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# A good idea re-discovered - Gardening in Schools

by Elizabeth Smart

It is exciting for gardeners to read of the support of the A.G.T. and R.H.S. for gardening initiatives in schools. Some education authorities and individual schools have taken this on board and are discovering many ways in which gardening activities link into the National Curriculum; but this is not a new venture as more than a hundred years ago gardens became part of children's educational experience. Early memories, legislation and archives have provided much evidence of school gardening activity in the past.

The Forster Act of 1870 introduced legislation setting up School Boards and making education compulsory for all five to thirteen year old children. It was a time of change; social and economic changes and earlier studies of child development influenced educational reforms. Education developed from being limited to a minority of children to become compulsory for all children over the age of five and with an expanded curriculum.

In 1902 the Education Act included, amongst other provisions, practical activity as a feature in the school curriculum. One activity was to be gardening, wherever this was possible. An educational approach had developed based on observation and experimentation and this slowly found its way into the classroom. Town schools were limited by space to teach much gardening but were encouraged to do a certain amount by both legislators and by authors of text books. Sadly curriculum pressure led to a decline in gardening in schools from the mid-1960's, a situation currently being re-examined.

Educational theorists influenced the curriculum including the part that gardening could play in child development. Two educationalists, prominent in the field, were Friedrich Froebel (1782-1852) and Maria Montessori (1872-1952), Froebel had a rural upbringing in Germany and developed his theories from



Boys gardening at Llandyrnog School, circa 1930.

© Denbighshire Record Office



© Flintshire Record office

*Gwaenyngor School, photo taken in 1915, showing boys and girls in the school garden.*

observing the children of Herr von Holzhausen to whom he was a tutor. He developed a view of education that should involve the “whole child”, harnessing the child’s imaginative powers, interests and physical activities. He coined the word “kindergarten” (children garden) visualising children and gardens as complementary parts of an educational system that would be a continuous whole.

Maria Montessori (1872-1952) began her work in Italy, taking forward Froebel’s work, to develop the Montessori system. Her initial educational work was with “idiot children from an insane asylum in Rome.” For two years she worked with the children, developing her educational principles. In one of her schools in Rome, with no room for a garden, flowers were grown in pots placed on a terrace. The children never forgot to water the pots and, “One morning I found them seated on the ground, all in a circle, round a splendid red rose which had opened during the night – silent and tranquil, completely absorbed” she noted.

Such theorists influenced both the public and private sectors of education, leading to a reaction against “traditional” education amongst some progressive thinkers. Among these were Leonard and Dorothy Elmhirst who created their own school at Dartington where practical activities, including gardening, were as valued as academic studies. The school prospectus of summer 1925 summarises the role of the Garden Department:

The activities of the garden department may, under the scheme, be threefold. The first obligation of the head of the department will be to make the garden pay as a business. He will furthermore superintend the project work of any group of boys employed in cultivating vegetables, in tending the orchard or in keeping bees. If any boy should cultivate a taste for landscape gardening... he would be encouraged to develop this as a separate project.

Some children gardened at home but for many the first opportunity to garden was at school and in the “public sector” gardening became a school subject as a result of The Board of Education Act of 1902. This major piece of legislation reorganised schooling, and for the first time gave the subject official sanction.

The Hadow Report of 1926, reviewing progress in education, commented on the provision of gardening in the school curriculum, and made a number of recommendations, of which the most important was:

We regard gardening as an important branch of practical instruction and we hope that wherever possible school gardens will be provided and that urban education authorities will realise more and more the importance of providing of suitable spaces.

The report urged that girls should also take the subject, but this was unusual in co-educational schools at the time.

School Log Books, text books and personal reminiscence provide much evidence of what was being taught and practiced. School records are often incomplete and not everything has yet been archived. Head teachers did not record all the school activities. Log Books after 1939 are not currently accessible. From a random selection of records from Flintshire and Denbighshire archives a picture emerged of what was happening in local schools between 1890 and 1950. Most references indicate that gardening classes were for boys only.

