

No. 47
Summer 2007

The historic gardens of Wales from the air

by Toby Driver

Introduction

Of all the subjects which can be recorded from the air, historic houses, parks and gardens are among the most appealing. Since early artists and surveyors of the seventeenth century first chose to depict historic estates from an imagined aerial viewpoint, an elevated perspective has been one of the most common methods of illustrating great houses and gardens. Aerial photography remains a particularly effective method because it is able to illustrate not only the main houses, together with other ancillary buildings usually hidden from view, but the wider context of landscaped grounds and planting schemes with broader views to the world beyond. Historic air photographs capture the great estates of Wales in working order, before post-war dereliction and demolitions altered

them forever.

Aerial photography can provide attractive illustrations of historic gardens yet this recognises only part of its strength. If taken correctly and interpreted carefully the aerial photograph has far greater potential, as a powerful tool for researching the history and archaeology of the garden. A variety of seasonal and weather conditions can be exploited from the air to discover and record hidden features of gardens that are either completely invisible at ground level, or remain inconspicuous or unrecorded without the benefit of an elevated viewpoint.

Aerial reconnaissance was established as a method of survey at the Royal Commission in 1986, and thus began a systematic programme dedicated to recording a range of archaeological,



Figure 1. Panoramic landscape view from the south with Vaynol Hall in the centre-right middle distance, and Pont Britannia beyond.



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Figure 2. Vaynol from the south-east, showing the New Vaynol Hall (rear, centre), estate buildings to the right, and the new car park.

historical, architectural and geographical subjects across the length and breadth of Wales. Within this remit, historic houses, parks and gardens have formed one of the core subjects. More recently, specific photographic projects have been undertaken (described below) which have allowed the gardens of entire regions to be comprehensively documented. Increasingly the Internet is allowing better access to some of the aerial images taken, and in future it is intended that many more photographs will be made available online by the Royal Commission.

Photographing the gardens of Gwynedd from the air

In 2004, the Royal Commission was approached by the Gwynedd Branch of the Welsh Historic Gardens Trust (WHGT) to undertake aerial photography of all Grade I and Grade II gardens and parks in Gwynedd. The project was intended to work at two levels. In the first instance the aim was to provide up to date and comprehensive cover of all gardens in the *Register of Landscapes, Parks and Gardens* (Cadw & ICOMOS UK, 1998) for Gwynedd, gathering a mix of detailed aerial views of the houses, estate buildings and structural features as well as wider scene-setting views which placed the estates in their landscape settings. Secondly, additional emphasis was to be placed on a handful of gardens where there were planning or development issues; with these examples, key parts of the estates were to be photographed more intensively to provide a record of current condition and future change. As well as adapting to the requirements of the WHGT, the new project provided an excellent and timely opportunity for the Royal Commission to enhance its aerial archive with comprehensive new coverage.

The project was approached in such a way as to obtain an exemplary aerial record of each estate, showing all its various elements, recording key vistas or planting schemes, responding to imminent threats or changes and providing both detailed and wide-ranging views. Gardens on the Isle of Anglesey and Conwy were recorded at the same time. In discussion with Dr Sheila Roberts, and consulting the *Register of Landscapes, Parks and Gardens (ibid.)*, the author marked up his standard 1:50,000 scale flying maps with arrows marking vistas, ideal viewpoints to photograph from, and any key areas of the estates which should be recorded. New archaeological discoveries within the estates would be seen as a bonus.

Recording the Vaynol estate on the north Gwynedd coast was of the highest priority, given the pressure for new development on the site, particularly in its north-east part (Figures 1 & 2). The WHGT was interested to see if the aerial photography could reveal any previously unrecorded archaeology in areas where future development might be focused. Low earthworks of what appears

to be the vestiges of a terraced prehistoric field system were discovered in the western part of Vaynol, overlooking the Menai Strait, during winter aerial photography by the Royal Commission in 1999. In the event no new archaeology was discovered, but the estate now has a considerable aerial archive of all its constituent parts.

