

No. 45
Winter 2006/2007

Apples at Nanhoron in the eighteenth century

by Bettina Harden

Members of the Trust might like to know that The Gateway Gardens Trust continues to flourish in Wales and we are well advanced in spreading our work in the West Midlands and, hopefully, next year into the Wessex region. The celebration of Apple Day is spreading far and wide and provides us with excellent opportunities for garden visits based on the same theme. Nanhoron welcomed Agoriad, a splendid Gwynedd-based charity that works to develop work opportunities for young adults with learning difficulties, in October. We explored old and new varieties of apples in the orchard, how they were stored and preserved – we have a beautiful eighteenth-century apple house dating from the 1750s – and ended up in the kitchen tasting different varieties of apple, apple juices, apple cake and much more besides.

In getting ready for the day I did some research in the Library here and discovered all sorts of apple facts. My husband's 6 x great grandfather, Captain Timothy Edwards, RN, spent many years improving the parkland and gardens at Nanhoron. In the early 1770s, during a lull in the wars against the French, he was at home at Nanhoron on 'half-pay'. It was at this time that he spent a lot of time and money planting trees, among them a large number of different fruit trees. He used Philip Miller's *Gardener's Dictionary*, (5th ed.) published in 1763 as his guide in everything he planned and created at Nanhoron and made notes of all his plantings on the blank pages at the beginning and the end of the book, as well as on the back of the diagram pages throughout the book.

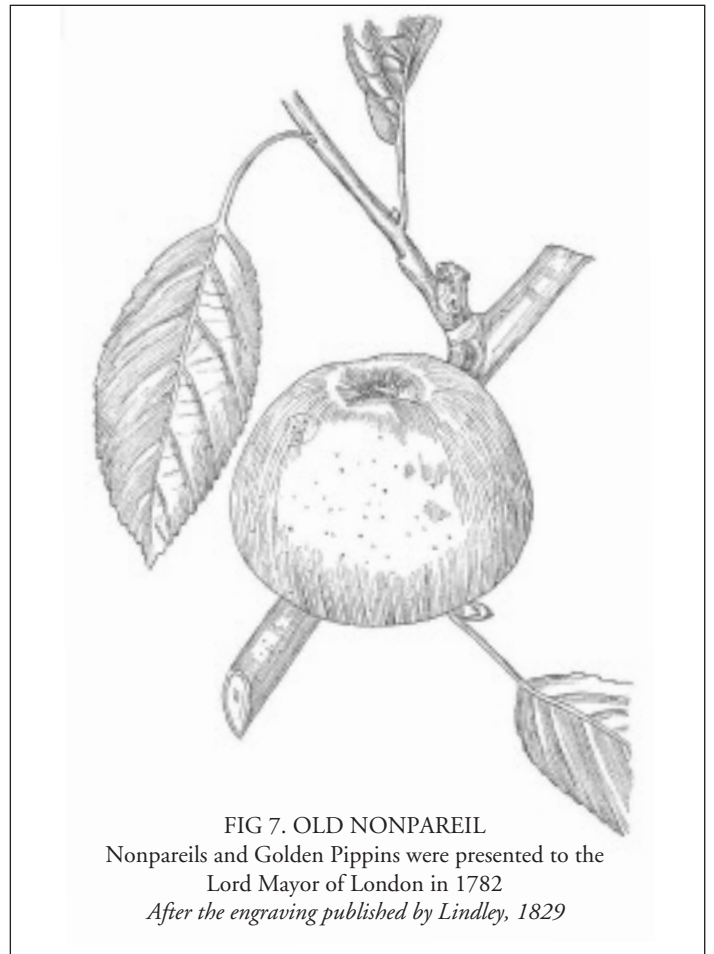


FIG 7. OLD NONPAREIL
Nonpareils and Golden Pippins were presented to the Lord Mayor of London in 1782
After the engraving published by Lindley, 1829