**Gwaenyngor School.** Photographs from 1915 show the children busy in the school gardens, boys and girls. Log Books do not mention girls working in the garden so it is probable that they were “decorative” and included for their photographic value! The garden tools are being used by the boys and are full sized.

On December 8th, 1942 there is a reference that “New Stock for ... Gardening” was received and an H.M.I.’s report of August 13th, 1948, “The curriculum now includes some practical work including gardening”.

**Bagillt.** In the Log Books of the Merllyn Council School, Bagillt, there are a number of references to gardening carried out in the school. In March 1929 “Mr H.J. Jones, the County Horticultural Organiser, called at the school today and made a preliminary inspection of the proposed site for a school garden.”

The reference to a county organiser indicates support for the Flintshire schools that had introduced gardening. Further entries refer to the supply of seeds and of an extensive selection of basic equipment for the venture. On occasions the weather intervened

and practical gardening was cancelled because of frost, fog or other adverse conditions as on March 7th, 1930, "This morning's Gardening Class was held indoors."

**Gwernaffield.** In 1902 in Gwernaffield School the list of study (approved again in 1905) included "Plants, Roots, Stems, and Timber Trees, Potatoes, Leaves, Flowers, Fruits and Shrubs." In the school year 1907-08 lessons included "Study of the Garden."

**Leeswood** National Primary School archive includes its Log Books and, notably, a Time-Table for 1941, with the Analysis and Syllabus. Children at all stages from standards I-IV (it is unusual in that the school included provision for girls) were to be involved with the garden, with practical gardening time-tabled for Standards V, VI, and VII for an hour once a week (9-11 years old). Syllabuses note that Arithmetic has a correlation with Gardening. In "Nature Study" for Standards I and II (5-6 years old) "the children will be encouraged to take an interest in the school garden," and in Handwork, "boys will be given opportunities to work in the garden". For standards III and IV (7-9 years old) the children were to learn "growing seeds and bulbs, care of plants, watering."

**Llandyrnog.** Llandyrnog school records have many gardening references between 1912 and 1930.

On May 6th, 1912 the Log Book refers to the school garden and on May 20th, "Mr Johnson H.M.I.S. [His Majesty's Inspector of Schools] visited and made an inspection of the garden." The Inspector's May report provides a concise picture of the school situation and made a number of recommendations.

The land is the teacher's garden and part of the school premises. The Local Education Authority finds tools and seeds and the teacher has the produce for the use of the garden. The tools are kept in the coal house. The soil is light, seems fertile and is easily worked.

The organisation and general scheme have much improved since last spring. There are seven dual plots each 21ft by 18ft and a good sized piece of ground for work in common besides portions put aside for flowers and raising stuff for transplanting. Three small cold frames have been bought and these come in useful for starting tender and half hardy annuals etc. There are some fruit trees and these could be profitably used to teach pruning and winter spraying; they need it. The senior boys might, next autumn and spring, take up some propagation work, such as was suggested on the day of inspection. It be [sic] well for the Arithmetic, Composition and Drawing taken in connection with the Special Subject of Gardening to be done all in one book. The boys could then take them home occasionally and discuss contents with their parents. Such books when full could be given to the scholar to keep, My general impression is favourable. Scales for weighing are wanted.

Further favourable reports from inspectors were noted together with regular entries and with reports from school visitors including a reference to county support for gardening activities: "Mr Lewis Williams, County Assistant Horticultural Lecturer, gave a demonstration in French digging and Fruit Pruning."

The H.M.I. Report of April 9, 1920, stated:

The curriculum is quite comprehensive including Cottage Gardening for the older boys who keep the garden in very good condition. This subject admits correlation with ordinary school subjects.