New light on the gardens of north-west Wales

In all, thirty-nine gardens in Conwy, Gwynedd and the Isle of Anglesey were surveyed from the air during this programme of work. Detailed aerial coverage was given to the major gardens and estates, among them Glynllifon, Penrhyn Castle, Plas Brondanw, Portmeirion, Nannau, Craflwyn, Plas Tan-y-bwlch, Cors-y-gedol and Penmaenuchaf at Penmaenpool. In addition a number of smaller gardens not on the Register were photographed, some for the first time. These included gardens like Aber Artro in Ardudwy, and Plas Ty Coch to the east of Caernarfon, many of which are of considerable historical interest.

For the great estates, coverage was comprehensive and included broad landscape views of entire estates, coming in closer for views of planting schemes and peripheral farms, walled gardens, gatehouses and estate buildings, and culminating in detailed views of the houses at the hearts of the gardens. Repeated photography at different times of year provided different opportunities. May and June over Plas Tan-y-bwlch and the gardens east of Beddgelert showed rhododendrons at their best, while photography in Merionethshire of Cors-y-gedol and Aber Artro in mid May showed gardens alive with colour and oak woodlands emerging in bright green foliage. Winter photography allowed views through wooded parts of estates to reveal walled gardens and built structures with greater clarity. At Baron Hill, near Beaumaris on Anglesey, the aerial view provides one of the few overviews of the ruins of this house concealed in thick woodland.

Archaeological discoveries of lost garden features were limited during the new photography, but there were some surprises. Low earthworks of an Edwardian rose garden were photographed immediately to the south-west of Plas Newydd mansion on Anglesey. Despite having been removed many years ago, with the area now put down to lawns, slight earthworks remained to cast shadows on aerial photographs (Figure 3). A number of other archaeological discoveries were made within the grounds of the Gwynedd gardens between 2004 and 2006, but often these related to far more distant use of the landscape than the estates of recent centuries. A plough-denuded prehistoric hut group in the grounds of Cors y Gedol, a plough-levelled Bronze Age barrow near Broom Hall on the Llyn, and prehistoric defended enclosures and early medieval square barrows within Penrhyn Park, were all aerial highlights which demonstrate the longevity of human occupation within these historic parks.

Flying the historic gardens of Wales

The Royal Commission carries out around sixty hours of aerial reconnaissance a year, across the whole Wales, and continues to record historic parks and gardens as a standard part of this work. The recent book *Pembrokeshire: Historic Landscapes from the Air*, (Driver, 2007) showcases twenty years of aerial photography for one region of Wales, illustrating gardens and parks as one element of the entire history of the county.

Favourable light or seasonal conditions can still bring new archaeological discoveries, and provide regional context for better preserved estates. Two particular recent aerial discoveries deserve mention. At Grove near Narberth in Pembrokeshire, earthworks

recorded in low light (NPRN 403984) suggest the truncated remains of formal garden earthworks similar to early gardens at nearby Landshipping. To the east, the Twyi Valley in Carmarthenshire is of considerable interest to garden historians, being home to the gardens at Aberglasney and Middleton Hall, as well as Dinefwr Park. Aerial photography west of Nantgaredig identified low earthworks of a formal garden extending onto the floodplain fronting Allt-y-gog (NPRN 266166). These are of interest as they do not align on the present house, but instead on a group of buildings to the west. The earthworks were not depicted on the nineteenth century County Series map, where the floodplain – and garden earthworks - had already been bisected by the construction of a railway embankment. Thus the earthworks may be quite early. Both of these earthwork discoveries, as well as many others across Wales, will require further research to establish their credentials as garden features. However, they suggest that for any given region there are still lost gardens of some significance to be rediscovered, both through techniques of aerial archaeological survey, and by other means of field and documentary research.

