



Troy House from the Wye Bridge by J. Smith c. 1680-90 shows a double avenue of trees. The collection of the Duke of Beaufort.

Tree Avenues by Glynis Shaw

Last August the National Trust began to survey its tree avenues. The National Trust has some 500 tree avenues in their care. However, many tree avenues are outside the care of the NT and it might be interesting to survey such tree avenues in Wales. Avenues are among the very oldest of landscape features with avenues of stone animals lining the way to the Ming emperor's tombs north of Beijing. In Egypt a two mile avenue of ram headed sphinxes of the god Amun protecting a figure of Ramses II between its paws, links Luxor to the Karnak temple. In Britain the Spanish Chestnut avenue at Croft Castle, Herefordshire, was planted with seeds from the Armada wrecks in 1592 making it one of the oldest tree avenues in Britain.

The earliest tree avenues were formed by marking a way through the forest for riding. An avenue of tall trees in the ancient woodland at Wentwood Forest

near Newport in South Wales is an example of an avenue in the forest environment.

Later, lines of trees were deliberately planted to frame a house and to extend the formal design of the garden into the parkland. These avenues became extremely important in the structure of early landscape design. Troy House near Monmouth, had a new front built in the late seventeenth century for Charles Somerset, Marquis of Worcester, son of Henry the First Duke of Beaufort. Troy was once framed by a double avenue planted between the 1660s and 1706. The painting by J. Smith c. 1720 shows the avenue leading from the main entrance of the house to the confluence of the River Wye and the River Mon - sadly none of these trees survive today.

The term 'avenue' was probably introduced to England by the diarist John Evelyn. As a keen

gardener Evelyn was very impressed by the rows of lime trees he saw planted in Holland and the *alles* of the new landscaping in France where radial rides within sight of the house offered a sense of safety. The *alles* led to specific garden features such as a fountain or statue reflecting the taste and wealth of the owner.

In 1664 Evelyn published 'Sylva'¹ (reprinted 3 times by 1706) advocating the planting of trees. At Sayes Court, Deptford Evelyn developed a garden from the surrounding orchards and pasture where he planted the first double avenue of lime trees in England. Sayes Court became one of the most influential landscapes of its day, visited by the King and Samuel Pepys.

The avenues planted in the 17th and 18th century typically radiate from the house connecting it with the wider landscape. Such avenues and the geometrical plantations of trees reflected the influence of André Le Nôtre who established the French style during the reign of Louis XIV.

King Charles II had seen the new French gardens during his exile and introduced a huge formal scheme at St. James Park, London in 1661 designed by the French designer André Mollet. Son of Claude Mollet (the first gardener to three French kings), André published *Le Jardin Plaisir* (1651) in which the ornamental function of the garden was more important than any utilitarian consideration. His scheme, dominated by a canal lined with tree avenues so delighted the king that he then had Hampton Court also designed in the French style. Evelyn wrote in his journal:

*"formerly a flat, naked piece of Ground, now planted with sweete rows of limetrees, and the Canale for Water neere perfected"*²

After William and Mary came to the throne the Dutch style became fashionable and avenues were planted all over the country leading to the development of tree nurseries such as Brompton Park in London. Evelyn advocated self-sufficiency of this trade as the majority of park trees were imported from Holland to meet the demand. Deer parks shown on the John Speed maps as enclosures apart from the house were gradually turned into parkland surrounding the house connected by avenues. The avenues led the eye to the extremes of the property, extending the views. King Charles developed the Long Walk from 1680-85 by connecting the castle to Windsor forest creating a 2.65 mile double avenue. The original planting comprised 1,652 elm trees. Queen Anne added the central carriage way in 1710. This has since been replanted with horse chestnut and London plane trees.

Many lime avenues were planted in the 17th and 18th centuries. The rarer large leafed lime *Tilia platyphyllos* is native to the Wye valley and S. Yorkshire and the small leafed lime *Tilia cordata* native to England and Wales. These crossed give the naturally occurring hybrid the Common lime, *Tilia x europaea*. This, the tallest broad leaved tree in Britain, was widely introduced to parks as an ornamental feature or in avenues. The double lime avenue at Clumber Park in Nottinghamshire is said to be the longest in Europe at over 2 miles. It was



Lime avenue at Soughton Hall planted c.1732 © Glynis Shaw



Monkey-puzzle avenue at Hafodunos © Glynis Shaw

planted in about 1840 with 1,296 common lime trees.

Soughton Hall, Northop, in Flintshire has an ancient lime avenue planted after 1732 by John Wynn, Bishop of St. Asaph. It is thought to have once been a double avenue and planted as a decorative feature south of the house when the main approach was from the west. Through marriage Soughton was later owned by the Bankes family. The celebrated beech avenue at Kingston Lacy, Dorset, was planted in 1835 by William John Bankes. The 730 trees were a gift to his mother Frances (originally 365 on each side of the 2 mile avenue one for each day of the year). Due to years of neglect and disease these are currently being replaced by hornbeams.

An unusual avenue of myrtles as well as avenues of redwoods and oaks can be found at Picton Castle near Haverfordwest in the stunning woodland landscape developed over several generations by the Philipps family.

