same time as providing access to the general public (visitor numbers are expected to exceed 150,000 this year) as well as educational and training facilities.

Sam Youd, the Head Gardener at Tatton, then gave a broad

overview of the restoration project. His talk was as informative as it was amusing, (Sam has the comic timing of a professional comedian) and provided a sound basis for the tours that were to take place after lunch.

Lunch was held in the Tenants Hall, under the watchful gaze of an impressive array of animal trophies that lined the walls. A delicious and appropriate lunch was provided that included produce from the garden and venison from the park. Thus fortified the delegates were ready to tour the gardens.

There were four tours from which to choose reflecting the expertise of the tour guides. These were Sam Youd (restoration project), Susan Campbell (historical aspects), Simon Tetlow – Kitchen Garden Supervisor (cultivation and management) and Jeremy Milln – National Trust Archaeologist (structures). The afternoon was warm and sunny, and the gardens looked superb, thanks to the hard work of the gardeners and the volunteers. A special mention must be made of the volunteers: without their dedication and enthusiasm the gardens could not be maintained to such a high standard. After an enjoyable hour in the sunshine it was back to the hall for tea and the final group of talks.

In the last hour three speakers gave brief talks on their particular experiences of restoration, and the first speaker – Linda Milk, impressed everyone with her story about how she and her husband – both retired – restored their Boulton and Paul vinery themselves for a fraction of the cost estimated by professionals.

The next to speak, Don Billington, is the Head Gardener from Croxteth Hall in Liverpool, where the old fruit cordons display an unusual type of 'corkscrew' pruning. His research has led him to believe that it is a style that originated from the continent in the nineteenth century.

The last speaker, John Ridgley, has recently completed a three year contract as Walled Garden Supervisor at Knightshayes Court in Devon, and told of his success in fulfilling the three criteria required: financial, historical and educational, by restoring the gardens along organic principles, supplying the restaurant and local traders with fresh produce from the garden, growing crops of the appropriate period and providing the public with fact sheets and information.

The Forum closed with a plenary session that gave delegates a chance to ask further questions, and to highlight certain issues.

Transcripts of some of the talks mentioned can be found on the 'Events' page of the Network's website. For advice and further information please email [advice@walledgardens.net](mailto:advice@walledgardens.net)

*The 2006 Forum will be held at Heligan, Cornwall, on October 21st. Speakers will include Tom Petherick, Philip McMillan Browse (Horticultural director) and Susan Campbell.*



*The forum delegates in 2005 at Tatton Park*

## Annual General Meeting 24th June 2006

To be held at **Monaughty**, near Knighton, Radnorshire

Each year we try to move the AGM between North, Mid, and South Wales to ease the burden of travelling for our members who are fairly evenly distributed across the country. Also, not only do we try to ensure that there is a good garden to view at the same time, but whenever possible that there is some interesting architecture to be seen as well.

Thus this year we go to Radnorshire, 'Poor Radnorshire', as the saying goes; 'never a park, not even a deer; never a squire of £500 a year, save Richaed Fowler of Abbey Cwm Hir.' Well, I suspect that Monaughty, this year's AGM venue, thanks to the kindness and generosity of Douglas and Sophie Blain is an exception just like Abbey Cwm Hir! It is reputedly the largest Elizabethan house in the county, dating from around 1565.

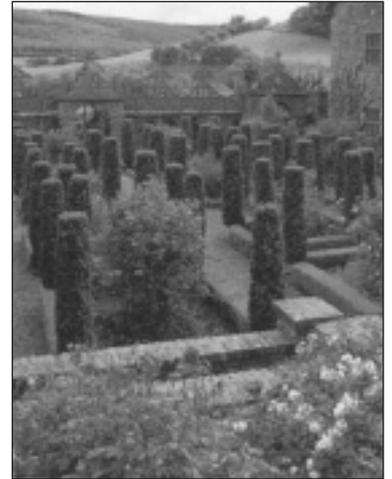
Apart from a staircase tower dated 1638, very little seems to have happened to the building since, which is what makes it so very special. In fact it has been so little harmed by the passage of time that Douglas and Sophie have even refrained from installing any modern services—they live close-by in another house. This is not to say that they have not had major challenges bringing out that wonderful untouched feeling one experiences today on a visit to Monaughty. This is probably as close as some of us will get to experiencing domestic

Elizabethan architecture in Wales.

