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# Restored -Wynnstay's Great Curved Garden Wall

by Glynis Shaw

The impressive curved wall is set in 27 acres of landscaped parkland gardens which surround the Wynnstay mansion, near Ruabon in Clwyd. The remodelled hall of 1738 burnt down in 1856 and was rebuilt in the 16th century French Chateaux style by Benjamin Ferrey who converted the orangery designed by James Wyatt and John Evans into a chapel.

Wynnstay was the last parkland laid out by Capability Brown in 1777. It was completed after his death by John Evans until 1785. Certain elements of the landscape such as the boathouse have been attributed to Richard Woods.

The wall itself, a great red-brick sculpture, texture, palette and archaeology, is a remarkable feature of this landscape lying on the east side of the house. Its curving line gives great strength to the structure which is remarkable for its lack of buttressing. It was believed that the curved walls improved air circulation and left fewer nooks and crannies for pests to hide in.

Thomas Hitt wrote in 1757 that curved brick walls

generated more heat than straight walls, but that this advantage was outweighed by strong winds which, rebounding from side to side, damaged tender shoots. (*Walls in half-circles and serpentine walls, by Jean O'Neill, Garden History, Vol 8, No. 3 Winter 1980*)

Brown experimented with various shapes of walled gardens such as the octagonal gardens at Luton Hoo, Bedfordshire and Sledmere, Driffield, East Yorkshire.

The 3.5 m high curved Wynnstay wall is made of brick with stone copings and the central section is a cavity wall with heating flues. Facing south-west it was built for the growing and ripening of fruit, a process helped by circulating warm air from a stove through vents in the brickwork. The Williams Wynn family owned the local coal mines which kept the stoves fuelled.

Cinders, the "Wynnstay Brickworks" (to the right of the Ruabon-Overton road near Cinders Farm) produced the bricks, tiles and drainage pipes for the Wynnstay estate. The plentiful



The restored garden wall viewed from outside. The highest section of wall was heated by flues either side of the central gate. A pear tree avenue crosses the garden. No trees have as yet been planted against the wall.

© Glynis Shaw

supply of local clay led to Ruabon later becoming famed for its terracotta products and bricks.

The Wynnstay curved walled garden has a peculiar impact against the 'wilder' landscaped grounds beyond. Inside, a central avenue of pear trees grafted from old varieties has been planted and there are some crab apples planted along the curved sides. The central well or dipping feature no longer survives and the garden seems now strangely empty. However, the local residents are pleased that the unsightly sports centre and swimming pool, built when the property was owned by Lindisfarne College, has now been demolished.

The curved wall is but part of the walled garden complex. At one time there was a vast orangery and huge hot houses. Sir Watkin Williams Wynn the 5th baronet produced some of the earliest home-grown bananas, which he presented to the Horticultural Society in 1819.

Brick walls on this scale were inordinately expensive to build and this has not been a cheap repair. Many nail holes in the old lime mortar can still be seen and a few nails still show where the espaliered fruits were grown. As far as possible the restoration used the fallen bricks and stone. The brick work is unusual and varied in different bandings. This has not been possible to match exactly in the restoration and the new copings look machined. However, considering the recent history of Wynnstay it is remarkable that the great curved horseshoe shaped wall has been restored to its former glory. Certainly an important structure has been conserved.

Loxley's the developer who restored the wall have planning for eight orangery-style houses in the rest of the walled garden, now delayed due to the credit crunch. There is a concern that these will all be sold as self-build plots. Building is now due to begin on the Georgian self-build five bedroom triple garage Watkin Wynn Manor, in plot 8, which is a three-quarter acre walled garden enclosure next to the Dairy Temple. Ultimately the main house, stables, outbuildings and gardens will provide



*The interior of the flue wall, restored in contrasting shades of brick. (cf bulletin No 46, picture by Sara Furse taken 2007)*

© Glynnis Shaw

over 70 individual houses and apartments.

The mansion, outbuildings and garden are now separated by design and ownership which risks its integrity. The mansion itself involves more than one owner and curious suburban garden developments are taking place around the properties on the east side. The owner of the main tower and great hall apartment is keen to improve the grounds around the mansion and hopes to buy the adjoining west wing.