Ancient tree avenues are both rare and vulnerable. At Barrington Court last February the remaining trees from a 68 horse chestnut avenue were felled due to bleeding canker, an infection of the bark of horse chestnut by the bacterium *Pseudomonas syringae* pv *aesculi* and several species of the fungus-like micro-organism *Phytophthora*.

After months of campaigning, the Clwyd WHGT was delighted when an Area Tree Preservation Order (TPO) was applied to the avenues at Wynnstay. The Wynnstay entrance avenue is sketched on the cover of *'A Pocket Book of Mapps of Demesne Land belonging to Sir Watkin Williams Wynn Baronet 1741'*³. Sir John Wynn, who died in 1719, planted the Wynnstay avenues, probably at

the same time as the development of the long formal canal which is recorded in 1693/94 in a letter from Richard Mostyn to Edward Lhuyd. Wynnstay has two surviving ancient avenues: much of the diagonal avenue running south-east across the park from the Ruabon gate and part of the double avenue flanking the entrance drive north of the house. These avenues are now in divided ownership and require intelligent management. They include an interesting mix of species: oaks, horse chestnut, sweet chestnut, sycamore and lime. A recent stables development on the east of the diagonal avenue has been disastrous, with the horses causing untold damage resulting in significant tree losses. It remains to be seen whether the Area TPO can protect the remaining trees.

Avenues continued to be popular in the nineteenth century when many were planted with exotic species. The first Monkey-puzzle avenue was planted at Bicton in 1843-4, under the direction of James Veitch the tree expert of the famous Exeter nursery. James Bateman planted an avenue at Biddulph Grange, Staffordshire, with alternating Wellingtonia and Monkey-puzzle trees. At Hafodunos, Conwy, there are two notable avenues of Monkey-puzzles. These extraordinary features in the Welsh landscape are one of the most significant survivals of the Victorian plantings at Hafodunos which once had over 1,200 indigenous and exotic plants.

At Bryngarw Park, Bridgend, the Coed Kensington woodland at the north of the park is bordered on the west by a beech avenue of 21 trees. These are said to have been planted in 1837 on the occasion of Queen Victoria's 21st birthday and coronation.

Paul Mason, editor of the Clwyd Historian, has

researched the remnants of a lime avenue in Gwernymynydd near Mold³. A line of 13 trees are all that now remain of the 40 shown on the Tithe map belonging to a small estate called Fron Haul which features on the John Evans map of 1795 and is mentioned in Pennant's Tours of Wales. Throughout Wales there are similar surviving trees of former avenues and lost landscapes. All planting is transitory and many avenues marked on the Tithe maps have long since disappeared. The loss of veteran trees is irreversible and when this impacts an avenue then the historic landscape is lost.

There is some debate concerning best practice for restoration and conservation of historic avenues. Conservation must take account of species, type, and the intrinsic proportions and structure of the avenue. However, the conflicts between maintaining the original trees and maintaining the original landscape design are difficult to reconcile.

Respecting the historic landscape means living with over-mature trees and increasing gaps and then replanting the entire avenue maintaining tree size and uniformity. The loss of structure of a damaged avenue fails visually and over a prolonged period will affect the commercial interests of some sites.

Landscape historian Professor Oliver Rackham is against grubbing up avenues as they become uneven. Rackham believes they should decay naturally and that the historic landscape they form should be respected. This was also the view of Sam Youd head gardener of Tatton when he visited the Wynnstay avenues.

Replanting gaps as they appear in the avenue maintains the position of the avenue but the historic uniformity of size and shape of the trees is lost diminishing its visual and aesthetic impact.

Sometimes a parallel planting on each side of the avenue is carried out to take over when the original avenue has died out but this destroys the original proportions and width of the avenue spoiling the original design of the landscape.

Established avenues are often important wildlife corridors linking to other areas of the estate. The biodiversity value of veteran avenue trees is enormous and in many cases the fallen trees should not be removed.

Replanting of appropriate trees is very important and the NT have started a lime nursery at Dunham Massey in Cheshire, cloning from the country's best lime trees.

Avenues continue to play a role in our culture. Kate

Middleton had an avenue of trees in Westminster Abbey for her wedding to Prince William last year comprising eight 20ft high trees including 2 hornbeams and 6 field maples, all replanted at Prince Charles's Highgrove estate. The avenue symbolized a strong and enduring love - the field maples symbolise reserve and humility and the hornbeams represent resilience.

Perhaps new avenues will be planted in the Jubilee year and the tradition of this important landscape feature will continue. However, ancient avenues are rare and even those in a Grade I landscape are generally unprotected. Until listed landscapes have statutory protection all heritage landscape features, including avenues, remain vulnerable.

1. EVELYN, J. "The diary of John Evelyn", edited by E. S. de Beer, Vol III, p324 (Oxford, 1955).
2. A Pocket Book of Mapps of Demesne Land belonging to Sir Watkin Williams Wynn (c.1740), by Thomas Badeslade. Privately owned. Photocopy: Clwyd Record Office, NTD/176.
3. Clwyd Historian No.58 Spring 2008 'The Limes of Fron Hall, near Mold' Paul F. Mason p14.