Mention too must be made of the recreated garden which again will be a pleasure to visit, and is certainly not the imitation of a Persian carpet one sometimes sees in such situations. Rather it is one that complements the house, especially in its layout, choice and size of plants making it most appropriate as a setting for a unique survivor from the sixteenth century.

Please do join us on 24th June: one thing is for sure that it will be a memorable experience, especially as Sir Roy Strong has kindly agreed to give us some words of encouragement, focus, and perspective.

*Michael Tree, Chairman*



*Columnar yews in the formal garden*

## WHGT National Study Day

A Guided Tour Of The Piercefield Walks And Associated Landscape Features  
Saturday 13th May 2006

This study day offers the unique opportunity to explore and discover the 18th century picturesque landscape of the Piercefield Walks under the expert guidance of Ken Murphy of Cambria Archaeology who carried out an archaeological survey of the Piercefield Walks, partially funded by the WHGT, in March 2005 (see *Bulletin* No. 39). The walks were originally laid out for the pleasure of the owners and the increasing number of tourists visiting the lower Wye valley in the 18th century. The first walks and their associated viewpoints, overlying an older landscape including an Iron-Age hill fort, were laid out by Valentine Morris soon after 1752. After a period of neglect a new owner, George Smith, re-opened them in 1794 having straightened some of the more sinuous routes, abandoning many of the original loops and spur paths and changing the preferred direction of the walks from south to north. The walks were closed c.1850 and the present Wye Valley Walk now follows the general course of the 1790s' route.

The proposed guided tour will explore this hidden landscape and reveal the evolution of the various routes with their associated viewpoints and historic features that now lie obscured by vegetation. Participants will gain insight into the 'Picturesque experience', which includes vistas and elements of surprise, enjoyed by earlier generations of tourists.

The tour ( approx. 3 km) will take a north-south direction following the preferred route of the 1750s, starting at the Forestry Commission car park and finishing at the Chepstow Leisure

Centre. The walk will be fairly strenuous and stout footwear is advisable. A picnic lunch will also be required as there are no facilities along the walks. Full details and booking form are enclosed.

*Ros Laidlaw*



*The Giant's Cave*

© Ken Murphy

**Members are welcome to attend events outside their own Branch. For details contact the appropriate branch contact (see page 8).**

### Brecon and Radnor

- Saturday 22nd April      Branch AGM at Moor Park, Llanbedr, nr Crickhowell, and lecture about Piercefield by Ken Murphy, Cambria Archaeology.
- Sunday 25th June      Summer Garden Party at Cefndrwys, Builth Wells, by kind invitation of Mrs Carlos Laborde.
- Thursday 19th October      Garden visit to Llowes Court by kind invitation of Mr and Mrs K. Briggs. Autumn lecture: Edwardian gardens: the last Golden Age?" by Jane Woodley, at 3.30pm.

### Ceredigion

- Sunday 23rd April      Visit to Cardigan Castle and the gardens of Castle Green, guided by Russ Mainwaring, who has been researching the site. 2.00pm.
- Wednesday 31st May      Day Visit to Glynhir Mansion and Estate, Carmarthenshire. 11.30pm including lunch and refreshments.
- 10th or 17th September      Visit to the walled garden and estate of Coed Cilbronnau, Llangoedmor.

### Clwyd

- Saturday 8th April      Auricula Show, Plant Sale and Garden open at Nerquis Hall, nr Mold. 10.00am – 12.30pm.
- Saturday May 20th      Visit to Michael Grimes' garden at Garthewin, nr Llanfair-Talhaiarn. Lunch, lecture: 'Parkland as Woodland Pasture' by CADW Parks & Gardens Inspector Elisabeth Whittle.
- Saturday 8th July      Visits & Guided Tours of Plas Brondanw and Plas Tan-y-Bwlch.

### Gwynedd

- Saturday 29th April      Annual Plant Fair, Crûg Farm, Griffiths Crossing, by kind permission of Sue and Bleddyn Wynne-Jones. 10.00am – 4.00pm.
- Thursday 18th May      Day trip to Tatton Park, guided tour by Sam Youd.

Wednesday 5th July      Anglesey gardens: visits to Gwyndy Bach, Llynfaes, and Brynddu, Llanfechell.

September 15-17th      Visit to Harrogate Flower Show. (coach travel, and accommodation at Ramada Leeds North).

Friday 29th September      Michaelmas Luncheon, Tre Ysgawn Hall Hotel, Anglesey.

Saturday 14th October      Study Day – Grottos, Parc Glynllifon.

