

For details of all Trust and branch contacts and activities, visit the Trust's website, www.whgt.org.uk

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from THE TREASURER

Conservation Fighting Fund

Last year, with the support of the Trust Committee, we set up the Conservation Fighting Fund. Some years ago, the Pilgrim Trust gave us £5,000 and this formed the start of the fund. Some of our branches have already contributed money to it. Clwyd, in particular, recently made a donation of £2,000.

I wrote to all our Life Members, asking for their support. Their response has been generous and already amounts to over £2,000.

I would like to set a target of £50,000. If we work steadily towards this, we will be successful and place the Trust in a strong position to fulfil its aims of conserving and protecting the historic gardens of Wales. Life members, as I have said, have already contributed handsomely.

If other Trust members would like to do the same, all donations, however small, will be gratefully received.

John Borron

CLWYD

14 October (11am), Japanese Garden at Tatton Park, Knutsford, Cheshire, WA16 6QN. This is a special opportunity to enjoy the centenary of the Japanese garden at Tatton Park with a tour given by Head Gardener Sam Youd. Sam is a renowned expert on Japanese gardens and will be retiring next year after 30 years at Tatton. Only 25 places available (£10 members, £15 non-members, plus £5 garden admission charge for non-RHS and -NT members).

21 January (12pm), New Year lunch at Watkin House, Wynnstay, Ruabon, Wrexham LL14 6LQ. Kindly hosted by Anna Dempsey. Lunch followed by a guided walk around the grounds (£15).

Booking for both events is essential. Contact Glynis Shaw (tel: 01745 710261; Email: glynis@castell-photography.co.uk)

GWYNEDD

29 October, Study Day, 'Historic Garden Restoration'. Venue, Hotel Maes-y-Neaudd, Talsarnau, nr Harlech. Programme includes talk about the recent restoration of Wrest Park in Bedfordshire.

For further information, contact Olive Horsfall (tel: 01766 780187; email: oandmhorsfall@btinternet.com).

WEST GLAMORGAN

10 November (2pm), 'Creating a vineyard in Swansea', a talk by amateur vineyard grower Colin Fielder, including a brief history of wine-making in the UK. St Paul's Parish Centre, de la Beche Road, Sketty, Swansea.

SOUTH & MID GLAMORGAN BRANCH

12 February (2 pm), Snowdrop walk. 19 Westfield Rd, Pontypridd CF37 3AG. Lighten your winter blues with a visit to Sue and Brian Dockerill's woodland garden, where you will see around 150 varieties of snowdrops. The garden writer Margery Fish once wrote, 'once interest has been aroused in the many varieties of *Galanthus nivalis*... winter is no longer dull and cold but an exciting time when we watch for the different snowdrops to appear.' (£5 WHGT members, £7 non-members). Further information from Val Caple, 'Milestone', Penllyn, Cowbridge, CF71 7RQ (tel: 01446 775794; val.t.caple@care4free.net).



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the BULLETIN

WELSH HISTORIC GARDENS TRUST YMDDIRIEDOLAETH GERDDI HANESYDDOL CYMRU No. LXI Autumn 2011



PRIVATE OWNERSHIP AND PUBLIC PROTECTION:

OUTSTANDING GARDENS AT PENPONT,
COEDARHYDYGLYN AND FONMON CASTLE

PLANS FOR REGENERATION AT BRYNGARW AND
THE NATIONAL TRUST'S GOOD NEWS FOR DYFFRYN

plus: AGM REPORT; AND THE FORGOTTEN TALENTS OF EDWARD KEMP

from THE EDITOR

At the beginning of the summer, I was fortunate enough to be the first journalist to be shown over the newly restored gardens at Wrest Park in Bedfordshire. Among those with whom I spent a bright and blustery June day were English Heritage's Head of Gardens and Landscape, John Watkins, and Senior Properties Historian Andrew Hann.