Capability Brown's lake has long gone but there is a 10 acre fishing lake developed from an earlier canal feature. This is in a separate ownership from the mansion and garden developments. The lake apparently has had some recent leakage. The most recent planning application at Wynnstay is for a timber fisherman's cabin and a feed store hut beside the lake.

It will be interesting to see how Wynnstay continues to develop and change in future years but it is encouraging to see that in the main this property has been saved from dereliction.

## The WHGT Information Stand



© Caroline Palmer

Illness prevented our anticipated presence at the Royal Welsh Smallholder and Garden Festival in May. However the stand did brisk business at the Royal Welsh Show (20-23 July) and we thank all the volunteers who took part in meeting the public and promoting the work of the Trust at this four day event. Picture shows Anne Carter and Anne Evans of the Brecon and Radnor Branch meeting a visitor.

# AGM visits to Brampton Bryan, Stanage and Stokesay

## by Philip Ellis

In conjunction with the 20th Annual General Meeting, we visited 3 great historic demesnes on either side of the English border.



The much-admired "Dragon Tree" in Brampton Bryan Deer Park.

© Edwina Ellis

## Brampton Bryan

The first of the historic landscapes we visited was Brampton Bryan Park just over the English border. This ancient deer park is set in the Teme valley rising steeply to wooded hills. It contains some grand mature Spanish Chestnuts as well as oak trees from the 17th Century. The Park extends to 500 acres with a 6 mile circumference. It is a Site of Special Scientific Interest and contains 130 species of lichen.

The current owners, Edward and Victoria Harley, provided welcome coffee and cakes in their splendidly converted dairy and gave us a resumé of their amazing family history and their more recent achievements in restoring the deer park. After Richard the Nameless took the estate in 1068 it passed to the Mortimers, who later becoming known as Bramptons. On the death of Sir Brian de Brampton IV without a male heir, his elder daughter Margaret married Sir Robert Harley around 1300. Edward Harley is now the 22nd generation to inherit the estate. The Harley Street area of London was once theirs.

The Harley's position in the civil war was particularly interesting. Robert Harley was a puritan and Parliamentarian in a largely Royalist area. He was away from Brampton Bryan at the time of the civil war and left its defence to his wife, Brilliana, who with three of her children and 100 of her tenants held the castle and inflicted heavy casualties on the surrounding forces. The Royalists meantime destroyed the church and village and consumed the 500 or so deer in the deer park. Although Brilliana later died and the castle was surrendered to the Royalists, her stand was not overlooked by the Commonwealth after their overall victory. Parliament awarded Robert Harley £13,000 in compensation, over a million pounds by today's values. By comparison, when the Royalist Marquis of Worcester finally surrendered Raglan castle to the Roundheads, he lost a fortune, had his gardens destroyed, his family exiled to France and the castle slighted; never to be restored. At Brampton Bryan, cannon balls are still being found at the site of the siege.

To their great credit, the current owners have, over the last 20 years, restored the deer park. A network of fencing and *Rhododendron ponticum* have been removed together with a growth of brambles and nettles under the ancient trees so dense that the Harleys had only then discovered the size and stature of the great boles revealed. Now a careful light stocking of sheep has replaced cattle grazing by previous tenant occupiers and achieved a park in wonderful heart; one of the finest in the United Kingdom and, we are told, the favourite of Candida Lycett Green. Thomas Pakenham considered the remaining dead trunks to be particularly fine especially the much photographed 'Dragon'.

The Harleys decided against reintroducing deer because of the huge task of re-fencing. They found some of the old remnant deer fence had been constructed by the firm of Bolton Paul. An internet search showed the company still exists but they got in touch only to be told that the company now confines its work to the manufacture of crash barriers for motorways.



Undeterred by heavy rain, members explore the Park.

© Edwina Ellis

## Stanage Park

Before going to Stanage some of us visited the Judge's Lodging in Presteigne which had been beautifully restored and furnished to reveal the workings of a Victorian Court with the lodgings and services provided for the judge.