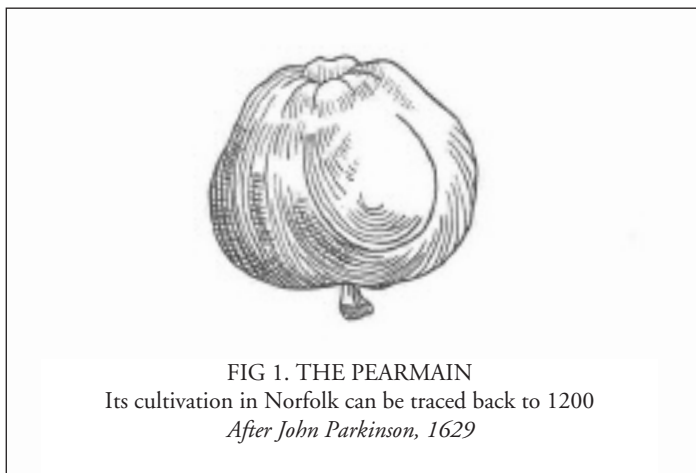


FIG 1. THE PEARMAIN
Its cultivation in Norfolk can be traced back to 1200
After John Parkinson, 1629

Below is a copy of Timothy's notes on the apples he planted, followed by quotations from Philip Miller's descriptions in the *Gardener's Dictionary*.

Apple Espaliers had in 1772	} all from London
Golden Pipins [sic] 10	
Apple Espaliers in 1773	
Nonpareil 10	

"The Golden Pippin is a fruit peculiar to England. There are few countries abroad where this succeeds well, nor do they produce so good fruit in many parts of England, as were to be wished."

“The Nonpareil is a fruit pretty well known in England, though there is another Apple which is frequently sold in markets for it, which is what the French call Haute-bonne...; but the Nonpareil is seldom ripe before Christmas, and where they are well preserved, they will keep till May perfectly sound. This is justly esteemed one of the best apples that have yet been known.”

The following Apple Espalier Trees were had from Mr Williamson’s and planted in March 1777:

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| Two Royal Russets | } | all five planted in the East Garden. |
| Two True Codlings [sic] | | |
| 1 Pile’s Russet | | |
| Two Kentish Pippins | } | all planted in the West Garden. |
| 1 Wheeler’s Russet | | |
| 1 Kentish Fill Basket | | |
| 1 Hertford or Winter Pearmain | | |
| 1 Pile’s Russet | | |

“The Royal Russet, by some called the Leather Coat Russet, on account of the deep russet colour of the skin. This is a large fair fruit, of an oblong figure, broad towards the base; the flesh is inclinable to yellow. This is one of the best kitchen Apples we have, and is a very good bearer; the trees grow large and handsome, and the fruit is in use from October till April, and is also a pleasant fruit to eat.”

*“The first Apple which is brought to the London markets is the Codlin. This fruit is so well known in England, that it is needless to describe it.” **

“Pile’s Russet is not quite so large as the former [Wheeler’s Russet], but is of an oval figure, of a russet colour to the sun, and of a dark green on the other side. It is a very firm fruit, of a sharp acid flavour, but is much esteemed for baking and will keep sound till April, or later, if they are well preserved.”

“The Kentish Pippin is a large handsome fruit, of an oblong figure; the skin is of a pale green colour; the flesh is breaking, and full of juice, which is of a quick acid flavour. This is a very good kitchen fruit and will keep till February.”

“Wheeler’s Russet is an apple of middling size, flat and round; the stalk is slender, the side next the sun of a light russet colour, the other side inclining to a pale yellow when ripe; the flesh is firm, and the juice has a very quick acid flavour; but it is an excellent kitchen fruit, and will keep a long time.”

“The Kentish Fill Basket is a species of Codlin, of a large size, longer shaped than a Codlin. This ripens a little later in the season, and is generally used for baking, &c.”

“The Hertfordshire Pearmain, by some called the Winter Pearmain. This is a good sized fruit, rather longer than round, of a fine red next the sun, and striped with the same colour on the other side; the flesh is juicy and stews well, but it is not esteemed for eating by any nice palates. This is fit for use in November and December.”