Donald Pigott former Director of the Cambridge botanic garden will be publishing 'Lime-Trees and Basswoods: A Biological Monograph of the Genus Tilia' in the Spring.

Thanks to Helena Gerrish and Dr. Ann Benson for information on Troy House.

Golden Grove (Gelli Aur)

Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire - Plans by The Healing The Wounds charity to develop a convalescent home for wounded soldiers have been dropped as the renovation costs were too high. The property has now been secured by the Golden Grove Trust who want to restore the buildings and grounds for a contemporary art gallery and a sculpture park.

Gregynog Hall

nr Caersws, Powys - An extremely rare lichen was discovered last autumn for the first time in Wales. The lichen *Enterographa sorediata* was found by experts from the environmental charity Plantlife International in the 'Great Wood' at Gregynog. For anyone interested in lichens, Wales is of global importance. The Gregynog Great Wood, an SSSI of international importance, is an example of wood-pasture with ancient trees. These ancient trees provide a habitat for 130 species of lichen and 18 rare species of invertebrate fauna associated with dead wood and decay.

National AGM Brynkinalt



Chirk, Wrexham LL14 5NS

June 16th 10.00 am
Steven Desmond - will give a talk on
The Arts & Crafts House and Gardens

The AGM is kindly hosted by Iain and Kate Hill Trevor. The Trevor family have been associated with Brynkinalt since 924, over a thousand years! The present house built in 1619 is said to be the work of Inigo Jones, later enlarged by the 2nd Viscount Dungannon. Charlotte, Viscountess Dungannon, was substantially involved in the re-modelling of the house and the layout of the grounds. You will be see her fine conservatory and there will be an opportunity to explore the gardens and parkland including the walled gardens that Kate and Iain plan to restore.

Could YOU be a Trustee?

At the AGM in June the Trust needs to elect some new Trustees to serve alongside the Officers of the Trust and the Branch Representatives.

Trustees are appointed for up to three years when they become eligible for re-election.

WHGT is a small Trust doing its best to influence some very big decisions. We need to have a greater impact on the planning process and in opposing or ameliorating changes damaging to historic parks and gardens. Particularly valuable would be Trustees who can bring expertise in areas including law, landscape design, garden history, information technology and office management. Knowledge of the working of the National Assembly for Wales would also be very welcome.

WHGT is campaigning to become a Statutory Consultee and thereby increase its ability to protect the heritage landscapes of Wales. Trustees attend National committee meetings 4 times a year. Those wishing to contribute to the WHGT and who are prepared to be nominated as a Trustee should send a brief CV (under 300 words) by March 16th to:

The Company Secretary Jennie Macve
The Bothy, Aberglasney, Llangathen, SA32 8QH

jennie.macve@btinternet.com 01970 626180

Pantglas and Pool Park at Risk

Two rural listed landscapes are now threatened by intensive suburban development.

Pantglas nr. Llandeilo, Camarthenshire, once the largest house in S Wales, became an asylum in the 1960s. After a fire much of its building material was removed by a developer to a site in England. The Grade II landscape is the setting of three listed structures; a tower, the only surviving feature of the house, a bridge and the utility courtyard. Tommy Li of Maxhard Ltd proposes a Chinese tourist village with a 92 bedroom hotel built around the Pantglas tower, an estate of 80 large five bedroomed detached houses (200-300 sq.m), a 3 storey car park, 10 shops and a swimming pool. This development disregards the heritage features of the designed landscape, impacting both the Victorian terracing and mature trees.

Many are appalled by the prospect of a development so entirely out of scale and character and in extreme bad taste. The proposed house designs are bewildering eyesores in a collage of styles.

Pool Park outside Ruthin, an ancient deer park once home of the Salusbury family, became the Bagot's country seat. Rebuilt in 1828, the grounds were landscaped in the Picturesque style incorporating earlier features. In 1934 Pool Park was bought by the District Health Authority to alleviate crowding at Denbigh hospital. The former home to 87 patients was sold in 1992 to a developer and has since been abandoned. The owner now claims that only an 'Enabling development' can save the derelict house. A retirement village of 68 housing units with 2 apartment blocks on the Grade II listed landscape will impact an ancient mount, intrude into the walled garden and the estate drives are to be turned into roads with pavements for terraced housing. Both schemes are contrary to the Welsh Government's key policy (PPG13) objective of locating developments so as to minimise the demand for travel by car. The 'sense of place' of these special landscapes needs to be protected.

Anne Evans

and her garden at Highmead, 1778-1807 by Jean Reader

Locating women in official records of the past is challenging because, until the Married Women's Property Act of 1884, any wealth a woman accrued became the property of her husband. Even when a wife made all the decisions in a garden, it was her husband's name which appeared in bills, tradesmen's books and estate accounts, all important sources of information for research on historic gardens. Literate women kept diaries and were often regular correspondents but such sources are still much more difficult to locate than those of men who were politically or socially active. The records left by Anne Evans (c.1738 - 1807) of Highmead in Ceredigion are consequently of great interest because they reflect not only the financial acumen of the writer but also offer a snapshot of an estate in the late eighteenth century.