Stanage Park is a fine Picturesque landscape. One's expectations are raised by the entry from the main road through the gates and the long drive through parkland and past a lake. One eventually arrives at the house set in a saddle with further views of gardens, parkland and an arboretum on rising ground to one side. The landscape and castellated house were designed by Repton in 1803 (the "Red Book" still exists) with later alterations by Edward Haycock in the mid 19th century. Just over the border now from Brampton Bryan, it was pleasing to see the gold cross on a black field of the flag of St David flying above the house battlements.

We were taken up to the Arboretum by Jonathan Coltman-Rogers. A number of Rhododendrons, Cornus and Azaleas were still out with some very fine white flowered rhododendron specimens deeper into the woods. The earliest surviving plantings were from around 1870 featuring the 'new' American trees such as Wellingtonias, Cupressus and Aesculus. But the



© Edwina Ellis

*Stanage overlooks its perfect lawn. The arboretum is on the rising slope beyond the house.*

greatest enthusiast was the scholar and arboriculturalist Charles Coltman-Rogers, great grandfather of the present owner, who further developed the arboretum in the early 20th century. He had close ties with J.C. Williams of Caerhays Castle who in turn supported the plant hunting expeditions by Wilson and Forrest to China and Japan. Plants and trees came to Stanage from these expeditions and many of these conifers and rhododendrons are now mature.

## Stokesay Court

Back across the border we visited Stokesay Court near Ludlow. This magnificent house was built between 1889 and 1892 by John Derby-Allcroft, a wealthy Victorian entrepreneur who had made his fortune from glove making. The current owner, Caroline Magnus, had inherited the house in 1992 and been faced with the problem of either having to sell the contents to be able to repair the house or to sell the house itself. She kept the house.

The house was remarkably sound, having been constructed to the highest standards including the newest under floor heating systems with iron grilles and electric conduits for lighting. The integrity of the building was let down, however, by the original roofer using iron nails as opposed to the specified copper nails. The resultant failing structure was the only serious problem Caroline Magnus had to address, but with the roof re-layed all is now secured.

We were shown by our hostess into the splendidly grand central hall for a brief history and then into the principal drawing room which had been beautifully redecorated with Chinois silk wallpaper for the filming of 'Atonement'. There were other embellishments from the filming which I will come back to.

Stokesay Court was built on the site of an earlier hall and has commanding views towards the Clee hills. The approach is

through parkland and finally a planting of mature cedars and rhododendrons. To the front are terraces going down to lakes and a boathouse from an earlier period. There was an interesting grotto and ruined structure with slightly odd stone-work. When we tapped it, it proved to be plastic and part of one of the film sets! Once alerted to this phenomenon we found some otherwise totally convincing stone embellishments around the fountain to have a similar hollow ring. We thought it rather added to the history and romance of the place.

We were also shown a large walled garden which had recently been taken over by a retired couple who had spectacularly converted it from wilderness to a model of vegetable- and cut-flower production.



© Edwina Ellis

*Stokesay Court has retained some bogus embellishments to its now famous fountain pool.*

## Chairman's Remarks

Since the publication of the last Bulletin there has been much effort to consolidate Michael Tree's initiatives and to ensure the continuing financial stability of the Trust. One triumph is our fully functioning website which will facilitate the more efficient running of the Trust, keep members informed and attract awareness from anywhere in the world.

Members can join via the website, and back numbers of The Bulletin can be read upon it. It also provides instant access to the Parks and Gardens UK database of more than 400 important Welsh gardens. The Trust is much indebted to Glynis Shaw for the speed and efficiency with which this was achieved.

The issue of an accurate membership list continues to be problematic. Catherine Jones at the Bothy has made much progress in amending errors which have accumulated in the past, but should you find that we are not mailing you regularly please let us know. It is essential to cultivate and increase our membership numbers both for our financial security and to enhance the profile of the Trust. Ideally I would like to double our membership and a membership drive by each branch, or for that matter by each member might just achieve it. Good luck! I would happily attend any Branch meetings in order to



discuss the current state of the Trust. The first such meeting I attended was at Dyffryn Gardens with the South and Mid Glamorgan Branch; a thoroughly enjoyable and informative event. If you wish me to visit your Branch, do contact me – a little notice required however.