**Wrexham.** The Bryn Estyn estate in Wrexham, with seventeen and a half acres of grounds, became a Home Office Approved School (Intermediate) in 1943. There was a Garden Department

with a Horticulture Instructor and an assistant, an experienced market gardener. The gardens provided training for twenty four boys "who have expressed a desire to learn something of the trade" and emphasis was to be on food production. With an orchard in the grounds and wall-trained fruits there was an opportunity to learn how to cultivate them.

The 1921 Education Act which had included in its provisions "practical instruction suitable to the ages, abilities and requirements of children" supported the view that gardening helped to develop children mentally and physically. Gardening was taught, sometimes as a separate subject but also as part of the Rural Studies curriculum. In some areas, predominantly rural, it was still being taught in the 1960s.

Supporting the practical work was the publication of text books of which the Lindley Library has a collection of some thirty published between 1880 and 1950. The earliest of these are on botany followed by others on practical and scientific aspects. Authors suggested solutions for town schools including instructions for building window boxes involving co-operation with the woodwork department. Contents included details of timetabling for year round activities, calendars, equipment lists and a full range of gardening techniques.

The Second World War saw a national upsurge in gardening including participation by young people who were encouraged to join in school projects as part of the national Dig for Victory campaign; a short-lived but notable phenomenon that also created an acceptance of girls working in the gardens.



*Girls working in a school garden.*

In the national education system, when compulsory education for all children from the age of five years was implemented, the curriculum was also expanded. For the first time schools were encouraged to include practical work as part of the regular syllabus, gardening being a specific example. The 1902 Education Act made a major impact. In theory it provided for gardening to be taught in schools to both boys and girls, but evidence from the maintained and denominational schools of Flintshire and Denbighshire demonstrates that provision of gardening lessons was usually only for boys.

From the mid 1960s gardening practice in schools declined but from the 1990s interest revived, notably at Writhlington School where an orchid project is now internationally established (<http://www.teachers.tv/video/118>) and on the internet many sites detail current projects and incentives for school gardens. Over a hundred years after Froebel and Montessori saw the importance of the subject in child development, modern educationalists have rediscovered its value.

*Elizabeth Smart is Chairman of the Clwyd Branch. She has recently completed an MA Dissertation on Children Gardening 1870-1954, for her studies in Garden History at Bristol University.*

# Study Day on Garden Ornamentation

## 24 October 2009 at Portmeirion



*The audience assembles in Hercules Hall, Portmeirion.*

© Glynis Shaw

Whether you sport a naked goddess by the garden pond or a garden gnome for the children, this was a study day bound to attract a sizeable audience, and attract one it did. Add the quality of the lecturers and the venue itself, and it was not really surprising that Gwynedd's annual Study Day was the best attended ever, not only in the home county, but throughout the whole of the WHGT. A total of 75 people from all over Wales signed up, mostly WHGT members, but some not, though hopefully future members in the making.

Garden ornamentation, it soon became apparent, is rather more than a statue, a wrought iron gateway or an impressive piece of stonework, though these all have their place. All four speakers emphasised the importance of water in any scheme you might visualise. Bryan Hirst, a director of Waterlands Productions Ltd and a member of the Fountain Society, traced the development of water features from the Mogul Empire to the present day, showing slides from sites around the world.

"Water brings everything to life," he told us. "It brings joy and pleasure. It is the essence of the garden, from which everything else flows." Listening to his words, and savouring the wonders of places such as Amritsar, Blenheim Palace, Chatsworth and the Taj Mahal, we had no difficulty in accepting this.

Lord Aberdare, who followed him, brought us back to home territory when he spoke about his involvement in a research project to record the fountains of Wales. In Victorian and Edwardian days, erecting the fountain in a town centre or a local park had been a popular way of marking events or remembering local dignitaries. In recent years, some have been restored and presumably still attract attention. Others have fallen by the wayside. Lord Aberdare lamented that, bearing in mind its situation in one of the wettest areas of Britain, Wales did not seem over endowed with water features!