Noting that Timothy had ordered a lot of his fruit trees from Mr Williamson in London, I looked him up in John Harvey’s *Early Nurserymen* (Phillimore, 1974). I was delighted to discover that

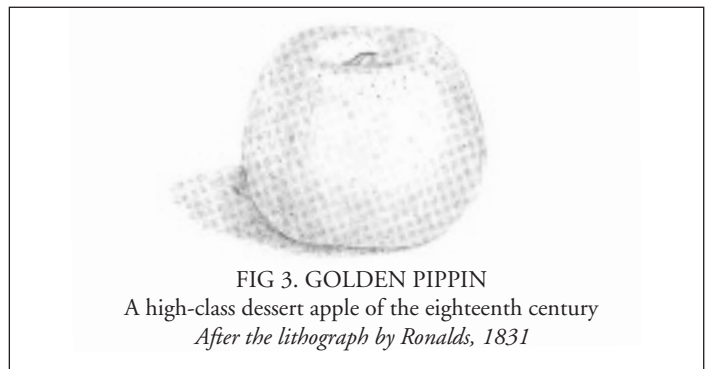


FIG 3. GOLDEN PIPPIN
A high-class dessert apple of the eighteenth century
After the lithograph by Ronalds, 1831

Illustrations taken from Taylor H. V. (1936) The Apples of England, London: Crosby, Lockwood & Son.

not only did Mr Williamson feature in it but there was also a connection with Philip Miller, whose book was such an inspiration to Timothy in the laying out and planting of the park and gardens at Nanhoron. John Williamson was the assistant to Robert Furber (c. 1674-1756) who founded The Kensington Nursery soon after 1700. Furber’s son was apprenticed to Philip Miller in 1722, the year in which he became Curator of the Chelsea Physic Garden. They remained on good terms, with Miller printing some of Furber’s plant lists in the 1731 edition of *The Gardener’s Dictionary*. The Kensington Nursery became the fashionable place for buying plants – Mrs Delany was a customer – and on Furber’s death passed to John Williamson and continued to be a leading firm as Williamson & Co. until his own death in 1783 (three years after Timothy Edward’s death at sea in 1780). Under other management and ownership over the years, The Kensington Nursery remained as a mainstay of the garden trade until the middle of the nineteenth century.

John Harvey says there were about 100 nurserymen in business in England and Wales in the second half of the eighteenth century. The links between Timothy Edwards, his gardening mentor, Philip Miller and his nurseryman, John Williamson, are therefore particularly pleasing.

Editors’ Note

* Its familiarity to Philip Miller in 1763 has deprived us of a useful description of the Codlin. So I turned to the work of H.V.Taylor, (Horticultural Commissioner, Ministry of Agriculture), *The Apples of England*, 1936.

He records that Codlin apples appear originally to have described any small and immature green apple, but that the English (or Kentish Codlin) was recognised as a distinct variety by Elizabethan times. Its name reflects the fact that it is the best apple to coddle (i.e. to parboil) and was used to prepare the dish of codlins and cream, a pudding which in turn bestowed its name (on account of the scent) upon the Great Willow Herb, also still known today as Codlins and Cream.

The same source also reveals that in the 18th century Pearmain and Golden Pippins were popular for cider making: the size of Timothy Edwards’ order, ten Golden Pippins, suggests that this may have been their purpose at Nanhoron. But this is a time at which the Golden Pippin (from Sussex) and the Nonpareil (from France) were internationally esteemed. In 1782 The Worshipful Company of Fruiterers presented baskets of Nonpareils and Golden Pippins to the Lord Mayor of London for a dinner commencing at 3pm, presumably both were to be used as dessert apples.

Caroline Palmer

Heritage at Risk

As a child I distinctly remember thinking that the countryside, and particularly the Welsh countryside was noted for the number of fine large houses and gardens that seemed eminently habitable, yet were abandoned to the elements. I had no idea why, but in any event exploring them was to become a long term teenage adventure. Only some time later did one start becoming aware of the reasons for these Marie-Celeste like structures existing; perhaps there were more to be seen in Wales than elsewhere. Then along came Tom Lloyd's book on 'The Lost Houses of Wales' which for the first time quantified the considerable loss of houses and gardens that had taken place over the previous fifty years or so: well over three hundred if I remember correctly.