English Heritage's approach at Wrest, for 600 years the home of the de Grey family, has drawn on the full breadth of that organisation's skillsbase to restore this large and lovely garden, which retains elements of three centuries of horticultural vogue and vagary and boasts contributions in particular by preeminent eighteenth-century practitioners both British and Continental. But EH has also targeted those who would make no claim to eminence as garden historians. Although the garden was still closed to the public during my visit, teams of volunteers and apprentices peopled the green spaces: during the run up to opening day, both groups were encouraged to involve themselves in all aspects of preparation, from researching family documents in Wrest's archives to planting disease-free elms. Such an inclusive approach, based on shared enthusiasm and the broadest understanding of 'heritage', is to be applauded and prevents this rather grand garden from any retreat into the aloofness of faux-academe.

John Watkins's long-term vision for Wrest has been greatly facilitated by the foresight of the 2nd Earl de Grey who, in sweeping away the old house in the early 1830s in order to replace it with his idiosyncratic, French-inspired mansion complete with formal parterre, commissioned an extensive series of watercolours of the estate. These illustrate most aspects of the ninety-acre gardens as they appeared almost 200 years ago. No act of restoration is ever wholly straightforward: thanks to Thomas de Grey's commission, John Watkins and his team can draw on an accurate, coloured vision of the ghosts in the landscape. It is as near as any historian is likely to get to that scenario expounded by Mary Norton in the children's novel *Bedknob and Broomstick*, when, thanks to a magic bedstead, the seventeenth-century Emelius Jones is transported to 1940s Bedfordshire and reconstructs an image of his destroyed family home: 'Here was the parlour, here the dairy. This,' he exclaimed as he jumped down into a long hollow, 'was the sunken garden where my aunt grew sweet herbs.' He kicked the sandy rubble from some flat stones. 'And here the cellar steps.'

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In this my final *Bulletin* for the Trust, I thank all those of you who have supported my efforts to update the magazine. It was good to hear positive feedback at the AGM, among it Ceredigion branch's verdict that the *Bulletin* in its new format was a work in progress. As that branch in particular has reason to appreciate, the *Bulletin* retains its freshness and visual appeal only as long as it remains a work in progress – and forfeits those qualities when the template becomes rigid and ceases to develop or admit the possibility of improvement.

MATTHEW DENNISON

from THE CHAIRMAN

The Welsh Historic Gardens Trust has seen a number of changes in the months since the last *Bulletin*.

It is with regret that we note the retirement of Professor Tom Pritchard after many years as our President, having also been our Chairman between 1994 and 1997. He will be sorely missed for his wide experience, his sound counsel and good humour. I hope that his retirement will mean more leisure for him, but I suspect that he will remain as busy as ever.

We are therefore extremely fortunate that Robin Herbert has agreed to be our President. His knowledge of historic gardens and of horticulture is extensive, having been Chairman of the Trustees at Kew, President Emeritus of the Royal Horticultural Society and a Founder Trustee of the National Botanic Garden of Wales.

The Trust Council met for the first time in many years at the end of May. The Council fulfils an important advisory role and, at the meeting, it was joined by a number of new Council members: William Wilkins, Sara Furse, David Lambert and Peter Hayden. The fifth new member was to have been Donald Moore, who had done so much to advance the cause of historic gardens in Wales. Sadly, Donald Moore died before the Council meeting. His obituary is included in this *Bulletin*.

I am also deeply saddened to note the death of Bryan McSwiney, who was Treasurer of the Trust in its early days. He continued to promote the cause of historic gardens through his long and impressive contribution to the success of Aberglasney Gardens.

The work of the Trust continues to develop well. There is a steady trickle of new members and the highly successful launch of the new Monmouthshire Branch by Helena Gerrish and her energetic committee was a remarkable achievement, especially as Helena had so recently completed her monograph on Avray Tipping, *Edwardian Country Life: The Story of H Avray Tipping* (Frances Lincoln), which was published at the beginning of September.

Our AGM at Fonmon Castle was a most enjoyable event. A thought-provoking lecture by Christopher Woodward, Director of the Garden Museum in Lambeth, was followed by a delicious lunch and tour of the gardens at Fonmon, Coedarhydyglyn and Dyffryn. A reception the previous evening at the exquisite Cowbridge Physic Garden had already ensured a most entertaining weekend.

I wish you all a relaxing autumn and hope to see as many of you as possible at our events next year.