After listening to these two excellent speakers, we went for our lunch break with our minds very much on water in the garden. But we hadn't finished with it. Back in our seats after an excellent buffet, we listened to Helena Attlee, garden historian and author of *The Gardens of Wales*, on the development of water features in the Renaissance period. Could we imagine ourselves, in that

period, in a garden on a very hot day? "Everywhere you go, the air is cooled by water," she said. "Remember, Italy supplied a blue print for the Renaissance garden, and by the mid 16th century, garden visiting was changed by water features."

"Water is an extraordinary medium which could bring grottoes, statues and so on, alive," she said.

Helena has not only a deep passion for Italian gardens, but also as a garden historian is an expert. She cited Villa d'Este as one of the great water gardens in Italy, and many of her audience could bear that out from their own visits. As the fashion for water in the garden continued, it was soon not enough to see it simply flowing. "Water jokes" came into fashion, - guests found themselves being squirted with water, with well placed mirrors showing how awful they looked after a soaking! Water ornaments were sometimes fitted up as automata, featuring noises, sometimes frightening like a dragon's roar, to amuse guests.

Fittingly, it was to Portmeirion itself that we turned for the final lecture of the day. Glynis Shaw, an art and architectural historian, and a Clwyd WHGT member, spoke about the decorative features at Portmeirion. "It is difficult to decide at Portmeirion what is garden ornamentation and what is garden design," she pointed out. Clough Williams Ellis not only collected widely the architectural treasures which went to form the village, but also embellished the buildings with all kinds of ornamentation - statues, niches, wrought iron and so on.

She drew our attention particularly to a statue of a dog - a cur with a bloody mouth, looking surly and unfriendly. But how many visitors who have seen the dog near the main entrance have realised that it has its paws firmly on the severed arm of a man? The horror of this was something we all wanted to see. Before the day came to an end, there was an opportunity to do so, and to take a conducted tour of the village.

The event was organised by Gwynedd Branch Secretary Olive Horsfall, who was warmly thanked at the close by our new national chairman, Gwyneth Hayward. She in turn was warmly welcomed on her first official visit to a WHGT function in Gwynedd.

*Mary Garner*

This issue marks my Editorial farewell to readers and contributors to *The Bulletin*.

The WHGT has appointed a newcomer, Matthew Dennison to pick up the baton, and he comes with new ideas for the design and content of the publication, and perhaps more ambitiously he expects to garner additional sponsorship which will allow *The Bulletin* to become a more lavish publication. These are difficult times for soliciting donations for garden related charities: we have just seen the Gateway Trust disbanded for lack of financial support, and the [www.parksandgardens.ac.uk](http://www.parksandgardens.ac.uk) website, (though now so highly respected it is being archived for posterity by The British Library), is having great difficulty in attracting the anticipated level of financial support. We must hope Matthew will be successful in this endeavour.

At the very least the *Bulletin* must serve as the glue between the Branches of the Trust, and seek out and report those locally important stories which arise within Wales. It depends upon the vigilance of local members to bring many of these stories to light. My successor will need to get closely acquainted with all the branches in order to commission (or indeed plead!) for articles on the threats and successes in Welsh garden research and conservation.

A departing editor is perhaps also allowed the luxury of



remembrance. The Editor of *The Bulletin* has no staff to command, no power, and no green eye-shield. Nonetheless he or she may find themselves at the front line of some demanding controversies. One hardy perennial is the issue of Welsh place-name spelling. Some authors will wish to use the historic spelling associated with a garden or its archive manuscripts, some readers will take the uncompromising view that only the contemporary Welsh-language spelling should be used. Trawsgoed, or Trawscoed or indeed Crosswood is a case in point. In a recent *Journal of the Ceredigion Historical Society*, the spelling Monachty or Mynachty led to an editorial veto and an author's disclaimer before the article was published, to the satisfaction only of the former. An English editor must tread respectfully here and can expect to receive some heated correspondence.

Then there are the contributors who don't contribute to deadline, and those who entirely rewrite their article after seeing the proof. There was even an author who demanded to select and commission their own book reviewer!