Anne Evans was born in Pembrokeshire, the eldest child in a clergy family. In 1759 she married Herbert Evans, a squire with an estate in the Llanwenog district of Cardiganshire. In 1777 the couple built Highmead, a mansion on the north bank of the River Teifi with commanding views of the Carmarthenshire hills¹. Herbert Evans became Sheriff of Cardiganshire in 1782 but died at the age of forty-three in 1787.

Anne's notes, which commence in 1778, provide a record of the activities undertaken to develop the land around her new house and offer an important source of information on the range of crops grown and the costs of their production². Whilst she might have aspired to an elegant pleasure garden, the vast quantity of seed sown and produce harvested (including potatoes, turnips, asparagus, peas, beans, parsley, cucumbers, cauliflowers beans, endive, peas, onions, leeks, carrots and celery) suggest that her main interest may have been in food production.

The records offer detailed information on expenditure on the garden and on staff matters. For instance:

*P[ai]d Reynolds for seed £1 2s. for three daies work. That is he came here about 12 o'clock worked that day, the following he worked the whool day till one o'clock. Ye 3rd day charged 5 for his work which with the seeds comes to £1-7s-0d. [...] the Old Gardener came here. He is to have 3d. per day and his Board.*³

Any propensity to overcharge was noted:

'he came here by noon the day before so that I suppose he will think it right to charge two Daies'.⁴ Good work was acknowledged: 'David Warallt has done more in the Garden by ye 12th November than any Gardener that has been here yet, better celery and a greater plenty of every kind of garden stuff never was produced here by any gardener'.⁵

Women were employed:

'David Evan Gwithe's wife and sister weed all the garden borders & all in 5 daies each which comes to 3s. 4d. The women are to come another day to weed the raspberries and to rub of all the young buds which sprout improperly upon the forest trees'.⁶

Payments to staff make an interesting contrast with the price of seed. In 1781 Anne

'sow'd two ounces of Abberdeen Cabbage. I fear it is rather late. Could not get the seed sooner. These were had from Carmarthen 4d. per ounce. Reynolds charges 9d. pr ounce for his'.⁷

The following year she

'bought 200 Early Cabbage plants at Lampiter 6d. per hundred'.⁸

Aberdeen cabbage had dark green leaves with a purple heart, the sort of plant that might be seen today in a potager-style vegetable garden. Anne may have selected the variety for its appearance but it is much more likely that she had sought out a variety that would thrive at Highmead.

Anne was anxious to grow tender crops and experimented as she went along, on one occasion finding cauliflower plants in the frame looking

'very poor ... run into long stalks owing ... to David's keeping them to close covered. The frame I think should not be kept covered with anything but the Glass unless it should happen to be frosty weather, air given to them every day that the weather is fine'.⁹

The following year she remarked that severe frosts had destroyed

'almost all [except those] under the frame'.¹⁰

There are constant references to the storing of seed:

'David has saved a great quantity of peas, Beans and Kidney Beans for seed & [...] about a peck of passly [parsley] seed'.¹¹

Unless, as in the case of turnips, excesses could be fed to animals, Anne aimed to limit production:

*'Set 5 rows of green Grove Pease in ye garden for seed, they are an excellent boiling Pea for puddens or soups. Set no beans with this crop ... but one row of Beans with either Crops, set two years last year with each Crop which proved a great deal more than was wanted.'*¹²

Anne regularly exchanged plants with others:

'Planted a row of Hartichokes. Ye same day sent a parcel of slips to Peterwell. Had a root of Larentinas¹³ from thence which was planted the same evening'.¹⁴

In 1779 she

*'gave 36 ropes of onion to different people'*¹⁵

and, when

'Mr Lloyd begun to plant the Hill opposite the Alltyrodin House. I sent 400 Oaks 300 Ash and 200 Elm Trees'.¹⁶

Richard Fenton summed up her achievements when he described Highmead as

'her beautiful plantation'.¹⁷

She had cultivated the land and established a remarkable system for managing it. In 1810, three years after her death, Samuel Meyrick described Anne Evans as

'though a lady, her agricultural knowledge and practice far exceeds that of any man in the county'.¹⁸

It is how she would like to have been remembered.

Notes:

1. Highmead, sometimes known as 'Dolaubach', is situated south-west of Llanybydder. Grid ref.: OS Landranger Map sheet: 146; SN 52173 43934. It remained in the ownership of the Evans family for many years but has been in institutional use for at least half a century and is currently occupied by the European College for Islamic Studies.
2. There are extensive records of the Highmead Estate covering the period 1548-1916 at the National Library

of Wales (NLW). Anne Evans kept detailed records of all aspects of the management of the estate which are located at NLW, Highmead Box 1, Item 30. Records referring to the garden are in folios 186-199. Anne did not number the pages in her records. It appears that she started off by recording her gardening activities in date order but then interspersed these with comments and updates on subsequent events. Citations below therefore refer to the folio numbers inserted on to each page by cataloguers at NLW, which do not necessarily reflect the date order. Anne's spelling, punctuation and grammatical constructions have been retained in the extracts used. The earliest illustrations and maps of the estate that have been located to date come from the late nineteenth century, a century after Anne was at Highmead.