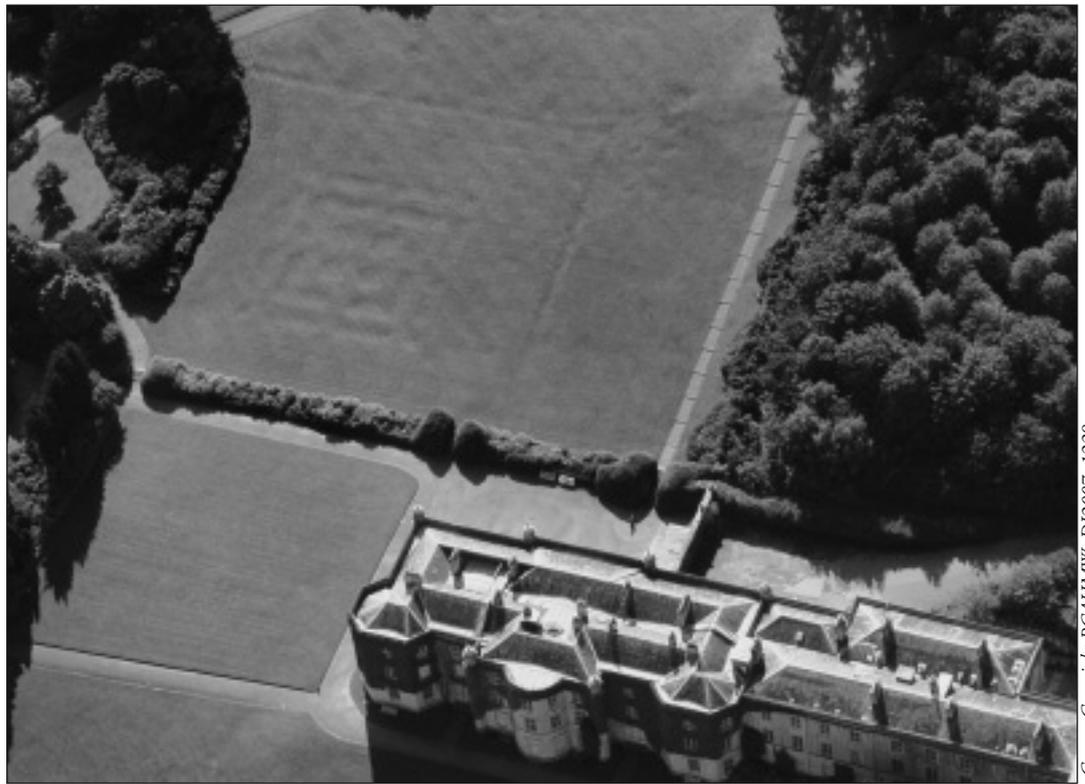


Figure 3. Plas Newydd, Anglesey, 2004. Surviving traces of what is thought to be an Edwardian rose garden, rediscovered in lawns to the west of the house.

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References:

Cadw & ICOMOS UK, 1998. *Conwy, Gwynedd and the Isle of Anglesey, Register of Landscapes, Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales. Part I, Parks and Gardens.* Cadw, Welsh Historic Monuments.
 Driver, T., 2007. *Pembrokeshire: Historic Landscapes from the Air.* RCAHMW

Finding out more

The researcher can now access more Royal Commission aerial – and ground – photographs online. At *Coflein* www.coflein.gov.uk images and text documents can be viewed, tied to individual monument records, and compared with maps, written descriptions and other sources. Full text entries from the *Register of Landscapes, Parks and Gardens* are attached to individual garden records.

Royal Commission aerial photographs and other documents for historic gardens across Wales can also be found at *Gathering the Jewels* www.gsj.org.uk

The author remains open to requests for new aerial photography of parks and gardens, particularly to infill gaps in our current photographic cover, which may be accommodated within the annual reconnaissance programme. The Royal Commission can also undertake comprehensive programmes of aerial photography in partnership with heritage organisations. When the Gwynedd project was established (in 2004), a generous offer by Gwynedd WHGT to fund the aerial reconnaissance was turned down in favour of absorbing the work within the annual flying programme. In any new project today, the flying would be funded directly with subsequent digital images being supplied on disc. Crown Copyright resides with the Royal Commission, but images can be readily used and published under licence.