Editing *The Bulletin* has been always interesting, and has taught me a lot about Wales. As I became better acquainted with my writers, it became easier. I hope Matthew Dennison will soon become well-known to you all.

*Caroline Palmer*

## Chairman's Remarks

### January 2010

A new year is upon us. Firstly the good news! The Trust branches in Carmarthenshire and Monmouthshire will soon be reactivated so that the whole of Wales will now have active branches to conduct the important work of the Trust. The new Conservation Committee chaired by Elizabeth Whittle of Cadw first met in November and the Trust will now be in a stronger position to respond quickly to any threats to the historic gardens and landscapes of Wales. With this in mind, I am particularly pleased by the excellent news regarding Ruperra, news of which appears on page 7 of *The Bulletin*. To reinforce the work of the Conservation Committee we intend to hold a Planning Study Day this year which will be advertised shortly. I would also like to thank Gwynedd and West Glamorgan branches for the financial support they have given to the Conservation Fund.

The Garden Ornamentation Study Day at Portmeirion (see page 4) was very well attended and hugely enjoyable with excellent speakers in a superb location. I congratulate Olive Horsfall and the members of the Gwynedd branch on a memorable day.

The Trust also faces some challenges. Our main task will be to increase our membership and to compile a new membership database which will allow us to communicate more effectively with present and prospective members. I am particularly keen to identify the special interests of individual

members and to use their expertise on a nationwide basis in order to pursue our goals.

I hope that our efforts to reorganize the Office, with very many thanks to John Borron, will allow us to put the misunderstandings and confusion on membership matters to rest. May I apologise if this process has caused any undue upset. Additionally, since the unexpected departure of Catherine Jones in November we have been unable to access our emails. We are therefore reliant on the traditional types of correspondence until this issue is resolved and ask that you communicate with the office by letter or telephone until further notice.

Finally, in October, I represented the Trust at the closing reception of the The Gateway Gardens Trust, which was held in the Senedd, Cardiff. This invaluable organization was the very first project to be funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund in 1999 to celebrate the Millennium in Wales. It originated in the WHGT during Bettina Harden's chairmanship, and under her leadership provided enjoyment for some of the most vulnerable members of society, over ten years introducing some 40,000 people to the pleasures of a garden visit. It is extremely sad that it should have become a victim of the current economic adversity.

May I wish you all a very Happy New Year.

*Gwyneth Hayward, Chairman*

## The Hill, Abergavenny

In spring 2009 Coleg Gwent announced its decision to close The Hill, an educational and conference centre, which lies on a hillside overlooking the market town of Abergavenny at the eastern boundary of the Brecon Beacons National Park. Over the years, The Hill had established a notable reputation as a centre of adult learning in Wales, and the decision by Coleg Gwent to close the centre down provoked a fury of public indignation.

I first visited The Hill back in 1995 when garden historian Susan Campbell asked if I could take her to look at the gardens and parkland. Susan's interest arose from The Hill's connection with the Wedgwood family, in particular its close historical association with the distinguished 19th century horticulturist John Wedgwood, who was Charles Darwin's uncle. John Wedgwood, of course, is best known as founder in 1804 of the Royal Horticultural Society. As an expert on walled gardens, Susan Campbell was delighted to discover a curved brick wall that formed the north boundary of the kitchen garden at The Hill; very few other examples are known in Wales, for instance at Wynnstay and Clytha Park.

When The Hill (then known as 'Hill House') was sold in November 1842, the sale catalogue mentions a 'delightfully situated residence' set in 'the most beautiful sublime mountain scenery'. and goes on to describe a "Walled Garden, abundantly Stocked with Fruit, Lawn and Pleasure-Grounds, embracing a beautiful Grove of lofty and varied Timber, at the North Side of the Mansion, through which might be formed beautiful Walks."