GWYNETH HAYWARD

AGM 2011

JOY NEAL reports on the Trust's Annual General Meeting at Fonmon Castle



The annual General Meeting of the Trust took place on 4 June 2011 at Fonmon Castle in Glamorgan by kind invitation of Sir Brooke Boothby. The Trust was delighted to welcome Mr Robin Herbert as its new President. Our chairman Gwyneth Hayward paid tribute to the long years of leadership and inspiration given by Professor Tom Pritchard, our outgoing president.

Our Chairman remarked on the satisfactory year and emphasised the importance for the trust to remain vigilant and to promote the significance of historic and designed landscape, both from a historical perspective but also as a major source of both public and private enjoyment, and as a record of past horticultural, environmental and cultural patterns.

She announced a study day at Bodnant gardens on 28 April 2012 with the working title "Canopied with Bowers": Arbours, Arches and Pergolas, which will provide an opportunity to investigate this important element of garden design. She gave notice that it would be her last year as Chairman: the process of finding a replacement is already underway.

Treasurer John Borron gave a report on the financial state of the Trust and stressed that, though the records were now in order, the most important thing to achieve was a rise in membership which would cover the costs of running the Trust. There is now no public funding, which makes all the more important the generosity of NFU Mutual to the Trust.

Following the AGM, a most interesting talk was given by Christopher Woodward, Director of the Garden Museum in Lambeth. The title was 'The Afterlife of Gardens' and he developed this theme with reference to gardens such as Sissinghurst, Great Dixter and Ninfa in Italy, examining their development following the death of the gardens' original owners.

The day continued with a delicious lunch at Fonmon and the chance to walk round the garden. Sir Brooke Boothby commented that they had many wedding celebrations during each year, so the borders need to have colour throughout the seasons. On our visit, they were looking beautiful.

We then drove to Coedarhydyglyn, and were taken round the woodlands by Tony Titchen, a friend of Sir Brooke and a well-known dendrologist. The owner, Colonel Rhodri Traherne, has a remarkable collection of forest trees, some of which are champions and others very impressive, such as the Summit Cedar from Tasmania, *Athrotaxis laxifolia*, and the Golden larch, *Pseudolarix amabilis*.

Finally we visited the restored Edwardian garden at Dyffryn (CADW Grade I). The landscape architect Geraldine Donovan conducted a tour, explaining how a National Lottery grant of £8 million had enabled Dyffryn's restoration (a further grant of £1.3 million was made towards the restoration of the house). On my last visit some years ago, the two walled kitchen gardens were derelict, so I was amazed to see the new aluminium greenhouse ready to be stocked with orchids and vines and the gardens already planted.

We would like to thank all who were involved in organising this highly enjoyable and informative event.

DIARY DATE FOR 2012 STUDY DAY

'Canopied with bowers': Pergolas, Arbours and Arches

28 April (10am–4pm)

The Inaugural Event of
the Bodnant Welsh Food Centre
Taly-y-Cafn LL28 5RP

Speakers

Linda Farrar
Pergolas of ancient Rome

Jan Woudstra
Bowers, 'berceaux' and cradle walks

Troy Smith
Bodnant Garden

GREEN MEN AND ELEPHANTS

DAVINA HOGG reflects on her garden at Penpont, Brecon, the destination for a West Glamorgan branch visit in June

Time has stood still at Penpont for much of the last century and whilst this has contributed considerably to the unspoilt charm and tranquillity which characterise the house and its grounds, it has also left a continuing task of restoration and repair. Over the past 18 years, my husband and I have undertaken a challenging yet sympathetic restoration programme aimed at returning the buildings to their former glory and maintaining the sense of history and place, with a further objective of developing a sustainable future for house and garden.

Our hearts lie within the landscape – most of all we love to be in the gardens and grounds. Given more resources and time we would have developed the gardens further, but we have had to be realistic about what we can personally achieve and upkeep.

However, that hasn't stopped us creating and developing certain aspects of the garden. For the past ten years, we have been bringing the walled gardens back into full productivity. We have a small farm shop (open mid-June to Christmas) where we sell our vegetables, fruit and cut flowers as well as supplying a few local pubs and cafés. We are certified by the Soil Association and have held numerous conferences/seminars and workshops using the kitchen gardens as a demonstration unit.