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Coflein, Discovering Our Past Online. This screen, featuring Ruperra shows the range of text, photographs, and drawings which can accompany online records.

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AGM at Trefnant and a visit to Brynbella 9 June 2007



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Brynbella, Tremeirchion, was the private garden thrown open to the WHGT after their AGM.

On a balmy hot day nearly one hundred members of the Welsh Historic Gardens Trust met in Denbighshire, at Trefnant village hall for the A.G.M. and lecture. Because of the universal appeal of the lecturer the Duchess of Northumberland, the invitation was extended to non-members too. The AGM was opened by Michael Tree, the Chairman, who outlined the busy schedule of the Trust over the last year. He anticipated an even more hectic schedule for the future and as a result felt that the time had come to establish a permanent office and advertise a paid administrative post. Ros Laidlaw, who has for long run the Trust Office from her home, has indicated her wish to be relieved of the task, and was sincerely thanked by the chairman and by his predecessor Bettina Harden, for ten years of dedicated work as volunteer Trust Administrator.

The Treasurer, Jeremy Rye, then spoke outlining the strong financial position that the Society was in, with total reserves, as of the end of May 2007, of just under £40,000. This amounted to an approximate increase of 18% over the previous year. This was in spite of the publication of Gerddi (which entailed the largest cheque written to date) and the much larger editorial and administrative costs over the last 18 months. Therefore he felt able to fully support the Chairman's expansion plans especially as much of it would be covered by further grant aid. The Treasurer then went on to record his thanks to the main contributors to the Trust's healthy finances and in particular to CCW without whose support the work of the Trust would be severely restricted. He also recorded his thanks for the continued support of the NFU and also for work that Colonel Richard Gilbertson did in organizing the Garden History Society AGM, which produced a large profit for central funds. Lastly it was agreed by formal proposal to continue using Morgan Griffiths as accountants.

Most of the Officers and Committee were re-elected with the exception of Sheila Roberts who has decided to stand down and will be replaced as Vice chairman by Anne Carter. A formal motion thanking Dr Roberts for the very hard work she has put in to the WHGT over many years was proposed and passed unanimously. Ros Laidlaw, John Savidge, and Gwyneth Haywood were newly elected to the Trust Committee.

The meeting then moved on to discuss an additional item to the agenda and probably the most important issue that has come up this year. This was whether the WHGT should push to become the sole statutory consultee in respect of historic gardens in Wales something that was being considered in a new government White Paper. This produced an impassioned debate excellently chaired by our President Tom Pritchard. The Chairman and his immediate officers all felt this was the way forward and there was in support also three speeches from the floor; from John Borron - ex Treasurer, Bettina Harden - ex WHGT Chairman and Chairman of the Gateway Gardens Trust. They all felt that it would be good for the WHGT but more importantly that the WHGT would do it better than anyone else and had in effect anyway been carrying out the role for many years now. The WHGT is the only purely Welsh-based heritage body and has a far larger membership and hence presence in Wales than the other organization named in the White Paper, the Garden History Society (GHS), which is principally an English organisation. Not everyone agreed; some felt they did not know enough about the matter and one spoke passionately and at length against the motion. The matter was finally put to a vote and it was clear from a show of hands that there was an overwhelming majority for the motion.



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Sculpted swans soar from a mirror pool above the ancient parkland.

The highlight of the morning was to have been the lecture from the Duchess of Northumberland and her Garden Liaison Director, Ian August, about the creation of the new gardens at Alnwick in Northumberland. A totally unforeseen last minute change of flight schedule meant the Duchess was unable to be there so Ian August had to stand in for both – normally they share the lecture between them but this was the first time he had to do it alone. He had been intimately involved from the start as the Project Manager and formerly with the Northumberland family as Alnwick Estate Manager. He produced a riveting illustrated account of the project from first ideas, through choosing the designers, to the actual build, giving us an idea of all the main features. It is without doubt one of the most ambitious and finest gardens created in the last fifteen years in the world and has been financially highly successful. What started as an enterprise expecting 65,000 visitors a year is now producing ten times that number which has been a massive economic boost to local hotels, bed and breakfast and businesses generally in that part of Northumberland. The lessons for Wales regarding the rejuvenation or creation of great Welsh gardens is obvious.