However with modern planning legislation there was a general feeling this sort of loss was now probably a thing of the past. Indeed to an extent this impression was reinforced by the very modest list of some fifteen or so derelict properties at the back of the book thought to be capable of rescue, most of which have since been rescued. Indeed I rescued one myself, and great fun it was too.

But there was still a nagging feeling that all was not quite right when one thought of Gwrych Castle (Grade 1 listed) being stripped of its fixtures and fittings in the nineteen nineties; Hafod Unos destroyed by fire a few years ago; Nannau and Edwinstord stripped to the point of dereliction. Little enough seemed to be



© Mark Baker

Gwrych Castle - open to the public in the 1960s, now derelict.

done to stop these serious losses, and one was bound to ask oneself if there were others, maybe many others one did not know about that could point to a bigger and maybe national problem?

Then along comes enlightened Cadw which faced the issue head-on by encouraging the Welsh councils to draw up registers of heritage properties considered to be at risk, by offering grant aid towards the costs. Here therefore was the chance, for the first time, to know the underlying facts, and my goodness we do seem to have some challenges ahead of us: in just one north Wales county they have listed over three hundred items at risk, not all involving garden and landscape, but including a truly great garden, an Elizabethan manor house and garden, a fort, and a very good stable block, and many others.

To date I believe such lists have only been completed by about half of the Welsh counties, even so, they are of much assistance to us in identifying the gardens and landscapes for which we need to campaign to ensure their survival for future generations. That is one of the Welsh Historic Gardens Trust's formal aims of existence.

On the other hand a few words of caution may not come



© Caroline Palmer

Piercefield - abandoned by 1923, used for target practice in World War II.

amiss. Firstly we will have to consider very carefully which items we target for our efforts, as some losses will be inevitable

given the extent of the problems that are beginning to emerge. Secondly it is not altogether easy to generate much enthusiasm for a property that to the rest of the world simply looks shabby and unloved. Yet we know from past experience that neglect is at the start of a slippery slope that will end in a few uneven fields and piles of stone, if nothing is done to stop it. Finally let us not forget that we are in this unfortunate situation despite forty years of planning legislation that was designed to prevent such wholesale problems; yes the county councils have a well known heritage responsibility, but no obligation to carry it out. Indeed it will surprise nobody that in the days of stringent budgetary control, social services, the police, and education for example come well ahead of heritage in terms of local authority priorities.

So very probably a solution must be sought through lateral thinking and, as ever, a little generosity of spirit from all involved, remembering that this subject should be above party contention. We should also accept that facilitation works better than compulsion, and that more often than not with these issues it is the transient owner that is the problem, not the intrinsic failings of the heritage property.

I hope that we can be at least be abreast of these lists as they are compiled, and perhaps ensure that garden heritage at risk is not overlooked. We will keep you regularly informed as our role evolves and becomes clearer.

*Michael Tree
Chairman*



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Edwinstord - Polish refugees grew mushrooms under the floorboards during World War II.

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

Brecon and Radnor

Saturday 21st April

Branch AGM at Old Gwernyfed

Tuesday 26th June

Coach trip to Iford Manor, and Great Chalfields Manor, near Bradford-on-Avon (to celebrate the publication of Robin Whalley's book on Harold Peto).

Saturday 15th September WHGT Study Day organised by this branch: Renaissance Gardens, to be held at Aberglasney.

Autumn, date to be arranged

Visit to Llwynywormwood, Myddfai.

Ceredigion

Saturday 3rd March AGM followed by illustrated lecture by Graham Rankin on the Aberglasney Ninfarium (sub-tropical courtyard garden). 2.00pm Waun Fawr Community Hall, Aberystwyth.

Wednesday 25 April A visit to Aberglasney. Members' own transport. Lunch.

Sunday 13 May An exploration of the improved footpaths in the gardens of Penglais Dingle, Aberystwyth, led by Caroline Palmer. 2.30pm.

Wednesday 4 July Llanllyr. Meet at 2-30pm. Loveday Gee will give us a conducted tour of the garden and talk about the history of the place and the creation of the garden as it is now. Tea.