3. Folio 187, 2 May 1778 and June 16 1778.
4. Folio 191, 18 May 1780.
5. Folio 189, 12 November 1779.
6. Folio 193, 20 July 1784.
7. Folio 192, 9 April 1781.
8. Folio 193, 19 April 1782.
9. Folio 187, 1 March 1779.
10. Folio 189, Memorandum inserted March 1780.
11. Folio 188, 11 September 1779.
12. Folio 190, 18 April 1780.
13. Laurustinus is now classified as Viburnum tinus.
14. Folio 192, 26 April 1781.
15. Folios 188 and 199, 20 September 1779. and 3 March 1801.
16. Folio 186, 14 November 1794.
17. Richard Fenton, *Tours in Wales*, first published in 1804. CD rom: Richard Fenton, *Tours in Wales* (Felingwm Uchaf: ART Designs, 2005), p.27 of 417.
18. Samuel Meyrick, *History and Antiquities*, p.193. 1810.

Further reading:

1. The garden at Highmead is described in *Historic Parks and Gardens of Ceredigion*, published by the Ceredigion branch of WHGT in 2006.
2. An account of the way Anne ran the dairy at Highmead is to be found in: B.G. Charles, 'The Highmead Dairy (1778-97)', *Ceredigion, The Journal of the Cardiganshire Antiquarian Society*, Vol. V, No.1, 1964.

Jean Reader is the Chairman of the South & Mid Glamorgan Branch of the WHGT. She has recently been awarded a Ph.D from the University of Bristol. Jean's thesis is entitled *Stark Mad with Gardens: Women Gardeners in Wales, 1750-1860*.

Welsh Pioneer Gardens of the National Gardens Scheme

In 1927 gardens of quality and interest were opened to the public for a shilling a head in support of the Queen's Nursing Institute (QNI). The 609 gardens which opened in the first year raised over £8,000 and were the pioneer gardens. The scheme soon expanded and in 1931 *Country Life* magazine produced the 'Yellow Book' featuring over 1,000 gardens. In 1980 Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother became the Patron of the The National Garden Scheme Charitable Trust and from that time owners could nominate charities of their choice to benefit from a share of the money raised at their garden opening. Today the Patron is HRH the Prince of Wales with the scheme involving more than 3,500 gardens across England and Wales raising over £2.5 million. Since 1927 almost £40 million has been raised.

The Welsh Pioneers opening as part of this year's 85th anniversary celebrations include:

**Dewstow Gardens & Grottoes, Gwent; High Glanau Manor, Gwent;
Erddig Hall, Wrexham; Caer Beris Manor Hotel, Powys.**

1927 - 2012: Eighty Five Years of Gardening and Giving.

Planning to Save Historic Landscapes Seminar



“Tree surgery” at Wynnstay © Richard Sumner

This seminar was a collaborative event, to share best practice in relation to saving heritage landscapes. Local Authorities and their planning and conservation officers are key to promoting the enjoyment, protection and management of the historic environment. The pressures for development and the limited financial resources for conservation make saving the heritage landscape a supreme challenge.

Over 30 delegates, mainly from the North Wales Local Authorities, attended the seminar at Glyndwr University, Wrexham. They showed great commitment and resolve to save and conserve the historic parks and gardens of Wales.

The morning was chaired by Joanna Davies, Chairman of the Gwynedd branch, who introduced Ros Laidlaw, the WHGT Planning Coordinator on Conservation. Ros outlined the planning procedures concerning listed parks and garden landscapes and the current conservation law in Planning Policy Wales (PPW). Ros’s detailed and informative talk was a great credit to the WHGT. Richard Sumner, a landscape architect working for Wrexham Borough Council, was the second speaker. Richard presented the LA perspective in relation to the conservation of heritage landscapes in multi ownership. Richard bravely based his talk on Wynnstay, a Grade I landscape in Ruabon and the former seat of the Williams Wynn family. There has been a gradual erosion of its landscape quality since the family sold the property to Lindisfarne College. In 1990 when the school went bankrupt Wynnstay was sold to property developers who

have failed to appreciate this special landscape. There have now been 73 planning applications concerning Wynnstay giving rise to many problems including rubbish management, fencing, tree management and parking. The image of the dumper truck dragging a branch off a veteran tree was indicative of the poor tree management at Wynnstay in recent times.

Currently there are some 68 shareholders at Wynnstay, in the mansion, the stables and the many outbuildings. The parkland and the Pleasure Ground, Capability Brown’s last work, have been divided up and the lake sold for a carp fishing enterprise. The LA struggles to negotiate with the many different parties of this fragmented site who have no common interest in the landscape.