John Wedgwood occupied The Hill between 1829 and 1835. As the Darwin and Wedgwood families were linked by marriage, there was constant contact between the Darwin household in Shrewsbury and the Wedgwood family in Abergavenny. John Wedgwood's sister Susannah, married Robert Waring Darwin, one of whose sons was the Charles Darwin. In fact, the Darwin Correspondence Archive (now available online) contains several letters in which The Hill is mentioned, including a letter written in 1831 by Charles Darwin himself at a crucial stage in his life when he was uncertain whether or not to take up an offer to go on the historic voyage of discovery in *The Beagle*.

Recently, in an attempt to save The Hill, I decided to contact Susan Campbell again to talk about the gardens and ask her advice. Susan mentioned that hidden away in the archives at the R.H.S. Lindley Library is a notebook kept by John Wedgwood, which gives a unique day-by-day record of how the park and gardens at The Hill were laid out and planted.

Wedgwood's small leather bound notebook is now in a rather fragile state and the spidery handwriting is sometimes difficult to decipher. At first glance the notebook seems to be all about the flower garden. But turning the diary upside down you discover that there are two sections: one for flowers, the other for fruit and vegetables. Each gives details about sowing and planting, grafting and pruning, as well as including a range of ornamental and edible plants. The diary lists over 50 varieties of apple and mentions the planting of peaches, nectarines, pears and morello cherries in the walled garden, and many varieties of vegetable: batavian endive,



*In May 2009 the gardens were still lovingly tended by groups of students on therapeutic and vocational courses. Limited maintenance is now provided by contractors.*



© Grant Muter

asparagus, celeriac, squash and sea kale, as well as broccoli, cabbage and beans. Flowers are documented in meticulous detail, with long lists of varieties of double dahlias, penstemons, auriculas and carnations, and from where they came.

Throughout the diary, Wedgwood notes the date when seeds were sown, how many rows were planted, which plants went into the hotbed or conservatory, and so on, giving a perfect snapshot of what the garden at The Hill must have looked like in the 1830s. Many of the mature trees in the landscaped park may have been planted by John Wedgwood, given his exceptional knowledge of botany and plants.

Worryingly, after the decision to close The Hill was announced, it was reported in the local press that Monmouthshire County Council had lifted a legal covenant restricting the use of The Hill for educational purposes, thus leaving Coleg Gwent free to sell off the house and grounds for commercial development. Requests for Coleg Gwent to extend the consultation period and to work with the community to explore a way in which the college could be saved were rejected, and The Hill closed at the end of August.

In late August, Cadw finally responded to a number of requests for The Hill to be listed, by saying in a preliminary assessment that the garden at The Hill did qualify for inclusion on the Register of Historic Parks & Gardens. Firstly, because of its rarity as an early 19C town garden of considerable size, with several component parts of varying character, including the unusual curved wall in the kitchen garden. Secondly, because preserved in the garden are many fine ornamental trees, most of which appear to be over 100 years old. Thirdly, the garden has not been encroached on and the surrounding woodland retains the potential for restoration and reintegration. And finally, because of the garden's historical association with John Wedgwood, the importance of the garden notebook, and the connection with the Darwin family.

Despite this recognition, the future of The Hill still at risk. The chairman of the board of Mulberry House, a charity which runs an environmental studies centre in Abergavenny, has made an offer to buy The Hill and continue its use as an educational centre, but this bid has been turned down by Coleg Gwent.

A great deal of dedicated effort and public money has gone into caring for the walled garden and running horticultural courses at The Hill. The Wedgwood diary offers a wonderful opportunity to extend this work to recreate an authentic late-Georgian garden. For the local planning authority to sanction the destruction of the historic gardens at The Hill and allow a commercial development would surely be an act of civic vandalism.

*Grant Muter*

# Ruperra Castle – Saved at Public Inquiry

On Wednesday December 16th 2009 the voice on my mobile phone said ‘We’ve had a letter from the Assembly – the Appeal has been turned down!’ Being in a state of shock and disbelief I was told ‘You’ll be more convinced when you read the report!’

