



WHGT BULLETIN

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The Royal British Bowmen Society and the diversion of Archery



One of the most famous depictions of the Royal British Bowmen Society is the 1822 meeting at Erddig Hall, Wrexham, an engraving after the amateur artist John Townshend of Trevalyn Hall, Rossett. The Bowmen members are distinguished by their uniforms in Lincoln green (associated with Robin Hood and his Merry-men) and yellow. In the centre is the Lady Paramount, Lady Eleanor Grosvenor of Eaton Hall wearing the hat with a plume of white feathers, other members wear black feathers. The small boy in black is said to be General John Yorke (1814-1890) aged 9, the second son of Simon Yorke of Erddig. John Townshend included himself as the young man in the uniform seated with the Lady Paramount. Image courtesy of the British Museum.

At the end of the 18th century, long after the bow was used for warfare, archery became a fashionable pastime amongst the elite. Country houses developed shooting grounds and archery lawns within the designed landscape. This archaic sport was connected with the taste for medieval romance and chivalry and the stories of Robin Hood and Ivanhoe.

In 1781 the eccentric antiquarian Sir Ashton Lever (1729-1788), famous for his aviary and museum, formed the first Toxophilite Society in London. The Prince Regent became its patron and so the appreciation of archery began. Exclusive archery clubs and societies, ever more select and ritualised, became the rage throughout the country.

The often spiteful, but perceptive, Miss Frances (Fanny) Burney noted in one of her infamous journals in 1782;

I went this morning with my dear Father to Sir Ashton Lever's, where we could not be entertained. Sir Ashton came and talked to us a good while....He looks fully 60 years old, yet he had dressed not only two young men, but himself, in a green jacket, a round hat with green feathers, a bundle of arrows under one arm, and a bow in the other; and thus accoutred as a forester, he pranced about; while the younger fools, who were in the same garb, kept running to and fro in the garden, carefully contriving to shoot at some mark, just as any of the company appeared at any of the windows.

Five years later, in 1787, Sir Foster Cunliffe (1755-1834) who had bought Acton Park near Wrexham in 1785, founded the Royal British Bowmen (RBB) Society. In the following years many of the Society's bow meetings were held at Acton Park which had a covered range,

thirty yards long, for winter practice. Sir Foster's scores show that he shot as well as most of the best archers of his time. The Prince Regent became patron of the RBB Society and contributed handsome prizes.

A select membership whose estates had to be within 80 bow shots of Wrexham (about a 10 mile radius) toured around their country houses. The RBB Society had its own marquee with tables, benches, crockery and cutlery which travelled to each venue. Bow meetings were held from the first Friday in May and continued fortnightly throughout the summer. A cutting in Lady Bankes's scrapbook noted that:

North Wales by this assemblage of fashionable personage, is become [sic] a favorite [sic] rendezvous during the summer.

Charlotte Grenville, Lady Williams-Wynn (1754-1832) wrote to her daughter December 1818:

The new Bart. Sir John K. and his lady are as you guessed quite full blown and in addition to all these honors [sic] Her Ladyship has just received that of being named Lady Paramount to the revived British Bowmen Society, whereby she will acquire the pleasure and privilege of settling the female costume for the same which will, I think, delight her to the greatest degree, and save any one else from the invidious task of being made answerable for every little Miss's genteel and tasty appearance. They are all extremely anxious about it, but

have made it so numerous that I fear it will never be as pleasant as it used to be.

Lady Williams-Wynn was referring to Sir John Kynaston Powell 1st Bt. (1753-1822) of Hardwick Hall and his wife Mary Elizabeth Corbett (1754-1839). Lady Paramount was the title granted to the highest scoring female of the season. This accolade enabled her to oversee and arbitrate the uniform and conduct of the other ladies in an archery society for the year.

Great efforts were taken to ensure sobriety during the meetings. Time limits were set on meals and rules decreed a cold collation would suffice and alcohol was limited to port and common white wine. Hosts who breached this rule incurred a £5 fine (£300 today). Despite this deterrent the fine seems to have been incurred on many occasions!