The Trust continues to hold highly stimulating meetings and study days, both locally and nationally. At the time of writing the eagerly-anticipated Garden Ornamentation Study Day at Portmeirion on 24 October lies ahead. I know that it will be splendid and many thanks to the Gwynedd Branch for organising it.

We have also made arrangements for next year's AGM. It will be held at Powis Castle on Saturday June 5th 2010 followed by an excellent talk and visits to nearby private gardens.

Finally, but not least, our Administrator, Andrea Dudley, is now on maternity leave. We await news of the new addition to the Dudley family and wish them well.

A very happy Christmas to you all (do please support us by using the Trust christmas cards) and every good wish for the year ahead.

*Guyneth Hayward*

## Obituary

### Michael Griffith CBE

Michael Griffith, who died in June of this year, aged 75, was one of the great public servants of Wales of his generation. Passionate farmer and conservationist, he played important roles in the medical and academic life of Wales as well as chairing the National Trust Committee for Wales and being founder chairman of the Countryside Council for Wales.

It was in this last role that he played such a crucial part in the development of the WHGT. At the time of the founding of the Trust I would have to say that his attitude was one of well disposed scepticism. Having heard that we were thinking of setting up a trust to save and champion historic gardens he and his then vice chairman of the National Trust Committee for Wales, Murray McLaggan, made an unscheduled call one summer afternoon to find out if I really knew what I was letting myself in for and to warn me of the gravity of the undertaking.

Naturally enough, I didn't, but at the time it seemed worth trying and Michael accepted the idea. His crucial role came with his chairmanship of CCW when he, together with his Chief Executive, Ian Mercer, offered core funding to the trust. This funding was designed to help it develop from a fundamentally volunteer west Wales organisation into a pan Wales organisation with branches in every county. Further assistance took the form of specific support for data bases and communications without which any expansion would have been impossible. It is a nice, if small, memorial to the range of Michael's vision that some CCW support continues to this day

Many members of the Trust will have come across him in

other walks of life. There were many opportunities, in the hunting field, on the race track (steeplechases, not cars), chairing Clwyd Health Authority and all Wales meetings of health authority chairmen. He visited every corner of Wales, intrepidly diving and climbing, the better to understand the work of CCW and its staff. He and his wife Jill were also wonderfully adventurous travellers as tales of their travels to the rock hewn churches of Ethiopia attested.

He was on the Board of the British Library and became chairman of the University of Wales College of Medicine in Cardiff. He was, rightly, extremely proud of his role in the merger with Cardiff University, a remarkably smooth and successful operation where so many have failed with greater or lesser degrees of acrimony. It is another testimony to his fundamentally generous and unselfish vision as well as his superbly shrewd tact.

Less well known was his interest in art, particularly British painting of the 18th and 19th centuries but with an occasional foray into the 20th.

Altogether, he was a man of exceptionally wide ranging interests and almost boundless enthusiasm and energy. But he managed to combine this with a huge interest in other people and their views and responded to everyone with generous attention. His unique fusion of good sense, enthusiasm and far-reaching knowledge will be deeply missed in Wales.

*William Wilkins*

## Update on Bute Park bridge and road works

The merry go round of easy credit and rising property values fuelling ever more ambitious schemes has crashed to a halt. The cranes and JCBs are silent, except along North Road, Cardiff, beside Cathays Park, where the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama is being remodelled and the highly contentious access development for Bute Park is being constructed. (*Bulletin nos 52 & 53*).

There has been a bitter and protracted feud over the detrimental impact of this development on the character of this area of the Park and the value of spending in excess of £1.4 million to gain better access to service the various activities at the nursery and events within the Park. This scheme also aims to reduce the pedestrian/traffic conflict that occurs along the current access route. Work started in July and paused as the Council had to be reminded to adhere to its own planning requirements for safeguarding nesting birds.