The morning programme allowed for discussion and questions before breaking for lunch. The afternoon speaker Simon Bonvoisin was introduced by Glynis Shaw, Chairman of Clwyd. Simon heads the historic landscape maintenance and management team at Nicholas Pearson Associates Ltd. His talk ‘Gardens on the brink’ referenced a remarkable portfolio of Welsh landscapes. Simon began with Horsely Hall (1875), Gresford near Wrexham, once the largest private house in Wales. The Edwardian garden laid out by G. H. Kitchen is now over the brink. A proposed housing scheme was refused by the LA - partly due to a lack of trust as the applicant had already removed the dovecote to another property. Castell Deudraeth, described by Clough as *“the largest and most imposing single building on the Portmeirion estate”* was long neglected. After a

virtual rebuild the Castell together with its Victorian walled garden and planting was brought back from the brink and opened in 2001 as a hotel and restaurant 70 years after Clough bought it.

Wern Manor, an Edwardian mansion outside Porthmadog was a failed care home and the subject of a planning inquiry. Wern has since been converted for holiday lets and the grounds are now saved and maintained as communal gardens.

Broglyntyn, NW of Oswestry in Shropshire, one of the *taŷr uchelwyr* (houses of the gentry) in late medieval Wales and property of the kingdom of Powys, was developed into a mansion in 1804 from existing buildings. Later extensions were added to this ancestral home of Lord Harlech and it was in institutional use until 1990. From 1995 the property stood empty and was sold to property developers in 2005. In 2010 the landscape and buildings were incorporated into a Conservation Area with the estate village Pant Glas to preserve the functional relationship between the neoclassical mansion and

the vernacular homes of those who worked there. This may help to protect the Brogyntyn landscape. The solutions for saving historic landscapes were varied and imaginative.

The conclusions and recommendations which followed included requests for WHGT collaboration and assistance with Conservation Management plans and enabling developments.

The outstanding success of this event was due to the planning and organization of Olive Horsfall and the quality of the speakers. The evaluation forms completed by many who attended were all extremely positive. Liz Wood (Conwy CBC) commented that the event was

'very good value making it affordable and accessible for LA officers'.

There were numerous requests for the Clwyd and Gwynedd branches to organize future planning seminars.

Good Planning needs Active Enforcement

A case study in Ceredigion by Caroline Palmer

Thousands of Aberystwyth university students daily troop up and down Penglais Hill to the campus which overlooks the town. It is understandable that an open site half way down should have been identified as a location for a much needed crèche and Health Centre. The Ceredigion WHGT wished to mitigate the impact of this development, as the area is within the essential setting of a listed garden. The Grade II Penglais mansion which is the official residence of the Vice Chancellor, stands on the other side of a very attractive dingle with a fast flowing stream. The skeleton of the mid 20th century arboretum and botanical order beds remains with the mature plantings and ornamental bridges laid out by Anna Corbetta Richardes and her children in 1844. Lawns and choice shrubs complete the scene.

The essential setting, maintained as occasional pasture, contained a considerable number of trees planted by the University, some native, others exotica such as the Japanese cherries and a rare *Pterostyrax hispida* (the Epaulette tree). Most distinctive was a substantial grove of Monterey pines, planted in the 1960s, forming a strong feature on the skyline and a shelter belt for the beeches and limes and other 19th century trees in the dingle below.

Outline planning was granted in 2005 and the consultative process was meticulously applied.

A full tree survey was carried out by an arboricul-

turalist from the firm of Capita Symonds of Colwyn Bay. The proposed tree removals were considered by the WHGT and other amenity groups such as GAG (the Greener Aberystwyth Group) leading to certain individual trees being reprieved.

Detailed plans were drawn up for two buildings, the crèche and Health Centre with associated parking. A landscape and planting plan was produced by Landscape Architect Julie Barr of Tirlun Barr Associates, informed by WHGT comments, to ensure the best way of accommodating the development within the landscape.

The result, on paper, was a thoughtful compromise where half the trees were to be felled and the buildings were fitted in amongst the remaining trees. In keeping with the woodland edge to the dingle, parking was designed in informal groups set amongst the retained trees, and under the Monterey Pines. When full Planning Permission was granted in August 2008, the planning officers could rightly feel their work had been thorough. Of the 19 Conditions, 6 related to the protection of the landscape character and protection of the retained trees. The developer was to notify the Planning Officer in writing of any proposed variation to the plan.

What happened on the ground was distressingly different. Once the site boundary fences went up the ground works were not easily viewed. When the tree felling began it was apparent that the trees

marked for removal were being felled. At the end of the day neighbours came to terms with the changes to their view. However the next day the chainsaws were back. On the site manager's instructions, it is said, the retained trees, with very few exceptions, followed the earlier, legitimate, tranche of felling. The handsome Monterey pines, intended to form a punctuation within the landscape, were soon down and with extraordinary efficiency the stumps themselves were immediately dug out, leaving the extent of the losses a matter only for documentary debate. Various neighbours and organizations made urgent phone calls to the Planning Office on that fateful Friday, but Friday is not a good day for interventions, and by the evening the trees were gone. Feelings of woe and indignation were aired in the *The Cambrian News*.