The timetable for bow meetings rarely changed; weather permitting, members shot in the morning, had lunch, shot again, then tea at 6 pm perhaps more shooting followed by a dance or ball and finally supper.

The society even had their own Bards who composed rhymes and songs usually in praise of the host, venue or guests which would be sung throughout the day. The archers marched in pairs to the shooting ground, to music playing a new march composed for the occasion. A 21 gun salute was fired on arrival. At the end of the

Meeting of the The Society of British Archers in Gwersyllt Park, Denbighshire by John Emes (with figures by Robert Smirke) 1794; shows the popularity of the Royal British Bowmen Society amongst women. A group of female archers with a lady about to shoot on the left, a clergyman scoring. Image courtesy of the British Museum.



day's shooting the victors were crowned with laurels. No coachmen, postillions or servants of any kind were allowed to stay and watch without prior permission.

The RBB Society were remarkably progressive as they were the only archery society with female members from the outset. For this reason the Royal British Bowmen remained a close-knit society. Many other archery societies of gentlemen frequently met at public houses. The meetings of the RBB Society offered the opportunity for men and women of equal status to meet freely under the watchful eyes of their families.

The stance of the female form when shooting (drawing the bow) drew a great deal of interest from the male archers. Many a love match was made not only in heaven but on the archery grounds of these grand estates.

At the end of October 1790 a meeting was held in the very picturesque grounds of Gwersyllt Park, two miles from Acton Park. The diary of Lady Eleanor Butler, the elder of the Ladies of Llangollen recorded:

Tuesday, October 26th [1790] - Mr Lloydde of Aston came for an hour.Showed us the Beautiful Prize sent by the Prince of Wales as a prize to be shot for by the Ladies of the Royal British Bowmen. Won by Lady Cunliffe.

Sir Foster Cunliffe records a very unusual bow meeting in 1792 at Hardwick Hall.

After supper, when it was quite dark, Mr Kynaston fixed up bosses near the house, on which were placed lanthornes [lanterns], with small wax candles in them for marks to shoot at.

Unfortunately these halcyon days were interrupted by the Napoleonic Wars in 1793. Many gentlemen members volunteered to defend their country and The Royal British Bowmen Society did not meet again until 1818. When peace came meetings were held on the local estates as before, but as Lady Williams Wynn alluded in her correspondence, things were never to be the same again.

Emma Cunliffe, Sir Foster's daughter, maintained a diary from 1818 until 1826 which detailed the revived meetings of the RBB Society. These included the first meeting at Acton Park and a meeting in 1824 at Gresford Lodge where the archery butts were placed in the meadow renamed *Butts Hill* on the Ordinance Survey map. At Edge Hall near Malpas the butts were placed in an avenue of fine oaks. The other venues were Leeswood Hall, Hawarden Castle, Hardwick Hall, Erbistock and Trevalyn Hall.

Archery societies had strict rules on uniforms and members were fined for not adhering to them. Their uniform was a great source of pride to most of the members. Therefore it is amusing to discover that not everyone felt the same way. In September 1846 whilst visiting Wynnstay, the seat of Sir Watkin Williams-Wynn, Lady Charlotte Bridgeman of Weston Park, Staffordshire, noted in her diary that:

At 11 o'clock the British Bowmen began to arrive. The ladies dresses are to [sic] shockingly ugly to be described. I had always expected something

very ugly, but they surpass anything I could have imagined. The gentlemen's dress is not absolutely ugly, but it makes them all look more or less like policemen or railroad guards.

As the 19th century progressed, the enthusiasm for archery spread to the new middle class and the masses, who formed many new societies. The upper classes closed ranks and whilst they continued to indulge in archery it was on a smaller and more intimate scale. These exclusive but informal little gatherings did not require such large grounds as before. Many created archery lawns, walks and terraces which were incorporated within their gardens. Eventually the rise in the popularity of tennis and croquet took over and The Royal British Bowmen Society disbanded in 1880. The archery grounds and lawns are now long lost but are recorded in pictures.

Advolly Richmond

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Weaver's Cottage Garden

The long neglected Weavers Cottage garden adjacent to Plas Newydd in Llangollen is believed to have once belonged to the Ladies of Llangollen.