In 2000, to celebrate the Millennium, we constructed a beech maze – using beech seedlings from our woods. The maze has been designed in the shape of the Green Man – an ancient icon usually found in churches, the Green Man symbolises the seasonal renewal of life and fertility: the Penpont Green Man is supposed to be the largest such image in the world. It is worth Googling Penpont to appreciate fully its design as it is not possible from the ground to see what the shapes denote. And yes, there is quite a lot of maintenance involved, with the result that this year we need to repair some of the features. All in good time...



Trees are also our passion and we are incredibly fortunate to have the space to be able to plant a wide range of ornamental trees and shrubs throughout the grounds. Gavin is a trained arborist, and having spent many years before we came here running his own tree surgery business in Bristol and dealing with trees within an urban environment, he can now allow our trees to grow and spread without having to doctor them too much.

For those who visit Penpont, the Elephant box hedge is a feature which always amuses and delights. The original hedge must be over 100 years old and in the past it had been religiously but rather boringly trimmed. During an

amazing visit to Kenya a few years ago, we were thrilled to see African elephants in the wild – they were the inspiration behind our box creation.

Someone said to us one day how well kept Penpont looks. I remarked that it was all an illusion: 'If you cut your lawn, trim your edges and hedges... all appears to be in order!'

For further information about the garden at Penpont, visit www.penpont.com

EASTERN OUTLOOK IN SOUTH WALES

Landscape architect **BRONWEN THOMAS** reports on plans for the enhancement of the early-twentieth-century formal Gardens at Bryngarw Country Park, Bridgend.

In February 2011, I was appointed by Bridgend County Borough Council to prepare an enhancement scheme for the formal gardens at Bryngarw Country Park. Funding for the project comes from the Visit Wales Sustainable Tourism fund under the 'One Historic Garden' scheme. Running parallel to this project is the Environmental Improvements, Phase 1 study for the whole of the Country Park carried out by Mackley Davies Associates with funding from WAG Environmental Improvements Grant and BCBC Special Regeneration Fund.

The Grade II formal gardens were laid out by the last generation of the Traherne family to live at Bryngarw, between 1910 and 1918. They consist of terraced lawns to the south front of Bryngarw House, woodlands on the steep valley side to the east, and the oriental or 'Japanese Garden' running along the valley floor.

Having changed hands in the 1940s, Bryngarw was acquired by the local authority in 1960. In the 1980s, when it was designated a Country Park, the Japanese garden was recovered after years of neglect. Scrub was cleared, a network of paths, both original and new, was put in, and the current vaguely Japanese-style teahouse and bridge were constructed.

Over the intervening years little attention was given to horticultural maintenance apart from grass cutting, and the gardens have settled into gentle decay. Nevertheless, the Japanese garden continues to be a delightful sequestered spot. Plenty of visitors stroll here, especially in spring and autumn, to take in the colours and scents of the rhododendrons, cherries, maples and magnolias, to rest in the teahouse and admire the reflections from the Japanese bridge. This is the essence of the garden that the scheme seeks to enhance.



The emerging masterplan addresses the need to balance the historic significance with ecology, visitor expectations, legislation and restricted funding, and future management and potential changes. The concentration of proposals relate to the Japanese Garden.

Work is already starting with clearance of some of the bamboo. The splendid old rhododendrons and other original ornamental plantings are to be assessed and work carried out to get them in good heart for the future.

The teahouse and bridge need repairs. A ramp into the teahouse is planned, and more substantial railings to the bridge will keep to the oriental style. Handrails, resting places and surface repairs will make the paths more accessible, and new stepping-stone paths will encourage further exploration of the gardens. A new viewpoint-cum-focal feature will overlook the main pond, bridge and teahouse at the point where the original path from the House opened up to the garden.



An entrance feature is planned at the lower end, with an outlook along the length of the ponds and rill. With some judicious clearance in the woodland, a tantalising glimpse of this area will be gained from the visitor centre.

There are pressing issues however relating to river erosion – the Garw is attempting to intrude into the Japanese garden. Also there is the very real threat of *Phytophthora*, which is rampant in the larch forests further up the valley.