The Bute Park Alliance, concerned by the significant and incremental erosion of the River Taff parklands that has occurred since the Council gained ownership in the 1940s called for a moratorium on all development in the central parks. This call had celebrity support from Matthew Rhys, Ioan Gruffudd, Griff Rhys Jones, the cartoon character Beryl and others. It was also supported by Labour and Conservative councillors and led by the Independent Councillor, Jayne Cowan, but the wording in the motion put forward was amended by the Lib. Dem. Councillor Nigel Howells and so was substantively altered and not carried forward in this amended form. The Council's own scrutiny committee on parks had recommended that the Executive 'consider a pause in development work' in Bute Park in order to afford the opportunity to build bridges with the objectors (excuse the pun!). The objectors were then accused of playing party politics by the leader of the Council.

BPA briefed a barrister to query the Environmental Impact, but the rules governing applicability are very complex and the



*Work in progress on the disputed access road to Bute Park.*

© Bute Park Alliance

cumulative impact is not easily calculated. Also this action was brought too late.

There are further concerns that the training and educational centre will generate coach traffic, despite assurances that this will be limited, and there are concerns that the nursery activities, in handling in excess of 750,000 seasonal bedding plants and regular deliveries from Holland, are completely at odds with a sustainable planting philosophy, given the need for us all to be more environmentally aware and economical.

The access is undoubtedly a radical intervention in a quiet part of the Park but is considered justified by many for the benefits that this ambitious restoration affords elsewhere in the Park: restoration of the animal wall, moat, footprint of the Friary etc. It is expected that improved access for events and services that will generate income for the cash strapped non-statutory parks services. However it is to be hoped that a sense of proportion and respect will **always** be shown for this beautiful and unique Grade I Park in limiting the scale, type and number of events and vehicular journeys through the Park. It may otherwise suffer the same fate as Dresden, which recently lost its World Heritage Status as a result of improving its transport links!

*Elaine Davey*

## Congratulations

**To Richard Broyd**, awarded the OBE in the 2009 Queen's Birthday Honours List, for services to Heritage and to Conservation.

Richard Broyd donated Historic House Hotels Ltd, with its portfolio of three rescued and now lavishly appointed country house hotels to The National Trust in September 2008. Members of the WHGT will have a particular affection for Bodysgallen Hall, near Llandudno. The other hotels are Hartwell House, near Aylesbury, and Middlethorpe Hall which adjoins York racecourse. All will continue to be run as before, but with profits going to the National Trust.

Richard Broyd has also been a leading figure in the steady restoration of the Picturesque landscape at Hafod, and serves as Chairman of The Hafod Trust. Hafod, in Ceredigion was one of the early initiatives of the fledgling WHGT and has greatly benefited from his dedicated involvement.

### To The Penllergare Trust

For winning two Lord Mayor's Community Regeneration Awards in 2009 for Best Community Environment Scheme and Best Community Information, and for being awarded a further grant from The Heritage Lottery Fund's 'Parks for People' scheme.

The Penllergare Trust has two new staff members, Project Manager, Raymond Butt, ([raymond.butt@penllergare.org](mailto:raymond.butt@penllergare.org)) and Volunteer & Training Co-ordinator Joe Middleton ([joe.middleton@penllergare.org](mailto:joe.middleton@penllergare.org)). Clearance of flood debris and restoration of paths continues apace, with increased community involvement. Educational events are held for primary school children and young people.

Jennie Evers continues as Head of Community Engagement and Education and Michael Norman, a founder of the project, remains highly involved as Trustee and Company Secretary.