A local group of volunteer gardeners have transformed an overgrown thicket to an open and promising organic garden. The clearance of trees and roots has revealed the old pathways and these are being incorporated into the current layout. A third of the plot has now been cleared to create beds for sowing and planting.

Two grants in the first 12 months has enabled the group to purchase seeds and tools, which together with donations of a shed and greenhouse has given the group a great start. Assured of fantastic local support and with keen volunteers, all is set for a rewarding future.

Lesley Richards

Gelli Aur Country Park reopens

Gelli Aur, near Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire, sold by the local council who found the essential renovations unaffordable, has been closed for over a year. The Golden Grove Trust has been set up to turn the mansion into an art gallery and to restore the grounds.

The Golden Grove Trust are now reopening part of the grounds on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, whilst re-development and restoration of the house and the park south of the entrance is still to be completed.

The deer park at Gelli Aur was originally established in 1560 for the Vaughans. There is still a resident herd of fallow deer on the 37 acre site which has commanding views across the Towy valley.

The landscape seen today was created by the Cawdor family in the early nineteenth century when the Vaughan family line ran out. The gardens and arboretum were designed to compliment the new Renaissance mansion completed in 1832.



Llanover walled garden arch over the Rhyd-y-meirch stream

AGM 2013 Llanover

The Monmouth and Gwent branch organised the 2013 AGM weekend with an interesting, varied and enjoyable programme. Special thanks to Marilyn Anderson for managing the AGM which drew a record attendance. Elizabeth and Ross Murray must be warmly thanked for their generous hospitality at Llanover accommodating everyone in the barn for the AGM itself and organising the lunch afterwards in their home. 2013 will be remembered for both its idyllic weather and beautiful location.

Robin Herbert CBE VMH, President of WHGT presided over the AGM. Members were sorry to learn that Robin was standing down due to his many other commitments. Robin has had strong links with WHGT for a very long time and the Trustees would like to thank him for all the stalwart support, wise guidance and personal generosity he has offered the organization over the years. Robin was presented with a Magnolia Print in recognition of his service to the WHGT as its President.

Jean Reader, WHGT Chairman drew attention to the Welsh Government's new Strategy for the Historic Environment. A White Paper due in December this year will be followed by two planning Bills. The Heritage Bill in 2013/4 is intended to update and improve heritage protection. Welsh heritage currently depends on legislation developed from the 1970s which is now considered over complex and lacking in transparency. It is hoped that sites in the *Register of Historic Parks and Gardens* will gain statutory protection. See: cadw.wales.gov.uk/historic-environment/policy/towardsaheritagebillforwales

Members were informed that Bettina Harden, Editor of *Trafodion*, will no longer be able to continue with this publication owing to her family commitments. We were also sorry to hear that Ann Sayer can no longer continue as Membership Secretary as she has now moved to Bath. Jean thanked Bettina and Ann for their valuable contributions to the WHGT. It was encouraging to learn that the membership has increased over the past year.

Llanover

The landscape at Llanover was originally designed by Benjamin Waddington who purchased the property in 1792. Some original planting, the London plane and beech trees still survive. The 15 acre Llanover landscape has been nurtured through the generations and has a fine arboretum. Elizabeth's father, Robin Herbert, added many rare and beautiful trees including a fine collection of magnolias. The gardens follow alongside the Rhyd-y-meirch stream which cascades into ponds and is criss crossed by flagstone bridges.

Waddington also built the ha ha and the lovely circular walled garden which encompasses an old dovecote. A deep herbaceous border designed by Mary Payne against the curved walls is well protected and will be full

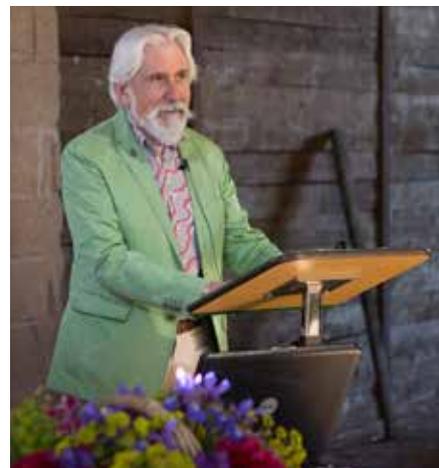
of colour in August when Llanover is open under The National Gardens Scheme.