Sunday 9th September Visit to Hawkstone Park and Follies. By coach from Aberystwyth, 8.30am. Organised jointly with the Cardiganshire Horticultural Society.

Clwyd

Contact Mrs E Bartlett, Leeswood Hall, Leeswood. near Mold, Denbighshire for booking form.

Saturday 31st March Study Day: "Finding History in the Garden" at Llys Goodman, Ruthin, 10.30 a.m. Registration and Coffee.

Dr Paul Stamper, English Heritage, "Recent Discoveries in Shropshire".

Lisa White, M.A., Director Attingham Summer School, "Perished Perches, Historic Garden Seats". The programme will be followed by a short A.G.M.

Saturday 21st April Auricula Show, Plant Sale and Garden open at Nerquis Hall, nr. Mold 10.00 am – 12-30pm, Plants for sale. Entrance £.2.00.

Saturday 14th July Preen Manor, Church Preen, Church Stretton SY6 7LQ. 10a.m. Coffee and Entrance £4, and afterwards Glansevern Hall, Gardens, Berriew, Welshpool, Powys SY21 8AH. 12a.m. Entrance £4. Light lunches available if required.

Saturday 13th October Autumn Visit to Erddig, "Old Orchards", talk etc. by Glyn Smith, Head Gardener, followed by visit to Three Chimneys "Old Fruit Trees", talk and discussion by Anthony Jackson.

Meet 11am at ticket office (N.T. members entrance free).

Bring a picnic or lunch in the restaurant before proceeding to Three Chimneys for 2p.m.

Gwynedd

Thursday 22nd March AGM followed by lunch at The Castle Hotel, Conwy, then a private visit to the Elizabethan garden at Plas Mawr.

Thursday 19th April Plas yn Rhiw, National Trust property on the Llyn Peninsular. Corinne Price (Membership Secretary) is the Head Gardener. Tea afterwards at the village hall.

Saturday 5th May Annual Plant Fair at Crûg Farm Nursery, Caernarfon.

Monday 21st May Day trip to Hawkstone Park.

Monday 2nd July Afternoon visit to Nant y Glyn to see the

garden of Marian MacNichol and also to Bryn Edwyn for the Shell House and afternoon tea.

Wednesday 26th September Michaelmas Luncheon
Plas Bodegroes, Pwllheli.

October Study Day – Public Parks.

Pembrokeshire

Meetings are held at 7-30pm in the Rising Sun, Pelham Cross, (on A487 from Haverfordwest to St David's).

Monday 19th February AGM, Followed by a lecture by Branch Recorder Gerry Hudson on the fascinating discoveries he has made in Pembrokeshire gardens.

Monday 19th March Bears Ears and Painted Ladies: the history of the Auricula and its growers, by Robin and Pat Fisher, winners of an RHS Gold Medal at The Chelsea Flower Show 2003. Plant Sale of Auriculas.

Wednesday 11th April Visit to the gardens of Dale Castle. Meet at entrance 2.30 pm, Wellington boots advisable.

South and Mid Glamorgan

Sunday 27th May Visit to Eric Butcharts wood at Ty Fry, Tredodridge.

June 2007 Visit to Clevedon Court and gardens.

Sunday 8th July 2007 Branch AGM when Tim Mowl will be talking about William Kent, venue to be decided.

September 2007 Possible visit to Monaughty.

West Glamorgan

Thursday 15th March AGM, Lecture by Graham Rankin, Director of Aberglasney. 2.00pm, St Paul's Parish Centre, Swansea.

Tuesday 10 May Lecture by Robin Whalley. The Edwardian garden, and the work of Harold Peto. 2.00pm, St Paul's Parish Centre, Swansea.

Saturday 26 May Visit to Cowbridge Physic Garden.

Saturday 23th June Visit to Hestercombe.

Friday 8 June Strawberry tea in a garden at Llanmadoc, Gower.

Take a new photo for the WHGT Christmas Card 2007!

The WHGT Christmas cards produced for us by Quartilles International were a modest success. 120 packs were sold and this will bring £48 revenue to the WHGT, in addition to the welcome publicity that comes from more than a thousand cards adorning the mantelpieces of our friends and relatives all over the world.