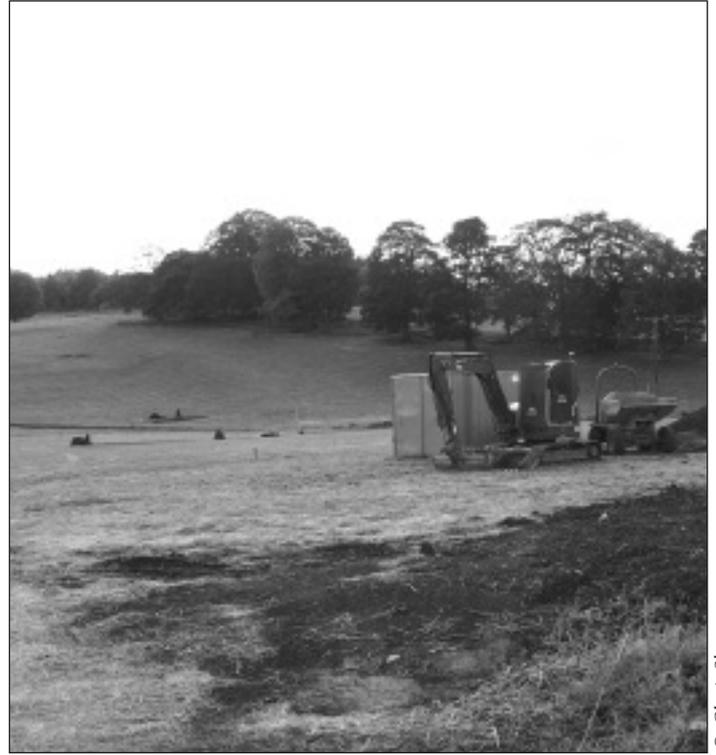
## Essential Setting -All Ploughed Up

Ruthin's landscape is rapidly changing as a result of a swathe of suburban development which takes no account of the ICOMOS 2005 Xi'an Declaration on the Conservation of the Setting of Heritage Structures, Sites and Areas. A sports development is ploughing up the 'Essential Setting' of Ruthin Castle in contravention of PP Wales. The Edward I castle has long overlooked the undeveloped land of the medieval deer park and hunting forest to the south and west of the castle. Records of the late 13th century mention a "De Grey's Walk" connecting the castle to the forest and deer park. This 'essential setting' can be seen across the river from the castle battlements and is a landscape enjoyed from many view points in the surrounding area.

The sports development is taking place outside the terms of the Denbighshire Unitary Development Plan, in a Local Landscape Area, impacting an historic landscape adjacent to a Conservation Area. The character of this open meadowland, which has survived centuries, is to be ploughed up for tennis, hockey, football and now a golf driving range. Although this land might be thought safeguarded because it is not designated for housing it is, instead, to be lost to sport. Denbighshire planning authority places no importance on this change of character.

The community centre and tennis club is open (but without disabled access to the first floor) and now work has begun on the 9 bay building to accommodate a golf driving range. This latest element of the sport development will have the most damaging visual impact as it is on a slope rising from the valley floor and will be seen for miles. There will also be physical impacts on the landscape. No amount of planting and landscaping will conceal it. Ruthin castle defines the town both historically and aesthetically and its landscape including the wider 'Essential Setting' is crucial to the sense of place. This ill sited scheme is being developed piecemeal and since 2006 the 'essential setting' is being progressively eradicated.

Until the Government can create legislation to secure statutory protection of the sites identified in the Cadw Register



*Work commences on the golf driving range to be created in ancient meadowland south-west of Ruthin castle.*

© Glynis Shaw

they will continue to disappear. Heritage sites are always attractive, and now that they appear to be cheap, there is little to protect them from inappropriate development as seen in Ruthin. This transformation process constitutes a form of vandalism against the cultural heritage in the full richness of its authenticity, meaning, value, integrity and diversity. A large zoned sport development is entirely at odds with the rural and historic character of this site. WHGT is not opposed to sports development except where it impacts on sites that should be protected.

*Glynis Shaw  
Clwyd Branch, WHGT*

### New WHGT website – [www.whgt.org.uk](http://www.whgt.org.uk)

The new Welsh Historic Gardens Trust website is at [www.whgt.org.uk](http://www.whgt.org.uk) and will be found at the top of the list when searching on Google. I hope everyone will find it easy to navigate and that it that it will become ever more interesting and informative

This is where your help is needed. The best websites are engaging, efficient and responsive. This involves many people sharing ideas and information. Collaboration between branches and members will make the site dynamic, creating an online dialogue. Members of WHGT who want planning cases, conservation issues or branch events made widely known please send it to me. Soon there will be an easy uploading system. This will be screened to rule out any spam and items not relevant to WHGT but this is not an editing process. In this way the website should facilitate easy communication between branches and members. Any website

ideas will be most welcome at anytime.