The tulips growing through the grasses down the drive was a particularly stunning spring planting.

Members who missed the AGM or who wish to enjoy the autumn colour at Llanover may like to attend the **Rare Plant Fair on Sunday 22nd Sept.**

Elizabeth also runs the Llanover Garden School.
www.llanovergarden.co.uk

The Laskett Gardens 1973-2013.



Sir Roy Strong, the AGM speaker, gave a most interesting and entertaining talk on *The Making of The Laskett Gardens 1973-2013*.

When Strong at 35 abandoned a bachelor life and 'eloped' with the stage and costume designer Julia Trevelyan Oman who was 40, the Arts world was much surprised. Little did anyone know that in celebration they would go on to create the largest formal garden in England since 1945.

The Laskett is a triumph of passion and imagination. A four acre field was transformed into a sequence of garden rooms, vistas, ascents and descents all built on a tight budget. The garden has been developed with hedges, topiary, hard landscaping, statuary and ornament and the house has been gentrified. The story of the



Devil's Arch, Bedwelty © Glynis Shaw

Mawr was to be the centre piece of the Tredegar Iron Company's stand at the 1851 Great Exhibition at Crystal Palace. It proved impossible to transport it and a 5 ton block broke off. The block of coal was eventually added to the Bedwelty landscape in 1882.

The pathways through Bedwelty park were said to be laid out so that the owners could take carriage rides around it without encountering a gate or fence or having to look out at the harsh living conditions of the company's workers.

By the mid 19th century the ownership of Bedwelty returned to Lord Tredegar. It was then leased to the managers of the Tredegar Company who continued to develop the garden. The rock garden is a late nineteenth century development. Water worn stones stand as abstract sculptures before the stone archway entrance. Constructed with stones pointing inwards it is locally called the Devil's Arch. The grotto, fountain and fernery have all been restored. A walled kitchen garden beyond has also been reinstated as a community garden.

The 1910 Long Shelter, originally designed for spectators watching tennis or musical entertainment was vandalised in an arson attack. This has been restored with new flower beds in front. The Chartist mosaic housed within was destroyed. Today only the base of the Ladies Shelter remains.

When the Ironworks finally closed, Lord Tredegar gifted Bedwelty to the Council in 1900 and the park was opened to the public in 1901. Aneurin Bevan, architect of the National Health Service began his career from the Council Chamber in Bedwelty House.

Today the park is a safe and much enjoyed environment following the £5.9 million restoration between 2009-2011, generously funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, Cadw, the Welsh Government, European Contingency Funding and Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council.

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Many thanks to all contributors and those who help to produce the *WHGT Bulletin*. Thanks also to everyone who completed the *Publications Survey* and especially John Savidge who suggested that the *Bulletin* could be expanded to 16 pages for the same postage!

Please send items for the November issue by Oct 18th.

AGM 2014 Plas Tan y Bwlch.

The Gwynedd branch will host the AGM in 2014 on **Saturday June 7th at Plas Tan y Bwlch**, owned by the Oakeley family 1789 - 1961, until they lost their slate empire. It is now the Snowdonia National Park centre with a 13 acre picturesque Victorian garden in the Vale of Ffestiniog overlooking the village of Maentwrog.

Congratulations! to Corinne Price, former Head Gardener at Plas yn Rhiw on the Llyn Peninsula, on winning the Ondaatje Scholarship for her MA in Garden History at the University of Buckingham from September 2013. Corinne is now Upper Gardens and Apprentice Manager for English Heritage at Wrest Park, a magnificent country estate near Luton in Bedfordshire. Corinne hopes to research 18th century bath houses. There is a bath house at Wrest with a thatched roof containing a round bath but little is known about its social history or the original planting around it.