Current funding covers only a first phase of these enhancements. It is hoped that, with a masterplan in place, other funding can be sourced to prepare these gardens for the next quarter century and beyond.

EDWARD KEMP 1817–1891

ELIZABETH SMART reports on the subject of this year's Clwyd Branch AGM lecture

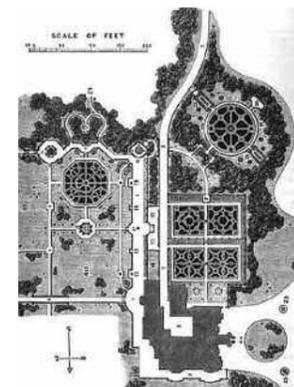
Elizabeth Davey's lecture to the Clwyd Branch shed light on the life and work of Edward Kemp, who has long languished in the sidelines of garden history. He appears most often as an adjunct to Joseph Paxton, who employed him as Superintendent when he was creating Birkenhead Park. He did, indeed, spend 40 years there; that is but part of the story for, from 1849, he received commissions for gardens, parks and cemeteries.



He was born in Streatham in 1847, the son of a tailor. In about 1830 he was employed as an apprentice gardener at the Royal Horticultural Society's gardens at Chiswick, a position offered only to the most promising young gardeners: a 'university' training in all the most up-to-date horticultural techniques, glasshouse management and in the forefront of knowledge, including that of the many plant introductions flooding into the country.

In the late 1830s he was employed at Chatsworth, possibly through the Chiswick connection, Paxton having been employed there in the 1820s. 1841 census returns place him back in Streatham, as a gardener. He was also involved with horticultural articles for the *Gardening Magazine* and, in 1843, Paxton offered him the post of Superintendent of the Public Park he was designing for Birkenhead. Kemp's work there has been acknowledged as of the highest standard – a fine example of planting choice and design.

Within three years of arriving in Birkenhead Kemp received his first commission – to prepare plans for Carlett Park in Eastham; these plans were never realised. In 1849, he created a rose garden for James Barrett at Lymm Hall. During the next 45 years he is credited with 26 private gardens, four cemeteries and seven parks. Additionally he



published five books, including, in 1850, *How to Lay Out a Small Garden: intended as a general guide in choosing, forming or improving an estate (from a quarter of an acre to thirty acres in extent)*. Included were details of design, planting for specific sites, plans, engravings and notes on features, construction and effects to be obtained. It ran into several editions and was

updated by Waugh in 1911. Most of his commissions were in and around Merseyside, Cheshire and Lancashire.

Describing his early Lymm Hall commission, he says the design was for part of the garden of 'an ancient Elizabethan edifice... evergreens screen off the kitchen garden...' The design includes features and planting – for example, Summer House, garden seats, grass path dividing the rose beds of standard and climbing varieties to be trained up poles and along looped ropes (catenaries) to form festoons. Throughout are engravings to aid clarification including vistas and garden structures. When designing a complete garden, such as that for the Frost family of Chester, there is a complete plan, two adjacent gardens made to appear as one although remaining separate. Some designs are for sections of an established garden; as in the approach drive at Lytham Hall, a terrace at Daylesford House and the American Garden at Knightshead Court, Tiverton. Leighton Hall, Welshpool, commissioned for John Naylor for his rebuilt house, is his sole Welsh garden.

Between 1846 and 1888 he designed seven parks; two of his gardens – Park Place, Frodsham and Pyrigo Park, northeast London – have now become public parks. Additionally there were four cemeteries: St Helens, Anfield, Birkenhead (Flaybrick) and Southport.

Grosvenor Park, Chester, is significant in that, although a public park, it was commissioned and paid for by a private individual – Richard Grosvenor, 2nd Marquess of Westminster. The site, some 20 acres, is on the north bank of the Dee, east of St John's Church. Two avenues form the main structure and at their intersection was placed a statue of the Marquess. The avenues were of lime and holly, planted alternately to create light and shade, colouring and winter interest.

Although Kemp's work at Birkenhead Park and his private commissions must have kept him busily employed, he also published books and wrote for gardening journals, particularly the *Gardeners' Chronicle*.