The publications Committee proposes to continue this alliance in 2007 and will be seeking two new pictures to be published to the same high standard. It is not too late to get out and take a seasonal frosty or wintry scene suitable for the Trust card. Digital photographs should be in colour, and at the highest resolution (image size) your camera will support – probably as large as 1 megabyte for a single image.

In selecting this year's pictures, we used a hastily convened panel of a dozen randomly selected members. Consumer research leads us to the view that the Christmas card image market is fairly conservative – most people want designs which will be equally acceptable to diverse recipients – and that the picture's appeal should be generic rather than specific. So while a picture of, for example, Duffryn in the snow advertises Duffryn, it may seem irrelevant to a North Wales

buyer, just as one of Powis Castle may have lesser appeal in South Wales. A good subject for the card is likely to be a more detailed view, such as box topiary in the snow, an architectural garden feature rimed in frost, a frozen water feature, a potting shed wreathed in ivy, a frosty border or a winter parkland scene. Location details will be credited on the back of the card, as will the photographer.

We hope that the keen photographers in the branches will submit pictures for 2007. Entries can be E-mailed to the Bulletin Editor, caroline-palmer@tiscali.co.uk, and will be selected by a panel, in early July.



2007 AGM at Trefnant with Brynbella Garden Visit, 9th. June 2007

For the convenience of members we continue to alternate our AGM venue from the south to mid and to north Wales, so this year it is our northern members that will have least travelling to do. On the other hand I hope that this year's AGM programme will be sufficiently interesting to tempt even those in the remotest parts of South Wales to join us.

Our Guest Speaker on this occasion will be the Duchess of Northumberland whose gardening achievements at her home, Alnwick Castle have made her something of a celebrity. Not only has she created new gardens within a historic setting, but she has also reinvigorated the local economy through the influx of increased numbers of visitors and services. I am sure therefore that the freshness of her approach and lateral thinking will be an inspiration for all of us who are trying to grapple with the problems of historic gardens at in Wales.

As usual the AGM will be followed by the talk and lunch; this time it will be at the Village Hall at Trefnant, some five miles south of St.Asaph. This in turn is only about three and a



© Sara Furze

WHGT AGM

**Saturday 9th June
at Trefnant Village Hall**

The AGM will be followed by a lecture about
the Gardens of Alnwick Castle
by The Duchess of Northumberland

Lunch

Garden visit to the Brynbella, Tremeirchion, a Grade II* Georgian mansion with a small late 18th century park, and informal, predominantly 20th century garden.

half miles from Brynbella the venue for our garden visit, thanks to the kind invitation of Mr. and Mrs. Neumark. Neither the house nor the gardens are normally open to the public, so this is a special treat as both will be open to us on the day. Members may be aware of this as the home of Hester Lynch Salusbury (of the Salusbury family of nearby Llewenni Hall), who became, by marriage, firstly Mrs. Thrale (famous friend of Dr. Johnson), and secondly Mrs. Piozzi (and friend of the 'Ladies of Llangollen'). The gardens have recently been renovated and are a delight, especially the walled garden, which together with the exceptional views out will doubtless make your visit memorable. So do please make every effort to attend, and bring at least one guest, particularly if they may become members as a result! Full details will be announced in due course.

*Michael Tree
Chairman*

Study Days

booking forms and full details will be circulated nearer the time

May, Date to be confirmed

What is an Historic Garden?

At The Faenol, Bangor. The programme will include practical advice on surveying and recording a garden.

Saturday 15 September

Renaissance Gardens

Study Day at Aberglasney. Speakers will include Kevin Blockley, Elizabeth Whittle, Penny David, Robin Whalley.

12 March

Planning workshop for branch Conservation Officers

Broneirion, Llandinam.

This event will be attended by nominated members of each branch, to aid them in responding to planning applications affecting historic gardens. Advisors will include Kate Harwood of the Association of Gardens Trusts, Elizabeth Whittle of Cadw, and a planner.

(Contact Ros Laidlaw, Administrator, if you would like to be a delegate).