Gwynedd Garden tour

The Gwynedd branch included Wrest Park in the July Garden tour organised by Olive Horsfall. This is the seat of the de Grey family who were granted Ruthin Castle and the Lordship of Dyffryn Clwyd for their part in the Welsh campaign under Edward I.

Corinne introduced WHGT members to John Watkins, English Heritage's Head of Gardens & Landscapes, before showing us the restored pear orchard in the walled gardens, the Italian garden originally designed by Geoffrey Jellicoe, the conservatory, rose garden and the extensive parterres, all of which she manages.

The afternoon was spent with Head Gardener Chris Slatcher who gave a tour of the Great Garden including the beautiful 1711 Baroque Pavilion by Thomas Archer at the end of the long canal.

The Gwynedd tour also included Dene Park and Corinne was able to join the visit to the Castle Ashby Gardens. All the visits were excellent and the weather was perfect.

Congratulations! to Michael Norman, founder member of the Penllergare Trust and Company Secretary, who won the Champion Award at the Sustainable Swansea Awards ceremony in the spring, recognising Michael's determination, tenacity and achievements over the last 14 years in an entirely voluntary capacity.

Marketing Welsh Gardens

Two new marketing consortiums have been set up this year to promote Welsh gardens. **The Gardens of North Wales** includes: Gerddi Bodnant Garden, Plas Cadnant, Parc Padarn, Glynllifon, Plas yn Rhiw, Portmeirion, Plas Bronanw, and Plas Tan y Bwlch. **Great Gardens of West Wales** offers a discount scheme for anyone wishing to visit more than one of the following gardens:

Aberglasney Gardens, Cae Hir Gardens, Colby Gardens, Dyffryn Fernant Gardens, the National Botanic Garden of Wales, Picton Castle and Gardens and Upton Castle Gardens. Hopefully more people will discover and enjoy Welsh gardens.



High Glanau double herbaceous border © David Toyne

High Glanau Manor

Members enjoyed the evening before the 2013 AGM on the terraces of High Glanau Manor, Lydart in Monmouthshire, hosted by Helena and Hilary Gerrish and the Monmouthshire and Gwent branch.

High Glanau, an important Grade II* Arts and Crafts masterpiece was designed by Eric Francis of Chepstow in 1923, for Henry Avray Tipping's last home. Tipping, an authority on the history of architecture of houses and gardens was architectural editor of *Country Life* 1907-1933. Harold Peto and Gertrude Jekyll counted amongst his friends who influenced his garden designs.

Sited for tremendous views over the Vale of the Usk, the house seamlessly blends into the formal terraced gardens, with the main axes of the garden aligned with the main rooms of the house.

Helena has faithfully restored the garden since 2000 working from the original plans and the photos published in *Country Life*. Overgrown hedges on the terraces have been uprooted and the borders reinstated. The pergola, Messenger glasshouse, potting shed and gravity fed fountain have all been restored. Below the octagonal lily pond and alongside the drive and above the house are the shrubberies and woodland walks providing a contrasting more natural landscape, a characteristic feature of a Tipping designed garden.

The restoration included the removal of a swimming pool to restore a 100 ft double herbaceous border alongside the lawned terrace. The Wisteria against the house (planted by Tipping), the lovely mauve alpine *Eremus alpina* growing rampant on the grey stone terraced walls and the generous planting of alliums all blended artfully together in the evening light.

Helena, Chairman of the Monmouthshire and Gwent branch, has done much to raise awareness and appreciation of the work of Tipping in her publication: *Edwardian Country Life: The Story of Avray Tipping* by Gerrish, Helena. Frances Lincoln. London. 2011.

Wyndcliffe Court

Wyndcliffe Court, St Arvans, Chepstow in Monmouthshire, also by Eric Francis and Avray Tipping, was built for Charles Clay in 1922. Although larger than High Glanau, the house and garden sit happily together with the same generous proportions and comfortable, domestic feel. The toppling yew topiary, sun-warmed stone walls, lily ponds, formal terracing and the interface between the smooth grass of the bowling green and the shady paths through the woods, creating the contrast between cultivation and natural landscape, are all hallmarks of a Tipping design. A summerhouse at the south-west corner of the sunken garden overlooks it and the walled garden with a view through the shelter belt to the

south and the Severn Estuary.