### Pembrokeshire

- Monday 20th March      Lecture: Shani Lawrence – The History of Allotments and Community Gardens.
- Thursday 20th April      Visit to Clyne Gardens. 2.30 pm.
- Saturday 20th May      Visit to Cardigan Castle. 2.30 pm.
- Saturday 10th June      Visit to Cae Hir, Cribyn, Ceredigion.

### South and Mid Glamorgan

- Sunday 30th April      Visit to Ruperra Castle and the garden features of Coed Craig Ruperra, under the guidance of Pat Moseley. Tea at Lower Machen House.
- Wednesday 13th September      Visit to Gardens and Grottos of Dewstow and to Shirenewton Hall.

### West Glamorgan

- Saturday 13 May      Visit to Dyffryn Gardens.
- Saturday 17th June      Visit to Tretower Court, Crickhowell.
- Sunday 2nd July      A strawberry tea, cake, plant and preserve stalls by kind invitation of Elizabeth and Aubrey Hudson.
- Thursday 6th July      An evening visit to Greyhill, near Chepstow.
- Saturday 9th September      A visit to Bro-Meigan Gardens, Pembrokeshire.
- Thursday 12 October      A lecture on the progress at the Cowbridge Physic Garden by Dan Clayton Jones.

## Chairman's remarks

### The Proposed National Grid Gas Pipeline in South Wales

Members may already be aware of news items about this scheme. The precise route is being negotiated with landowners and work on site is expected to commence in the spring of 2007 (subject to Department of Trade and Industry consent), with an ambitious aspiration to complete it by November 2007. This will be a huge infrastructure scheme which will be essential to transport natural gas from Felindre, Pembrokeshire across 314 kilometres of countryside to Tirley in Gloucestershire, at a pressure of 95bar. (Domestic cold water pressure has a pressure of around 2 to 4 bar by comparison). It is no coincidence that this comes about as the supply of North Sea gas diminishes. National Grid has a statutory obligation under the Gas Act 1986 (as amended) to build this pipeline, which, on completion, will transport around 20% of the gas needed to meet the UK's growing consumption.

The reason for mentioning this now is that the pipeline does in fact affect some of Wales's great landscapes: the Towy Valley, and the Brecon Beacons National Park. We have therefore tried to keep a close eye on the potential impact on historic parks and gardens. John Hegarty, Carmarthenshire branch representative, has agreed to watch over our interests with regard to such matters. But as usual, whilst it would be impossible for everyone affected to reach an immediate agreement with National Grid, it looks as though most viewpoints will probably be taken on board and accommodated.



This is so important for all involved, as nobody likes to go down the compulsory purchase route, including National Grid. On the other hand the issues are of considerable consequence to owners, the amenity societies and to the public at large for the laying of such a pipeline involves a 44-metre-wide working area within part of which we shall never again see mature trees such as beech, oak, lime and ash. To minimise the appearance of a slash through the landscape, National Grid has tried to avoid sensitive and historic areas, and has tried to ensure that the pipeline contains many twists and turns so as to avoid the appearance of a treeless corridor running across the whole breadth of the South Wales countryside.

There are some difficult issues yet to be resolved, not least at Penpont near Brecon, but generally we have been heartened by the care taken to identify sensitive areas through in-depth advanced research which has involved Cadw, amenity societies, archaeological trusts and many more. But the WHGT will continue to be vigilant to spot any potential threat to Historic Parks and Gardens whether formally listed or not.

*Michael Tree, Chairman*

*Further information on the project can be obtained by calling the free information line 0800 731 0561.*

## AGT Conference 2006

The WHGT has invited the Association of Gardens Trusts to hold its annual conference for 2006 in Wales. The AGT includes thirty-four English County Gardens Trusts (and WHGT) as members. Upwards of a hundred members of these CGTs are expected to visit us, including family and guests, for a friendly and social weekend. Michael Tree, as Chairman of WHGT, very much hopes that a good number of WHGT members will join us in making the visitors welcome.

The Conference will be held at the University of Wales, Bangor, between 1st and 3rd September, 2006. Accommodation will be in single, en suite student quarters at the University's campus at Ffriddoedd. The rooms are relatively new and well designed, built with the aim of providing good accommodation for tourists and conferences during University vacations. The lift is commodious and fast!

We have chosen the theme of **Plant Hunters** for the weekend, and the conference will be addressed by three distinguished speakers, Bleddyn and Sue Wynne-Jones as current plant hunters, Toby Musgrave on some nineteenth century and more recent plant hunters, and Jennifer Potter on the Tradescants. Her book on the Tradescants will be published this autumn, possibly in time for the Conference.