After the fascinating talk we retired for lunch into the next-door room. There our stomachs were amply rewarded for the wait and our thanks go to Elizabeth and Pierre Bartlett for organizing the drinks.

The afternoon visit was to Brynbella, Tremeirchion a few miles away - a house and garden not normally open to the public. Many people consider it to be the finest Georgian villa in Wales and one of the most beautiful houses in the Vale of Clwyd. It was created in the 1790s to the designs of the little known surveyor Clement Mead and his client Gabriel Piozzi, an Italian music teacher. It was actually paid for by his wealthy wife, the locally-born Hester Lynch Salusbury, who could claim kinship with the most prominent families in North Wales. She had been married before, to a wealthy London brewer Henry Thrale and had lived in great style with him in Streatham where she had become one of fashionable society's most famous 'bluestockings'. They counted among their friends Samuel Johnson, Sir Joshua Reynolds, David Garrick, Oliver Goldsmith and Edmund Burke and when Henry Thrale died prematurely in 1781 everyone expected her to marry Johnson. However it was her daughter's music teacher Gabriel Piozzi to whom she gave her heart and ultimately her hand. This was a relationship too far for late 18th century society. Not only was he relatively poor and a musician but he was also foreign,

middle-class and a Roman Catholic. Feeling socially insecure in London, Hester Piozzi decided to return to her roots in Wales. Brynbella was the result. Its name beautifully combining their two different backgrounds; 'bryn' being Welsh for hill and 'bella' being Italian for beautiful. A house of such politeness and delicacy would have been more at home in Bath than in a remote part of Wales where it excited much comment from the day it was built. It still is very much as first constructed by the Piozzis with the exception of the sensitive heightening of the wings. However when acquired by the current owners Mr and Mrs Peter Neumark in the 1990s, it was quite run down with the stables covered in tin sheeting and much of the garden overgrown. They have spent vast amounts of energy, determination and imagination, using the fortune made from a highly successful business career, sensitively restoring the house and outbuildings, walled garden and greenhouses to the very highest standard. Most excitingly though, they have created a vast new contemporary garden using award-winning designers around these old existing features. It is cleverly laid out in rooms so that all can not be seen at once and is dotted with high quality modern sculpture, some of it quite amusing. In the walled garden the scarecrow is in bronze and the garden hose is



© Caroline Palmer

A highly realistic bronze scarecrow in the walled garden.

concealed in a giant snail. Clever use is made of a mix of traditional and modern materials, formal and informal spaces and symmetrical and asymmetric areas and vistas both within the garden and out from it. The gardens were an absolute delight, as was the excellent tea provided by volunteers from the Clwyd branch. The WHGT's thanks go to the owners who so enthusiastically welcomed us and also allowed us entry to the inside of their beautiful home.

All in all the day was a great success. The WHGT was lucky to have to have picked the one sunny weekend in one of the wettest Junes on record. Our thanks go to Ros Laidlaw and Elizabeth Smart for organizing the AGM and lunch, and to our Chairman Michael Tree for arranging the afternoon visit.

Jeremy Rye

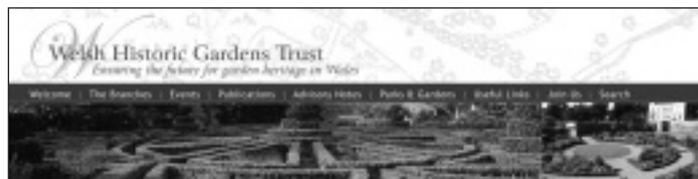
Re-launching the WHGT Website

To put you in the picture if you haven't heard already, at the Trust Committee meeting in March I volunteered to manage the new WHGT Website once it was up-and-running. However, rather than just managing the finished site, it seems that I am actually going to be managing its set-up, too, with the designers WiSS. Anyway, that's the situation as it stands. I am now working with WiSS, the Web designers in Parc Menai, Bangor, with a great deal of help and encouragement from Sheila Roberts in Gwynedd who has already done a vast amount of work towards the project, and I am gathering information and trying to liaise with all the possible contributors and information sources we already have and will have in the future.