His articles on the gardens of James Bateman at Biddulph Park were published in book form in 1862.

It is hard to appreciate why such a gifted and knowledgeable man could have lapsed into comparative obscurity. Was he overshadowed by his connection with Paxton? Was it that so many commissions were from 'the huge and rising class of ungentlemen' whose Victorian houses have lost their gardens as they have become commercial institutions or lapsed into multiple ownership? Or was it the new fashion for herbaceous borders and informality championed by William Robinson and Gertrude Jekyll? Who knows? Remnants of his private works remain, to be sought out and appreciated.

SITE LINES

HILARY THOMAS, editor of *Historic Gardens of the Vale of Glamorgan* (WHGT, 2007), offers brief sketches of the gardens visited over the AGM weekend.

PHOTOGRAPH: ROBERT MOORE



COWBRIDGE PHYSIC GARDEN

This garden, now a prestige visitor attraction in the Vale of Glamorgan, was created between 2003 and 2007 out of a neglected, overgrown site in the heart of Cowbridge. It represents a major achievement of the South & Mid Glamorgan Branch of WHGT and its then chairman Dan Clayton Jones who initiated the project and saw it through to completion. Since the eighteenth century, the walled site had been successively part of the gardens of Old Hall, the town residence of the Edmondes family, the kitchen garden of the former Grammar School and a tree nursery of the Local Authority. By 2000 the site had long been abandoned and was an overgrown eyesore; a few years later, after the formation of the Cowbridge Physic Garden Trust, it had been transformed into a formally laid-out 'eighteenth-century' physic garden. The garden contains twelve medicinal beds: each is devoted to a particular medical condition and to plants to which, over the centuries, have been attributed medicinal properties; some have a recognised medicinal value today. Other areas of the garden include a dyebed, a fragrant border and pleached fruit trees, and the whole garden is enhanced by built features such as the central fountain and pavilions.

(www.cowbridgephysicgarden.org.uk)



FONMON CASTLE

Fonmon Castle retains the core of the medieval castle within an elegant eighteenth-century house. The castle is Grade I listed, the site is Grade II. The property has been in the possession of the Jones family and their descendants, the Boothbys, since the seventeenth century and it was Sir Brooke Boothby who was our host. The elegant interior of the house boasts an impressive staircase hall, and a magnificent first-floor drawing room with an outstanding plasterwork ceiling by Thomas Stocking. Walled gardens, including a productive kitchen garden, terraces and informal gardens, surround the house on three sides, while on the east side the land drops steeply down the slopes of a ravine. The tower at the end of the south terrace, long thought to be an angle tower of the medieval castle, is now interpreted as a pseudo-medieval folly erected by Robert Jones in the eighteenth century. The gardens reflect a series of changes over the centuries and also the particular horticultural interests of their owners: the wide variety of fuchsias, for example, is a legacy of the interests of the present owner's grandmother.



DYFFRYN PHOTOGRAPH: VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

DYFFRYN GARDENS

Duffryn (the form of the name favoured historically) is a magnificent Grade I garden and arboretum created by Reginald Cory and Thomas Mawson early in the twentieth century. The collaboration between Cory, wealthy owner of Duffryn and informed horticulturalist, and Thomas Mawson the distinguished landscape architect, produced what has been described as 'the grandest and most outstanding Edwardian gardens in Wales'. Balustraded terraces close to the house, extensive lawns running south and bisected by a formal canal, panel gardens or 'garden rooms' which predate those at Hidcote and Sissinghurst, are among the delights to be explored at Duffryn. In the arboretum are many notable trees surviving from Cory's planting, among them new introductions in his day, and in the gardens there still survive some plants from Duffryn's heyday. Grants from the Heritage Lottery Fund and other sources are now enabling Duffryn to be restored to its Edwardian splendour, with restoration of the kitchen gardens part of the current programme. On June 8, the Vale of Glamorgan Council's Cabinet announced a fifty-year lease of Dyffryn House and Gardens to the National Trust.