The outline programme is as follows:-

**Friday afternoon** – AGT AGM, Business Meeting and other AGT business. This meeting is open to all comers. Up-to-date information on the Parks and Gardens Data Base will be available. For spouses and members who do not wish to attend these meetings, a trip to Penrhyn Castle (NT) will be arranged at a small extra charge.

**Friday Evening after supper** – Plant Hunting talk by Bleddyn and Sue Wynne-Jones.

**Saturday** – Keynote talk by Toby Musgrave, followed by visits to gardens.

**Saturday Evening** – Conference Dinner, to which some distinguished guests will be invited to celebrate the occasion of the AGT visit.

**Sunday** – Talk on the Tradescants and other early Plant Hunters by Jennifer Potter, followed by visits to gardens.

The gardens to be visited will include Bodnant, Gwydir Castle, Portmeirion and Crùg Farm Nursery. Guides will be provided by the Gwynedd Branch of the Welsh Historic Gardens Trust, our hosts for the weekend, who are also providing teas at Crùg Farm Nursery.

A full meeting charge of £250 is payable (deposit £100 each at time of booking, remainder by 1st July 2006). A reduced charge of £180 (including the Conference Dinner) is available for CGT and WHGT members who do not require accommodation.

*Richard Gilbertson*

*More detailed information, and application forms, can be obtained from Ros Laidlaw and Richard Gilbertson, Email addresses [historicgardenswales@hotmail.com](mailto:historicgardenswales@hotmail.com) and [rh.gilbertson@virgin.net](mailto:rh.gilbertson@virgin.net)*

## Historic Designed Landscapes: Planning and conservation guidance

By Anthea Taigel and the Essex Gardens Trust (2003, amended 2004)

Price £19.50 (£17.50 + p+p)

The field of historic gardens conservation requires such a vast range of considerations that it is difficult to imagine a single volume that could pull together all the threads of which we need to keep abreast to do a half-efficient job of protecting our threatened landscapes – and as far as I am aware there isn't one.

But some years ago I discovered an invaluable, slim volume entitled, 'Researching a Garden's History', by Goodchild, Lambert and Roberts of York University, and then, more recently, the similarly excellent, 'Historic Parks and Gardens in the Planning System - A Handbook', by Dingwall and Lambert – two books which, together, have helped me enormously in my work.

Now, in Anthea Taigel's work I have discovered an equally indispensable third – making a beautifully complementary trio that pretty much covers the subject as comprehensively as any of us could wish – certainly as far as that "vast range of considerations" I mentioned above is concerned – providing an ideal starting point for any investigation for beginners in the field, as a refresher course, or as a reference source, making sure no essential point or basic source of information is overlooked.

Divided into easily-searchable, logical sections, this book covers every conceivable (or at least relevant) type of landscape and landscape feature and, in a consistent format, considers the history, survival, vulnerability, key conservation points and proposals for change of each – with excellent referenced glossaries laid out a similar format.

I found the 'Vulnerability' and 'Proposals for Change' sections extremely valuable with comments such as, "Planting is ephemeral . . . requiring phased replacement", and parkland proposals often being, "Vulnerable to lack of recognition and understanding of the historic designed landscape", being among my favourite phrases. The numerous references to 'curtilage', 'setting', 'visual envelope', and the dangers of 'piecemeal proposals' and 'outline planning' are most apposite. The fact that the book has already been accepted by Essex Planning, and will possibly be adopted by English Heritage, (one of the Statutory Consultees in England) gives me a feeling of optimism.

The book contains timely facts and reminders such as:

- There is a lack of statutory protection for 'Historic Designed Landscapes' (which is defined as the replacement for the planners' favourite phrase, 'Parks and Gardens').
- Clear attention is drawn to the numerous non-registered features and properties involved in the process – there are only 1500 registered landscapes compared to 400,000 registered buildings in England, and the ratio must be similar in Wales, with a correspondingly great threat?
- There are warnings about insensitive and 'backdoor' planning, sometimes encouraged by 'Enabling Development'
- It is essential for the authorities to recognise the 'multi-layered' nature of most historic landscapes, and
- The fact that planners are now officially reminded that 'Imaginative planning can not only reduce threats to the historic environment, but increase its contribution to local amenity.'