Ceredigion has no Conservation Officer, and only one Enforcement Officer and for some periods of time even that post has stood unfilled.

The buildings are now shortly to be occupied. The developer was served a "Breach of Condition" notice and instructed to get a new landscape plan drawn up by Tirlun Barr. WHGT were invited to a site meeting to consider the new landscape plan, where the Planning Officer and developer's manager were eager to take account of suggestions of species to be planted. All very civilized, but we felt that we were being used to endorse something which should never have happened.

The footprints of the buildings do not correspond with the approved plans, the trees are gone, the landscaping now calls for unsightly gabions and the parking is no longer informally spaced among the trees but a suburban ribbon of spaces adjoining the road.



Trees felled in breach of the Planning consent made the site easier to develop. © Laurie Wright

The levels on the original survey were apparently not correct, so all these variations sprang from the difficulties of installing drainage and footings on an imperfectly surveyed sloping site. Where the footings and drainage is laid, the building follows. WHGT called upon the enforcement officer to take punitive action, but this is not to be. To quote his letter:

'The Authority is mindful of the advice contained within Planning Policy Wales that

"the intention should be to remedy the effects of the breach of planning control not to punish the persons responsible for the breach".

Whilst of course this action does not secure the replacement of the mature trees which were lost, realistically this would not be achievable and it was considered that their replacement with a reasonable revised landscaping scheme would be the most appropriate course of action even though this may not meet your requirements.'

The site manager who ordered the unauthorised felling saved a great deal of money for his firm. It is much easier installing drainage and foundations on a difficult sloping site without having a whole lot of trees in the way.

I've been reading the enforcement policies for Ceredigion and neighbouring counties on their respective websites. The draft enforcement document for Ceredigion specifically states that enforcement of planning is "*Complaints led.*" Only if a member of the public, or an organization such as ours, spots a deviation from the plans will action be considered; then it will seek to accommodate the breach that has occurred, and to work with it. How can the public monitor what is going on behind a tall site boundary fence?

Powys seems to take a firmer line than Ceredigion, by specifically making it a responsibility of their own staff to report planning infringements to the enforcement team. Conwy, I learnt at the Planning Seminar, has a team of 3½ enforcement officers. Ceredigion has only one - or even less.

Unless the Conditions of planning permission can be enforced they are not worth the paper they are written on. This is a great shame as a great deal of time and expertise went in to negotiating the agreed plan.

Pity they did not have to adhere to it!

Chairman's Remarks

I was delighted by the very enthusiastic response I received to Trafodion and I thank Bettina Harden for producing an attractive and intriguing publication. The next issue of Trafodion will appear in late autumn of this year and will continue some of the research begun in the first issue.

I am now pleased to introduce the new editor of The Bulletin, Glynis Shaw. As the energetic and innovative Chairman of our Clwyd Branch she will be well known to you all. For many years she has produced an extremely interesting Branch Newsletter and I have no doubt her editorship will ensure The Bulletin continues to provide both entertainment and rigorous historical analysis.

This year will see a decision taken on the planning application at Pantglas, Carmarthenshire. The Pantglas application emphasises the difficult issues facing both the Trust and historic landscapes in Wales, with the evident conflict between the Trust's desire to save an important listed garden and the economic pressures outlined by many of those who support the application. Sadly, in these gloomy economic conditions the pressure of the latter will be unrelenting but WHGT will continue to fulfill our fundamental duty to protect such sites.

My best wishes to you all and may I urge you all to become as active as possible in the Trust's events and activities. I look forward to meeting you at Bodnant for what promises to be a most enjoyable Study Day.

Gwyneth Hayward
Chairman



New Editor: Glynis Shaw
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Welcome to the 2012 WHGT Bulletin. Many thanks to all contributors and everyone who has helped with this issue. Anyone with ideas or suggestions for future Bulletins please get in touch at any time.

Members happy to receive the Bulletin as an electronic edition please send me your email address - this will save postage and paper and enable the WHGT to transition to a green economy - surely desirable for any conservation organization.

Canopied with Bowers



Bodnant pergola under restoration © Glynis Shaw

Study day Saturday April 28th 10.00 am

Pergolas, Arches and Bowers

At **Bodnant Welsh Food**, Furnace Farm LL28 5RP

This is the inaugural event at Bodnant Welsh Food Centre in the newly restored range of 18th century buildings east of the A470, between Glan Conwy and Llanwrst, 3 miles south of Glan Conwy.

Speakers:

Linda Farrer on pergolas of ancient Rome.

Jan Woudstra on bowers, *berceaux* and cradle walks.

Troy Smith on Bodnant garden.

There is also a guided tour of Bodnant garden.

£35, non members £40 (Coffee and lunch included).

Bookings: Please send a cheque made out to WHGT with contact details by April 14th to **Joy Neal** at:

Llwyncelyn, Glandyfi, Machynlleth, SY20 8SS

Please indicate any NT or RHS membership.