The WHGT website can evolve and change and perhaps it will look very different this time next year. The diverse heritage of public parks and gardens in Wales means that many different styles and tastes can be shared. Regional conservation and heritage issues can be discussed and debated online and issues causing concern can be shared nationwide.

Currently I am short of branch information and in some areas there is a shortage of branches! Anyone who can help establish active branches in Gwent, Monmouthshire, Carmarthenshire or Montgomeryshire should contact WHGT chairman Gwyneth Hayward who will be delighted to hear from you.

I would love to hear from anyone who can help with a Welsh version of the website.

[glynis@castell-photography.co.uk](mailto:glynis@castell-photography.co.uk)

# Garden Ornamentation

A Study Day on Saturday 24th October 2009

£35 including refreshments

There is still time for to book a place at this day of lectures at the prestigious venue of Portmeirion in North Wales. Speakers: Bryan Hirst and Lord Aberdare of the Fountain Society, and Helena Attlee author of 'The Gardens of Wales'. There will be a guided tour of the village with Art and Architectural historian Glynis Shaw.

For more details please contact Olive Horsfall  
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# Advice on Flooding



NFU Mutual

Floods cause distress whenever they happen, and impact on people, property and businesses. Their effect can be substantial; the 2007 floods resulted in the death of 13 people and over 180,000 claims for flood damaged homes, businesses and vehicles at a total cost in excess of £3bn.

The following information gives you some ideas and guidance about finding out your own risk of flood, what to do if a flood occurs, safety in the event of a flood, and what you can do to reduce the impact of a flood.

## Am I at risk of flood?

Around five million people in England and Wales live in a flood risk area. To determine whether your property is at risk of flood, visit the Environment Agency website at [www.environment-agency.gov.uk/flood](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/flood).

The assessment done by the Environment Agency takes into consideration the risk of flooding from the sea (tidal) or rivers (fluvial). It doesn't take into account the risk of flooding from water running off hills due to excessive rainfall (pluvial).

If your property is at risk of flooding, you can sign up for an early warning to tell you when it's going to happen. Floodline Warning Direct is a free service. Sign up for Floodline Warnings Direct by calling Floodline on 0845 988 1188 or online from the Environment Agency website.

## What's a Floodplan?

A floodplan is a way of ensuring you've considered your flood risk and have made preparations to cope. Floods can happen very suddenly and while you can't control the floods, having a floodplan will mean you're more in control of your reactions.

Use the checklist below as the basis of your floodplan:

1. Check that your buildings and contents insurance sums insured are sufficient – under-insurance will only complicate and delay the handling of any claim.
2. Know how to turn off your gas, electricity and water mains supplies.
3. Prepare a flood kit of essential items and keep it hand:
  - Your home insurance documents.
  - A wind-up or battery radio and torch.
  - Warm, waterproof clothing and blankets.
  - A first aid kit and prescription medication.
  - Bottled water and non-perishable foods.
  - Important contact numbers.
4. Think about what you can move now – don't wait for a flood. Store items of personal value above the level of any flood.

## Practical Steps

If a flood affects your house, contact your insurance company. If you can't return to your home then they'll be able to assist in arranging temporary accommodation and assess the damage as soon as possible.

If carpets have been submerged in water they will be ruined. To start the drying process, remove them together with the underlay and put them outside in case a valuation inspection is necessary. Similarly, sofas and other soft furnishings soaked in flood water are unlikely to be salvageable; move them outside for later inspection.

## What can I do to stop my home flooding?

Flood protection measures can be installed in a property at any time, but the most likely time to implement protective measures is when the property is being repaired.

For this reason you need to liaise with your insurer before repairs are underway. Insurance policies generally cover putting your house back in the same condition it was before the loss occurred. Therefore, if incorporating protective measures costs more, you would need to fund this yourself. However, this is money well spent when you consider the upheaval that a flood causes.

For more advice on flooding, visit  
[www.nfumutual.co.uk/lifestyle/flood-prevention.htm](http://www.nfumutual.co.uk/lifestyle/flood-prevention.htm).

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