So, there it was, after 12 years of helplessly watching a disaster in the making and experiencing all the troughs and crests of a stormy sea. First, the wait for the new owner of 1998 to act to save the Castle, then when he did not, the vain attempt to persuade all the relevant organisations to do so, then the campaign to raise public awareness, then the rejoicing when the Caerphilly County Councillors rejected the owner’s development plans in December 2007, then the exciting preparations for the Public Inquiry in April 2009 and fund raising to pay for the Trust’s barrister.

Nationwide sympathy for the plight of the Castle enabled Ruperra Castle Preservation Trust to field five top expert witnesses at the Inquiry to support the Council. The submission was aided by the Ancient Monuments Society, the Welsh Historic Gardens Trust (represented by Judith Martin Jones, *Bulletin* 55) and Cadw and presented a formidable array of academic and professional excellence.

The Report of The Inspector, Mr A.D. Poulter, outstripped all our expectations. It is a blueprint for how developers should not approach ‘enabling the saving’ of heritage sites and recites the exact processes that should have taken place before such an application was presented to the Councillors.

Here is the Inspector’s summary of conclusions.

144. *I have concluded above that the location of the proposed development would not be sustainable, and that there would be significant harm to the landscape and the area’s rural character. The*

*proposed development would not preserve the setting of the listed buildings on the site, and would not preserve or enhance the character or appearance of the Ruperra Park and Castle Conservation Area. There would also be harm to the important historic features within the listed stable and coach-house range. There would be conflict in these respects with Sections 66(1) and 72(1) of the LB Act, and national and local planning policies which give effect to those requirements.*

145. *On balance, I consider that the harm to matters of public interest that I have identified would far outweigh the benefits of the proposed development. It has therefore not been demonstrated that there are circumstances that would justify the grant of planning permission.*

146. *Contrary to paragraph 69 of Circular 61/96, the appellant has not provided sufficient information to enable the planning authority to determine the likely impact of the proposals on the special architectural or historic interest of the listed buildings and on their setting. I have concluded that it would not be appropriate to use conditions to overcome the lack of information in this instance. To allow the appeal in these circumstances would conflict with Paragraph 111 of Circular 61/96, which advises that the authority must always be satisfied that it has adequate information to assess the effect of proposed works on a listed building before granting consent. This conclusion adds weight to that reached above.*

147. *I conclude that the appeal should be dismissed.*

Now we must wait again to see what or who can provide the ultimate satisfactory solution for Ruperra Castle.

*Pat Jones-Jenkins, Hon Sec. Ruperra Castle Preservation Trust.*

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Weblog: **www.ruperracastle.blogspot.com** for details of the Inquiry.

## Archaeology at Hafod

*Some readers of Gerddi Volume 5 may have felt alarmed by the postscript to Brian Dix’s article ‘The Hafod Archaeological Guidelines’ which could be read to imply that archaeological advice at Hafod ceased in 2001.*

*The Forestry Commission has asked us to publish the following response which clarifies the continuing role of the Hafod Advisory Panel in ensuring the highest standards at this Grade I listed site.*

*Editor*

Arrangements were made by the Forestry Commission, following the winding up of the Hafod Advisory Committee (HAC) in 2001, to ensure that expert advice continues to guide its work at Hafod, which is managed in partnership with the Hafod Trust.

The HAC was a large body which provided valuable support during the development phase of the Hafod project. When that phase was completed there was a need for a smaller body to advise on the care and maintenance of the estate in accord with the strategy which had been developed and agreed by HAC. The archaeological guidelines are among the suite of framework documents which comprise this strategy. A new, smaller body, named the Hafod Advisory Panel (HAP), assumed this changed role immediately, under David Hughes, who had hitherto chaired HAC.

The membership of HAP includes individual experts and appointees from relevant agencies. A notable and important

development in its membership is the inclusion of Mrs Elizabeth Whittle, Cadw’s parks and gardens inspector, who is able to give immediate expert advice on issues as they arise and on how possible solutions will relate to the requirements of the various statutory designations which apply on the estate.