Penllegare: Echoes from the Valley Woods. An Anthology.

Available from The Penllegare Trust, Coed Glantawe, Esgairdawe, Llandeilo. SA19 7RT, price £14.95p (+ £1.50 p&cp)

“Penllegare is a lovely place but there are some things that are no so good, like all the dumped cars that people have set on fire. There is also the Council Office that is in the same place as the mansion used to be...”

Enough said. This comment from an eleven-year-old visitor to Penllegare in 2005 sums up much of what went wrong with so many of Britain's historic landscapes in the mid-years of the twentieth century. Neglected, undervalued and unappreciated on the one hand and, on the other, all too often, treated merely as a useful space in which to dump anything from office buildings to maintenance yards and even rubbish tips, their houses demolished or sold off, parkland built over and bisected by new roads, gardens lost to view beneath weeds and brambles: no wonder they fell out of recollection and local people ceased to think of them as an asset.

Belatedly, as we begin to understand some of the consequences of the way we have been treating our environment, this attitude is changing and groups like the Penllegare Trust are finally getting somewhere. The lonely uphill struggle is beginning to meet a more frequented path. This book, among its other charms, makes that plain.

To call it an anthology is somewhat misleading. It does contain extracts from published books and from journals like *The Gardener's Magazine* of the 1890s but more of the items are culled from personal recollections, not simply of the gardens but of the whole estate and the people whose lives were bound up in it. The owners, from Lewis Weston Dillwyn, who came into the estate by marriage in the early nineteenth century, to his grandson, Sir John Talbot Dillwyn Llewelyn, who died, aged ninety one, in 1927, each has a brief biography, accompanied by descriptions of the estate in his time and juxtaposed with impressions from the present day.

They were good landlords and maintained excellent relations with their tenants and servants, so that most of the memories invoked are happy ones. Sunday School Treats, skating on the Home Farm Pond and visits and gifts from The Big House figure largely in the early accounts. Cottages, schools and lodges were built and housed what were often enormous families in their confined spaces. Yet in all these extracts, whether from written accounts or recorded conversations, there is only one which conveys a grudging sense of ‘them and us’. Even when life was hard and the harsh conditions of the times brought grief and difficulty, there is still a strong sense of belonging, and of gratitude for being associated with a lovely place.

Descriptions of the gardens make clear their importance to the family. A letter from Emma Dillwyn Llewelyn to her mother, written in 1837, has far more to say about the garden than about her family. ‘Babes are both quite well’ comes, almost as an afterthought, at the very end. Of far more interest are the flowers coming on: John's ‘pretty orchises’, the eight flower buds on the white camellia and ‘laying some nice water pipes from the Farm pond to supply the boilers...’

The building of the orchid house, by John Dillwyn Llewelyn, is

a great excitement. “It will be only small and entirely given up to Orchis - 100 degrees of heat and an atmosphere saturated with water, is the enjoyment I promise myself and my pets - I intend them to flower there and to rest after the exertion in a dryer and cooler place.” He wrote an article about it for the *Journal of the Royal Horticultural Society* in 1845 and it was much admired.

In 1886, after his death, it was written up in the *Journal of Horticulture and Cottage Gardener*. “Mr Llewelyn is a good orchidist, and perhaps it would not be too much to say that he inherits his love for them from his late father...” Not so very long ago, Richard Morris and others had difficulty identifying the site at all.

The kitchen gardens were also highly prized.