This book has already earned its place on my desk – even though I found references to planning and 'plants', (with the exception of trees and TPOs), a little sparse. But then I am speaking from the point of view of a horticulturist . . .

*David Toyne*

To purchase send a cheque for £19.50 (£17.50 + p+p) payable to Essex Gardens Trust, to: Bella D'Arcy, 11 Sawyers Road, Little Totham, Maldon, Essex CM9 8JW.



## Stone in Wales: Materials, Heritage and Conservation.

Ed. Malcolm R. Coulson, Published by Cadw (2005) pp208

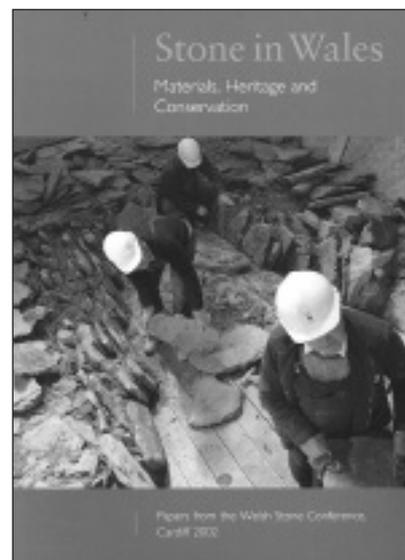
Price £45. Available from Cadw, Plas Carew, Unit 5/7 Cefn Coed, Parc Nantgarw, Cardiff CF15 7QQ

Gardeners and owners of historic buildings are closely engaged with stone, even though their geological knowledge may be quite slight. The buildings and landscape they prize, and the horticultural qualities of that land are a consequence of the underlying geology. The appearance of buildings is a function of the building materials that were available to the original masons, and the success or failure of modern conservation and reconstruction is closely dependent on the selection and sourcing of appropriate materials for new work. A detailed understanding of stone throws essential light on the weathering properties of each type of building stone and the future performance of new materials incorporated into buildings or garden features.

Stone in the built environment can also tell a story. From as early as Roman times, stone with exceptional qualities, especially that which could be intricately carved without fear of crumbling, was imported great distances for sculptures, pillars, quoins and window surrounds. Then the best bits may well be pillaged and incorporated into later and unrelated structures.

Today the globalised market leaves the homeowner dithering over the relative merits of expensive locally sourced slate, or much cheaper Chinese or Indian imports.

This attractively produced book (well illustrated in colour and bilingual from both ends) is a collection of articles derived from the proceedings of the Welsh Stone Conference, held in Cardiff in 2002. It is the first volume in what Cadw plans will become a Welsh built heritage conservation library. Papers fall into three groups: Materials, Heritage and Conservation. The first section addresses the geology and appearance of local stone building throughout the country, the sources of imported stone, and the characteristics of certain important stone types, slate, Mona marble from Anglesey, Portland stone. Under heritage one reads of the sourcing, and later dispersal around the region, of the stones of the Cistercian Cwmhir Abbey; of the white-mortared roofs of St Davids; the massive boulder construction of North Wales cottages; and of the regional variations of dry stone walling. The third section addresses the processes of stone decay, protocols for restoration followed at Tintern, and two articles pointing at a future for the building stone industry. Small local building stone quarries are now rare and it is often impossible to source the exactly correct material for restoration work. The Scottish Stone Liaison Group has been formed to promote the increased use of indigenous stone in Scotland, just as the Welsh Stone forum would like to do in Wales. It is encouraging to read the article by Malcolm Smith of CCW, who emphasises the importance of small local building-stone quarries, for local employment, for geology, for conservation, and to prevent the robbing of one historic building to repair another one. Many small quarries are SSSIs. Often the best way of preserving them is to keep them working.



*Caroline Palmer*

# New subscription rates for 2006

## A reminder from the Treasurer

Can I please remind everyone that the Welsh Historic Garden Trust subscription rates went up on 19th January, earlier this year.

As announced in *Bulletin* No. 41 we have raised our subscription rates as follows.

Individual subscription rate	£15
Joint subscription for a couple	£25
Corporation subscription	£50
Life membership	£300

Could I please ask all members to make sure that **they instruct their banks to alter their Standing orders** to the above new rates immediately if they have not already done so. The fewer that need chasing up the better for our poor over-worked administrator Ros Laidlaw currently kindly standing in as membership secretary.