(www.dyffryngardens.com)

COEDARHYDYGLYN

The house, built in 1820, probably to the designs of the architect Edward Haycock, stands on the side of a deep valley and commands extensive views to the north over the Ely valley. It was commissioned by the Revd John Montgomery Traherne and replaced the old 'Coedriglan' house a short distance to the west. It stands in the centre of the parkland, which was laid out contemporaneously with the house and has survived virtually intact to the present day. House and parkland together form a picturesque early-nineteenth-century landscape – both the buildings and the site are Grade II* listed. The topography of the site has largely determined the content of the grounds, with woodland predominating. Terraced gardens around the house are laid mainly to lawns. The Dell, a narrow, spring-fed valley to the south of the house, was developed by Llewellyn Edmund Traherne early in the twentieth century as a woodland and water garden with strong Japanese influences; it included some original Japanese features. It was possibly the work of Alfred Parsons & Partners. The woodlands contain notable plantings of rhododendrons and conifers, many of them planted by the present owner's uncle and aunt, Sir Cennydd Traherne and his wife Rowena, who took a keen and knowledgeable interest in the woodlands and who established the cypress garden and the pinetum. Coedarhydyglyn is not usually open to the public.



BEATING RURAL CRIME

Country people are fighting back to stop the rising tide of rural crime, warns Blanche Surman of large rural insurer, NFU Mutual.



Whether it's the recession, tighter security in towns, or the rise in oil, meat and scrap metal prices, country people are feeling the blight of rural crime on their land.

Country people are not taking this onslaught lying down. Across the country a host of new rural security initiatives are springing up involving rural communities and insurers such as NFU Mutual.

Police forces in many counties are waking up to the fact that the countryside is no longer the fondly imagined haven of

times past where front doors could be unlocked overnight and keys left in tractors. In recent months forces including Surrey, Kent, Thames Valley, Lincolnshire, Hampshire and Cumbria have set up new initiatives to beef up their rural presence. To find out what your local police are doing to tackle rural crime, it's worth checking out your local force's website. Some include a section on rural policing with information on local crime trends, security advice and contact details for the officers dealing with your patch.

With more than 300 local branches across the UK countryside, NFU Mutual is part of the fabric of rural life. It provides a personal local service and deals with thousands of rural theft claims every year, giving a snapshot view of crime trends in the countryside.

NFU Mutual's theft claims statistics for home and contents policies reveal that stolen heating oil was the most common crime reported in 2010, followed by jewellery and fence posts.

Outbuildings and sheds were the locations shown to be most at risk of theft, highlighting the need to secure outbuildings where machinery is stored.

With concerns about rural crime increasing in many areas it's a good time to check out your security precautions – and also make sure your insurance cover is up to date. NFU Mutual's website www.nfumutual.co.uk includes detailed advice on security.

For information on NFU Mutual's business, home, and vehicle insurance contact your local NFU Mutual branch or call **0800 197 1283**.



OBITUARY

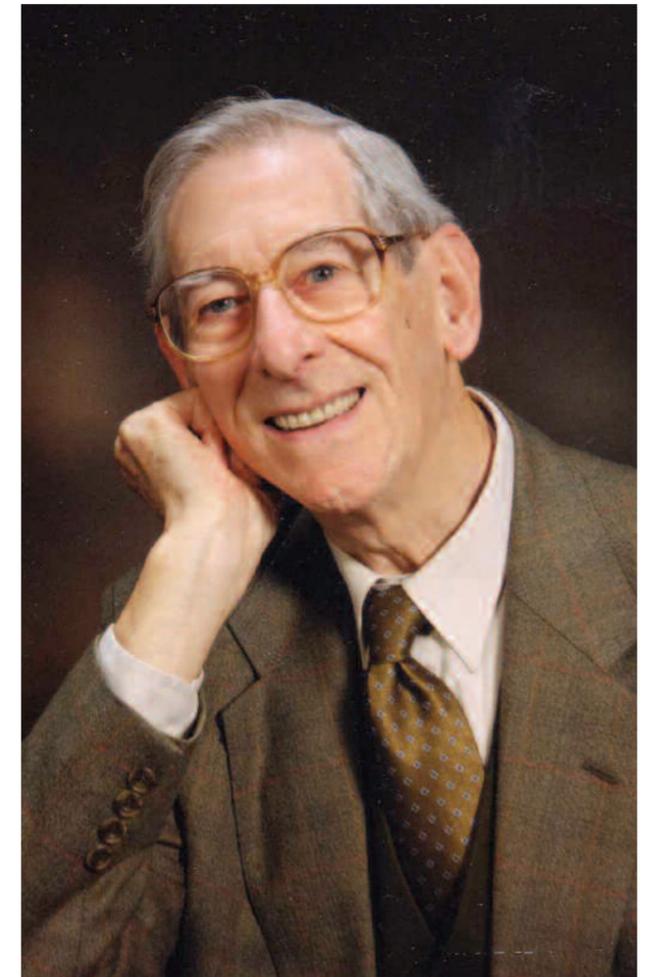
ANNE CARTER celebrates the life of DONALD MOORE, who died on May 1