Under Charles Warmington, head

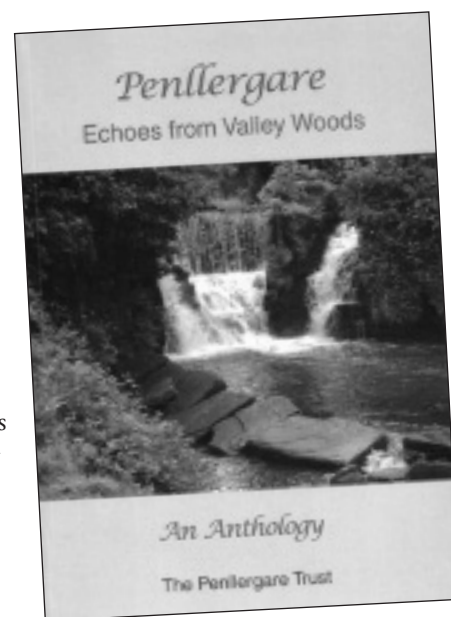
gardener in the time of John Talbot Dillwyn Llewelyn, there were many varieties of peaches, grown on a wall with the glass canopy for overhead protection, as well a soft fruit and vegetables and a particularly fine Melon Ground. The building of the lake and waterfall was a great undertaking and cost £2,000, a huge sum, although, as a later commentator points out, a mere crumb beside the vast cost of the reservoir built to supply Swansea with water.

The photographs which John Dillwyn Llewelyn took of Penllegare have contributed largely to his reputation as one of the finest of the early photographers and several are reproduced to excellent effect. They present a picture of a landscape cherished but not over-manicured, planted and given structure but allowed to grow on naturally, in the tradition of the best of British landscape gardens. And, just occasionally, there is a modern view placed alongside to show that all is not yet lost.

As Sir John Talbot Dillwyn Llewelyn grew older and more infirm, the improvements gradually ceased and by the 1930's the woods and lakes had become a playground for generations of children: swimming, climbing trees and getting lost in the woods are recalled as a magical, idyllic world such as few children have the freedom for today. Today's children, by contrast, visit Penllegare for the most part on well-chaperoned school trips, though, to judge by their writing they seem to succumb as readily to the spell of the place.

The saddest part of the book is the comparison between the loving care and attention lavished on the gardens in their heyday and the subsequent neglect and ruin. Decay came slowly at first, then accelerating until, in 1961, the house was blown up and the brambles and the vandals took over. Yet it is heartening to feel that the magic has not vanished and that efforts are being made to bring the place back into use and enjoyment for future generations.

Anne Carter



Website: www.penllegare.org

Volume 4 - The new-look Gerddi!

Editor Stephen Briggs is warmly congratulated upon the production of Gerddi Volume 4, which was sent out to all members at Christmas time.

For newer members who want the complete set, back numbers of Volumes 1, 2, and 3 are obtainable from the Administrator, Ros Laidlaw, price £5-00 per volume (including P&P).

Additional copies of Volume 4 may also be purchased, for £7-00 per volume including P&P. (For overseas mailings please enquire).



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



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Join NFU Mutual for a free 'cuppa'!



The 'Royal' shows have been the highlight of the agricultural show calendar for many years. And this year is no exception. The Royal Highland, Edinburgh towards the end of June along with the Royal Show, Stoneleigh at the beginning of July and the Royal Welsh, Builth Wells at the end of the month, offer a showcase for British agriculture. They bring the farming industry and the rural community together and offer a great day out for the whole family.

NFU Mutual will be exhibiting at all three events, where we will provide hospitality to all those people visiting our stand. So whether it's time for morning coffee, lunch or afternoon tea, pop along and see us for your free refreshments.

At NFU Mutual we understand how important it is to have peace of mind. That's why we have agents in offices across the country who can meet with you face-to-face, get to know you and understand your needs. For more information on NFU Mutual, visit www.nfumutual.co.uk

Appeal for information!

From Researcher/writer Twigs Way

Crocodiles in the Fernery, Pelicans in the Pool

Twigs Way is collecting examples for a small book on the keeping of unusual animals and birds in gardens (or alternatively more common animals, but in unusual proximity!). The theme is the animals themselves and the book is not a history of menageries or private zoos, but more concentrating on people and their animals.

It is planned that the book will contain examples from around the country and from various historic periods. The book will be alphabetical (C for crocodile, P for pelican etc) and she hopes to tell a single story for each animal. Examples would include the Victorian gentleman who kept crocodiles in his fernery, ostriches at Tring, and James I's (failed) garden for silkworms. Less unusual animals might be included if they had famous owners, for example Gertrude Jekyll's cats, or Timothy the tortoise at Selborne.

She hopes that our members will rack their brains for examples of quirkiness in animals and gardens and share them with her with a view to publication.

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