*Many thanks. Jeremy Rye*

### BRANCH CONTACTS

<b>Brecon and Radnor</b>	<b>Mrs V.M. Scott</b> 01874 754236 vmscott@yahoo.com
<b>Carmarthen</b>	<b>Mr John Hegarty 01550 720273</b> hegarty@onetel.com
<b>Ceredigion</b>	<b>Dr Caroline Palmer</b> 01970 615403 caroline-palmer@tiscali.co.uk
<b>Clwyd</b>	<b>Mr David Toyne 01978 790576</b> david-toyne@beeb.net
<b>Gwynedd</b>	<b>Mrs Olive Horsfall 01766 780187</b> oandmhorsfall@btinternet.com
<b>Pembrokeshire</b>	<b>Mr Gerry Hudson 01834 814317</b> <b>Col. Richard Gilbertson</b> 01834 831 396 rh.gilbertson@virgin.net
<b>South and Mid Glam.</b>	<b>Mrs Val Caple</b> 01446 775794 val.t.caple@care4free.net
<b>West Glam.</b>	<b>Mrs Ann Gardner 01792 415453</b>

### OFFICERS

<b>Chairman:</b>	<b>Michael Tree</b> Hendre House, Llanrwst, Gwynedd LL26 0RJ 01492 642604 treeathendre@aol.com
<b>Vice-chairman:</b>	<b>Sheila Roberts</b> Derwen Deg, Hwfa Road, Bangor, Gwynedd LL57 2BN 01248 354 415 smr.bangor@btinternet.com
<b>Administrator: and acting Membership Secretary</b>	<b>Ros Laidlaw</b> Ty Leri, Talybont, Ceredigion SY24 5ER 01970 832 268 historicgardenswales@hotmail.com
<b>Treasurer:</b>	<b>Jeremy Rye</b> Brithdir Hall, Berriew, Powys SY21 8AW 01686 640802 jeremyrye@walesfineart.co.uk
<b>Bulletin Editor:</b>	<b>Caroline Palmer</b> The Old Laundry, Rhydyfelin, Aberystwyth, Ceredigion SY23 4QF 01970 615403 caroline-palmer@tiscali.co.uk

For information, details of the Guide to Historic parks and Gardens of Wales, and news see our website <http://gardensofwales.org.uk>



Registered Charity No. 1023293



## Not enough Pixels?

One of the challenges facing the Editor is obtaining images to accompany articles, and often I am wholly dependent on the efforts of an author to provide suitable illustrations. These may originate from varying sources: digital camera, traditional camera, scanner, photocopier, slides or prints. The following notes are designed to avoid some common pitfalls with the newer technologies.

### Taking Digital pictures

Please always use the setting which gives the highest quality image your camera will allow. This involves choosing the options for fine resolution and large image file size, and will be the form in which your camera's memory card will have the smallest capacity for pictures. Nonetheless it is essential for good quality publication. An acceptable photograph will normally be at least 500Kb in size. If you have a good quality digital camera with 5 megapixel image sensor, a single picture will probably be as large as 2 megabytes in size.

### Sending digital pictures by e-mail

If you are viewing your pictures in My Pictures you can click on one or several pictures and then click on the option on the left hand menu which says *E-mail this file*. The computer will then give you the options *Make all my pictures smaller* or *Keep the original sizes*. Always keep the original size. These large files take longer to be transmitted, (unless you are on broadband) so it may be wise to send them during the evening or weekend if you pay for internet time.

### Scanning an image

If you put a picture or document on a flat-bed scanner ensure that the Resolution is set at 300 pixels/inch or higher. Most machines ask whether the scan is a picture, or text. Always choose Picture. Save the file as a .jpeg format file (Your scanner may initially create a .tiff file which is far larger in file size. If this is the case choose Save as File format .jpeg and the conversion will take place).

### Sending a scanned image by E-mail

Store the image in a folder on your computer. Open an E-mail to send to me, and then click on the paperclip sign on the tool bar. This will open your document directory, so that you can select the picture of choice, and attach it to the E-mail.

### Scanning a slide

Select a resolution of at least 600 pixels per inch and continue as above.

### Photocopies

If possible use a Laserprint photocopier rather than the basic sort. Reproduction will be much better.

### Downloading from the internet

Although many internet pictures look fine on your monitor, the resolution is usually low and frequently unacceptably so for printing. Going back to the owner of the picture for better a copy of the original takes time – so please make requests in good time. Copyright permission may need to be sought.

And for the Luddites amongst you I can, of course, still accept actual slides, drawings, photocopies or prints and will scan them and return the originals.

*Caroline Palmer, (Editor)*