Having barely started the task, we are fully aware what a great debt we owe to Val Caple, so the Trust - especially Michael Tree, Sheila Roberts and I - would like wholeheartedly to thank and congratulate Val for the huge amount of work she has done, in putting together the original website www.gardensofwales.org.uk and acting as webmaster for seven years. I have only just started my work on the 'new' website and I am already in awe of the amount of time Val must have spent on the first one. While the former website will soon be discontinued much of the material will find its way onto the new one. Val's work has made mine much, much simpler.

We have quite a long way still to go but the Website Home

Page will offer a series of separate 'pages', or sections: Welcome, The Branches, Events, Publications, Advisory Notes, Parks & Gardens, Gardens at Risk, Current Planning, Useful Links, Join Us, Search, Members' Forum.



Many of these will be viewable in embryo form if you type <http://demo.wisshost.net/whgt> into the address bar at the top of your web browser and this we would very much like you to do. - Please let us know what you think of our efforts so far and suggest any additions, modifications or topics you think would improve the site.

We hope to have the full site on line by the end of this month when you will be able to reach it through www.whgt.org.uk or www.welshhistoricgardenstrust.org. The plan is then to have it complete by the end of 2007. After which we will continue to develop the content, add and update pages and expand the list of gardens included as well as keeping abreast of developments in the historic gardens world.

David Toyne

Cowbridge Physic Garden

The garden is now (late June 2007) in bloom! The success of the planting in the garden, most of which has taken place since January, is now apparent for all to see and is delighting those of us involved in the selection, sourcing and putting in the ground of the plants. The diggers and planters among the volunteers, in particular, can feel immensely proud of the results of all their hard work. The fact that all the plants in the garden had arrived in this country before 1800 (and would have been available to the Edmondes family who created the gardens at Old Hall in the mid-eighteenth century) means that most of the colours are soft and muted, emphasising the tranquil atmosphere of the walled site. But the 'wow' factor has been more than evident in the swathe of French lavender (*Lavandula stoechas*) lining the long path and by the heady perfume of the roses in the fragrant area.

The garden is already a 'feature' of Cowbridge, enjoyed by local residents and visitors alike, and we are receiving increasing numbers of requests for guided tours from local and national organisations. Volunteer guides, who include fluent Welsh speakers, are able to provide this service. A number of events have recently been held in the garden, among them a demonstration 'Plants & Medicine' by a medical herbalist using some of the plants growing in the garden, and a demonstration of 'Plants for Dyeing Fabrics' by an expert husband-and-wife team who again used plants found in the garden. Heritage Lottery funding enabled us to provide these day-long events which were open free of charge to the public. There has also been a social and fund-raising evening for supporters of the garden.

Labelling of the plants, essential to inform our visitors, is a

priority, and we aim to label all the plants in English, Latin and Welsh. While one of our volunteers grapples with the intricacies of a labelling machine kindly loaned to us by Dyffryn Gardens, temporary, plastic (alas!) hand-written labels have been introduced into the beds. As the garden is open to the public every day, much of the time unsupervised, we have had to exclude some of the more 'interesting' but poisonous plants such as henbane (*Hyoscyamus niger*) and hemlock (*Conium maculatum*) from the medicinal beds (the latter exclusion greatly regretted by the author of this note who, while remembering Socrates, is a devotee of the poetry of John Keats).