Online bookings at: www.whgt.org.uk

For further details contact Joy Neal:

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Branch events

Ceredigion

March 3rd AGM 2.00 at Waun Fawr Community Hall, Aberystwyth followed by a lecture 'Cattleyas, Cucumbers (and Courting) Growing under Glass: the 1897 Diary of Thomas Northwood, a Gogerddan Gardener' by Penny David.

May 23rd 2.00pm A repeat visit to the gardens of Glandyfi Castle. £5

July 22nd, 2.00 Tea in Nanteos Walled Garden. £10
September 12, Gardens of the Lower Teifi valley. TBA

Penny David for further details

lady.fern@virgin.net

01570 422041

Clwyd

Mid Feb to mid March Dolhyfryd, Lawnt, Denbigh. Crocus display. Turn up on a sunny day and see the purple meadows along the drive resulting from 100 bulbs planted in 1840.

March 10th AGM 10.30 at Gladstone Library, Hawarden. Talk 11.00 by Sam Youd from Tatton Park "Restoring the Kitchen Garden". £6, £8 non members

April 18th Visit Conwy Valley gardens: Gwydir 10.00 for coffee and pm Maenan Hall. (Joint branch visit with Gwynedd) £15 for for Garden entrances.

May 24 Tea at Bryn Eisteddfod, Glan Conwy 2.30pm £5

June 15th Drinks and canapés at Wynnstay £8 members, non-members £10 (proceeds for Wynnstay trees).

June 16th AGM 10.00 Brynkinalt, Chirk. Talk by Steven Desmond on Arts & Crafts gardens, garden tour. £22 (2For1 ticket for 15th & 16th AGM £25)

July 21st visit to Caerau Uchaf, Sarnau, Bala, LL23 7LG The hill garden at over 1,000 ft is owned by Stephanie and Toby Hickish who have designed RHS award winning show gardens.

Glynis Shaw for further details

glynis@castell-photography.co.uk 01745 710261

Monmouthshire and Gwent

March 8th AGM 7.00pm at Llanover House, Llanover, Nr Abergavenny, NP7 9EF followed by a lecture on Harold Peto by Robin Whalley.

May 15th Visit to Wayford Manor Somerset 11.00am and Iford Manor Wiltshire 3.00pm. £20 includes entrances and a light lunch.

September 27th 7.00pm 'The Historic Gardens of Herefordshire' by Dr Jane Bradney at Longhouse Farm, Penrhos, Raglan, NP15 2DE £15 including buffet supper.

Merilyn Anderson for further details

m.anderson666@btinternet.com 01600 780389

Gwynedd

March 22nd AGM, Caethro Community Hall, followed by a visit to Parc y Dre, Caernarfon.

April 18th Conwy Valley Gardens; meet at Gwydir Castle 10.30 for coffee, pm Maenan Hall £15 (includes garden entry fees not lunch).

May 5th Plant Fair at Crûg Farm, Griffiths Crossing, Caernarfon. Specialist Nurseries, grounds and walled garden are open. Refreshments available £3 includes car park.

May 15th Coach visit to Cerdigion to visit Llwynycelyn and Glandyfi Castle.

June 8th Garden Party at Tan y Felin Wen.

July 9th – 11th coach tour to the Gardens of Gloucestershire including Kiftsgate Court, Painswick Rococo Garden, Hidcote House and Highgrove if possible. Cost to be decided.

Olive Horsfall for further details

oandmhorsfall@btinternet.com 01766 780187

South and Mid Glamorgan

April 1st 2.30 -4.30 AGM followed by a talk on Henry Avray Tipping and health and happiness in Rhiwbina Garden Village by Helena Gerrish. Beulah United Reformed Church Beulah Rd, Rhiwbina, Cardiff, South Glamorgan CF14 6LT (ST160810)

May 17th Bristol Botanic Gardens and Goldney Gardens (with its famous grotto) with lunch at Emmaus House, Clifton £30 per head including bus travel from Cardiff.

July 14th Visit to Hafod Estate, near Aberystwyth led by Ken Murphy of Dyfed Archaeology Trust.

September 29th Wine tasting at Glyndwr Vineyard, near Cowbridge.

Val Caple for further details

val.t.caple@care4free.net

West Glamorgan

March 8th 2.00 AGM and 'The History of Chatsworth Gardens' by Judy Coggins. St Paul's Parish Centre, de la Beche Rd, Sketty, Swansea. £3 includes tea.

March 20th 6.45 'Women and Medieval Gardens' by Ann Gardner. Forge Fach Community Centre, Hebron Rd, Clydach £3 including tea.

April 26th 2.00 People for Parks Project by Philip James, from the Penllergare Trust. Forge Fach Community Centre, Hebron Rd, Clydach £3 including tea.

May 26th 2.00 Visit to Ffwdgrech House, Brecon, a 7 acre Victorian pleasure garden with lakes, specimen trees, rhododendrons and azaleas.

June 14th Coach visit to Angle, Pembrokeshire includes historic churches, pub lunch and tea in the grounds of Angle Hall.

July 10th Visit to The Laskett, Herefordshire, home of Sir Roy Strong.

Rita Lees for further details

r.m.lees@coedmor.demon.co.uk 01554 770997

More information at www.whgt.org.uk