Donald Moore, who died at the beginning of May at the age of 89, was a founder member and Vice-Chairman of the Trust and for very many years a strong and valued member of the Committee. With his wife, Patricia, WHGT's admirable archivist who died in 2002, he played an immense part in maintaining the Trust's reputation as a scholarly as well as a campaigning body. No one who had the pleasure of sitting on the committee with Donald, will forget that gravel voice cutting, with a mixture of authority and diffidence, into any argument that was getting out of hand.

Donald was diffident in other ways, too. Bettina Harden, writing in *The Bulletin* to congratulate him on being created an MBE in 2003, said that she had failed to spot his name at first, not recognising him as Commander Donald Moore. His naval career was not something he talked about in his other lives. In fact, after war service, first in the Royal Fusiliers and later in the navy as a signalman, then an airman, then an instructor, he spent twenty years with the RNVR and rose to the rank of Commander; he was decorated for his service in 1967. Postwar, his career brought him to the education side of the National Museum of Wales, from where he was seconded for a period as Museums Education Officer in Uganda and later as an adviser in Ghana, Nigeria and Sierra Leone. In 1977, he returned to his university town of Aberystwyth, as Keeper of Pictures and Maps at the National Library. His range of interests was enormous: museums and art galleries, archaeology and landscape studies – he was consulted in all these fields and still found time to write about them. For many years, he even led groups of folk dancers and singers to a festival in Brittany. President of the Cambrian Archaeological Society and Founder Chairman of WHGT's first baby, The Hafod Trust, Donald was also a Gorsedd bard of the National Eisteddfod and, in recent years, a strong supporter of the Penarth Pier Project. His MBE was awarded for 'services to archaeology and Welsh cultural life'. Putting it mildly, I should say.

There seems no better way of commemorating Donald's long and distinguished association with the Trust than to reprint part of a short piece he wrote for *The Bulletin* in the Winter of 1994 about the Cardiganshire mansion of Nanteos. In its combination of brevity and detail, it is typical of his outlook and approach:

'...The house lies at the centre of a long secluded valley, through which runs Nant Paith, supplying water for a large ornamental lake. The house was built in 1793, a rectangular block of three storeys with a basement, its roof hidden behind a parapet. To judge from an engraving of 1808, its appearance has changed little since, apart from two small blocks added to the east side and a portion to the front. The house looks out across landscaped grounds to the rising slope opposite...



'...There is a tree tunnel of old Cherry Laurels (Prunus laurocerasus) with Rhododendrons, known as 'The Lovers' Walk', leading from the mansion to the gatehouse. From there one is drawn towards the lake, with its dense growth of the water lily Nymphaea lutea. An island provides a picturesque refuge for geese. The path continues along the nearer bank of Nant Paith, the water there directed along an artificial channel.

'East of the house the monumental pomp of the neoclassical stable block takes everyone by surprise. The large derelict kitchen garden beyond bears witness to a vanished self-sufficiency and hints at a past bounty of yellow raspberries, tansy and mint. That dreaded foreign invader, Japanese knotweed, has gained a foothold in the further part.

'To the south of the walled garden lies the dogs' graveyard, with 23 stones commemorating mostly hounds of the Nanteos Harriers; they surround a splendid mulberry tree. Nearby stand four Ginkgo trees. Finally, one should mention a tall Cedar of Lebanon. Much hard work will be in store for anyone trying to bring the grounds back to their former glory.'