So, after two years of intensive work, and less than five years since the idea of a Physic Garden for Cowbridge was first aired among the members of the South and Mid Glamorgan Branch of WHGT, the garden is looking good and is being enjoyed by increasing numbers of people (over 200 on an average weekday and over 550 on a busy Saturday we counted them all in!). Some planting is still to be done, weeding, grass cutting, pruning and general maintenance will continue to demand commitment from our volunteers. That is the challenge for the future.

Hilary M. Thomas

WHGT Christmas Card 2007

See flyer in this issue of the Bulletin!

Champagne And Shambles

The Arkwrights and the Downfall of the Landed Aristocracy

by Catherine Beale

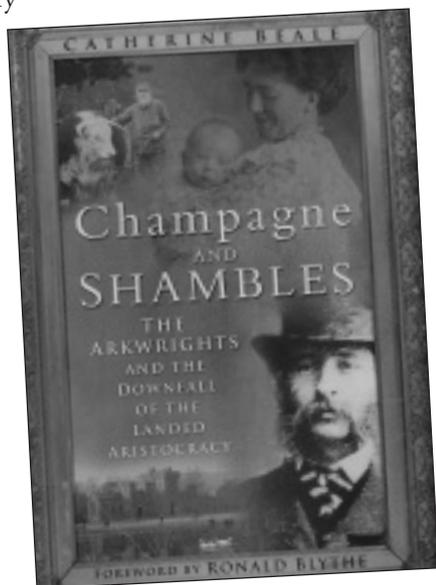
Sutton Publishing £20

Catherine Beale's account of the life of John Arkwright (1833-1905) of Hampton Court, Hereford, provides a very good complement to Tom Lloyd's book on the lost houses of Wales. It is a very entertaining story

of an extremely wealthy family which in 1876 was among the 365 richest landowners in Britain, yet by 1900 Arkwright was selling farms and mortgaging the estate and this was not because of profligacy or wild living but inexorable forces of nature and economics.

Richard Arkwright (1732-92) patented the first mechanical method of spinning cotton yarn. The Derbyshire family

(Willersley) became enormously wealthy and Richard's son, another Richard (1755-1843), began to invest in landed estates as a good investment when agriculture was producing a good return during the Napoleonic wars. He purchased Normanton Turville in Leicestershire, Mark Hall in Essex, Sutton Scarsdale in Derbyshire (I am reliably informed that a Mrs Arkwright was the



model for D H Lawrence's Lady Chatterley!), Dunstall in Staffordshire and Hampton Court in Herefordshire. Thus John Arkwright was part of a network of very influential landowners.

Those of us who live on the Welsh Borders will know of Hampton Court near Leominster and its recent revival by the American Van Kampen family. The Van Kampens purchased the house in 1994 for Sola Scriptura an organisation promoting God's word and the Bible. They restored the house with authenticity and brought it into the 21st century, then with equal enthusiasm tackled the garden. This huge undertaking included the building of a new gatehouse and Simon Dorrell was commissioned to plan a new garden within the walled gardens. These gardens have been open to the public for about the last 7 years and are really a stunning achievement. Sadly Robert Van Kampen died in 1999 and it was decided to sell the estate. It has been on the market for some time with many rumours of sales. You should hurry to visit it because it is thought that the gardens may not remain open to the public when a sale is achieved.

Catherine Beale has obviously become very attached to her subject who comes across as an endearing squire, a great rider to hounds and MFH, a proud owner and breeder of Hereford cattle, Chairman of the Three Choirs Festival and finally Lord Lieutenant of Herefordshire. His mother was the daughter of Sir Hungerford Hoskyns of Harewood Park near Ross-on-Wye (now owned by the Duchy of Cornwall), his wife was Lucy Davenport of Foxley and his son married a Chester Masters of Moccas. He is also the only person I have ever heard of who took the waters at Llandrindod Wells, staying at 1, Park Terrace, not at The Metropole! It is a grand story of life at the top in the 19th century gradually leading to the decline and the sale of Hampton Court in 1912.