Cambria Archaeology continues to be involved. Before any activity likely to be archaeologically sensitive, they are commissioned to provide an impact assessment, and if it is decided that work should go ahead, they also investigate in advance of, or during operations on site, or both, along the lines they have recommended. Following this, the database which they maintain is updated as necessary.

Continuity has always been seen as an important attribute of the advisory body’s role. Following David Hughes’s retirement in 2005, the chair of HAP has been held by Peter White, who was formerly Secretary of the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales, and who, as a member of HAC had been instrumental in introducing Brian Dix to that Committee and supporting his work in drafting the Management Guidelines.

Members of the Welsh Historic Gardens Trust may rest assured that among the several areas of expertise required to manage Hafod, archaeology is particularly well served. The record of the HAP’s meetings is of course available for public scrutiny.

Saturday June 5th

WHGT National A.G.M.  
At Powis Castle

## Lecture by Peter Lord

Garden Visits to Vaynor Park, Berriew,  
and Glansevern Hall

## Branch events for the early months of the year

(More details from Branch Contacts, or Website.)

### Brecon and Radnor

To be arranged

### Ceredigion

Sat. 13 March Branch AGM, Speaker Dr Toby Driver 'Historic Landscapes and Gardens of Ceredigion from the Air'.

Wed. 21 April Visit to see the Rhododendrons at Glandyfi Castle.

Sun. 11 July Visit to Crugiau, Rhydyfelin, Aberystwyth.

### Clwyd

Sat. 20 March A.G.M. & Study Day: 'The Picturesque & Sublime'; Plas Newydd, Llangollen.

Thurs. 6 May Afternoon visit to Rosehill, Erbistock. Landscape park, formal garden, walled garden.

May 14/15 or 21/22 Fund raising Concert and Buffet at Leeswood Hall, 7.30 p.m. by "Voices" of Cheltenham. Date to be confirmed.

### Gwynedd

Sun. 25 March Branch AGM at Coleg Meirion-Dwyfor, Dolgellau.

Sat. 1 May Plant Fair at Crûg Farm Nursery 10 am – 4 pm.

May Garden Visits to Bryn Twr & Lynton, Abergele, and to Bodrhyddan Hall. Dates to be confirmed.

### Pembrokeshire

Thurs. 11 March 2.30pm talk by Pat Jones Jenkins 'Ruperra Castle & Its Gardens'.

Thurs. 22 April Lunch, talk, Branch AGM and tour at Colby Woodland Gardens.

Tues. 18 May Annual lunch and lecture by Helena Attlee. 'Italian Gardens of the Renaissance And Baroque'.

### South and Mid Glamorgan

Sun. 25 April Branch AGM at The Roman Legion Museum, Caerleon, tour of the new Roman garden.

Tues. 18 May Visit to The Laskett, Herefordshire, the garden of Sir Roy Strong.

Sun. 27 June Visit to Hen Felin and Swallow Barn, at the hamlet of Dyffryn. Cream tea.

### West Glamorgan

Thurs. 14 January at 2pm. 'Japanese Gardens', a talk by Gerry Donovan from Duffryn Gardens.

Sat. 20 February A Tudor Supper.

Thurs. 11 March 2pm. Branch AGM to be followed by a talk on 'Knot Gardens' by Robin Whalley.

Thurs. 8 April 2pm 'The Pharmacy of the Physicians of Myddfai' by Prof. Terry Turner.

Sat. 15 May Penllergare: 'People, Place and Project'. National Study Day, in association with the Penllergare Trust to mark the bi-centenary of the birth of John Dillwyn Llewelyn. (See flyer)

Sat. 12 June A day at High Glanau, finishing at Wyndcliffe Court.

Sun. 11 July Sunday lunch followed by a visit to Cilgwyn Lodge, Llangadog.

Sat. 24 July A trip to Warwick Castle and the new Elizabethan Garden at Kenilworth.

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