Virginia Scott

The gardens at Hampton Court are open daily 11 am - 5 pm until 28th October 2007. Closed Mondays(except Bank Holidays) and Fridays. Entry is £5 or £4.50 for senior citizens.

Forthcoming Publication

Historic Gardens Of The Vale Of Glamorgan

The publication of this book, anticipated in November 2007, will mark the culmination of a project undertaken by the South and Mid Glamorgan Branch of WHGT. Inspired by our friends in Ceredigion, we determined to introduce some of the Vale's historic gardens to a wide audience and, hopefully, broaden the membership of WHGT in our area.

The gazeteer format adopted for Ceredigion was considered but was rejected in favour of a more flexible format which would best enable the contributors to reveal the individual character of each garden.

In providing glimpses into the Vale of Glamorgan's rich garden history the book also gives insights into families, houses and estates, and into changing patterns of wealth and influence. Featured alongside the 'significant' gardens such as those at Duffryn, St Donats Castle and St Fagans Castle, are those conceived on a smaller, less ambitious scale such as Ash Hall, Ystradowen, and Dimlands, Llantwit Major. 'Lost' gardens include The Court, St Fagans (associated with Gertrude Jekyll), and The Ham,

Llantwit Major; Llantrithyd Place and Llanmihangel Place feature among the 'hidden' gardens. Town gardens in Cowbridge, and village gardens in Llanblethian and St Hilary are also described as part of the Vale's overall garden heritage.

Twenty-one individual gardens, together with those in town and villages, are featured in the book. The contributors, all members of the Branch are: Hilary M. Thomas (who has edited the publication), Brian Ll. James, Murray McLaggan (who has contributed the 'insider's view' of Merthyr Mawr House garden), Derrick Kingham and Jeff Alden.

The book, estimated at 200 pages, will be produced in hardback, and will be fully illustrated in colour. A flyer is enclosed in this Bulletin offering pre-publication price of £20 for orders received before 1 November 2007. £25 plus p&p thereafter. Cheques to be made payable to WHGT and sent to WHGT c/o Mwyndy House, Mwyndy, Llantrisant CF72 8PN.

Gardens Past and Present

Tutor: **Fiona Grant**

This ten week course draws on the wealth of historic Welsh gardens and landscapes to provide examples for this introduction to Garden History. The aim is to promote an understanding of the past by looking at extant historic gardens, most of which are open to the public and can be followed up by visits in the student's own time.

Sessions will be held at Gregynog Hall, Newtown, Powys

Mondays, 2 – 4pm. Start date: 8th October 2007

Course code: XM13010

School of Education and Lifelong Learning
Aberystwyth, University of Wales

For further details contact:

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WELSH HISTORIC GARDEN TRUST

Gwynedd Branch

Parks For The People

The History of Green Areas for Recreational Use

Saturday 13th October 2007

The Bull Hotel, Llangefni, Ynys Môn

A Study Day to explore the important part Public Parks played in the social history of Britain when Industrialization brought people from the countryside to busy overcrowded cities.

10.30 Registration and Coffee

11.00 **Birkenhead Park**

A talk by Adam King, Head Warden Birkenhead Park was the forerunner of the Parks Movement and its influence was far reaching, most notably Central Park, New York.

Adam King will talk about the park's history and development.

12.00 Questions and discussion

12.20 Buffet lunch

1.30 **Historic Public Parks in Wales**

A talk by Elizabeth Whittle, of Cadw. Some of the Public Parks in Wales are acknowledged as the finest in Britain. Thirty-nine have been graded, by Cadw, as being of Special Historic Interest. Questions and discussion.

3.00 **Pant y Pandy** (Known as The Dingle)

A modern approach to Public Green Spaces Short talk by Gwyn Morris-Jones followed by a visit to the Dingle, which is a short walk from the Bull Hotel.

All WHGT members are welcome and the day will cost £18.00.

To include coffee on arrival and lunch.

Please contact Maud Williams,
Awel Menai, 30 Cae Gwyn, Caernarfon, LL55 1LL
To book or for more details. Tel. No 01286 672700