Since 2006 the garden had fallen into disrepair after the previous owners, a popular and much loved couple, died within months of each other. Sculptor, Christine Baxter and artist, Alex Brown have now taken over the property and are undertaking its garden restoration.

The Dell, buried underneath a foot of leaf mulch and many fallen trees and branches, has just been restored, revealing four pools with connecting channels ending at the very bottom of the garden. Not even the Head Gardener of over 20 years has ever seen these ponds in use! They are certainly part of Tipping's original design, along with the many recently unearthed stone paths.

The planting needs attention, the flower beds have been covered in bergenias 'elephant ears' which whilst adding greenery is an uninspiring plant. The glasshouses in the walled kitchen garden also urgently need restoration.

Wyndcliffe garden is open with free entry until 29th September on Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Bank Holidays showcasing contemporary sculpture. It is delightful that the public can now enjoy the gardens at their leisure, just as the last owners would have wanted.

Donations towards the glasshouse restoration are collected at the entrance.

Alex Brown

www.wyndcliffecourt.co.uk

Wyndcliffe Court sunken garden © Alex Brown





The Nelson Garden Monmouth

A visit to the Nelson Garden hidden in the heart of Monmouth was arranged for the Sunday morning after the AGM. This late 18th century town garden abuts the old town wall and is accessed by a 3m tunnel through a section of it. It was once a "real tennis" court in the 17th century and a bowling green in 1718.

In 1802, Lord Nelson, accompanied by Sir William and Lady Emma Hamilton, travelled through Monmouth en route to Sir William's estate at Milford Haven. Following a rapturous reception, Nelson promised to attend a dinner in his honour on their return. Thus, on 18th August at 4.p.m, at the Beaufort Arms Inn, the company sat down to
a sumptuous entertainment.....for which a fine buck was presented by His Grace the Duke of Beaufort. Following speeches and toasts

his Lordship and friends accompanied Colonel Lindsey to the beautiful summer house in his garden, there to enjoy the refreshment of tea and coffee and pass the remainder of the evening in that charming retreat.

That *charming retreat* has since been demolished, but the seat that Nelson sat on was saved and installed in the present pavilion c.1840. This pavilion is crafted from wood, possibly by a local town architect. There were once urns at the corners of the roof. The reflecting mirror decoration on the entablature is unusual and their original metal pie covers only survive on the sides of the building. The brick wall in front and below the pavilion has three projecting shelves, perhaps intended for candles or flares to be reflected in the pond below. They have also been used for flower arrangements.

At the time of Nelson's visit, No.18 Monnow Street was the garden of the Town Clerk, Colonel Lindsay. A surviving hypocaust wall for growing espalier fruit also dates from this time.

By the late 1980s the garden was sadly neglected. Its gradual restoration is in the hands of the Nelson Garden Preservation Trust. Fundraising and maintenance depends on volunteers from U3A who hold concerts and

events in the garden. Work has begun; a Monmouthshire *Sense of Roots* grant has funded a new path around the garden.

The recently installed statue of Britannia is from the top of the Naval Temple on Kymin Hill, visited by Nelson and his party on the same occasion. The Naval Temple 1800 was built in honour of the British Navy, and the Roundhouse 1794 was built by the Monmouth Gentleman's Picnic Club. The Kymin is a landmark feature seen along a sight line from the Nelson Garden.

Access to the garden will soon be much improved by new signage and an entrance from the High Street. Many thanks to John Thorneycroft and Sue Miles, Senior Custodian at Monmouth Museum, for coming to talk to members on the garden. Sue Miles also specially opened the Nelson Museum and gave a guided tour for interested members.

The garden is open to the public from 23 May to 7 September 2013 on Thursday, Fridays and Saturdays from 12-3 pm. Please contact the Nelson Museum for information in poor weather conditions on 01600 710630.

Helena Gerrish

The Neuadd

Members concluded the AGM weekend with a visit to the President's garden at The Neuadd, Llanbedr, near Crickhowell. Robin Herbert and his wife, Philippa, opened their beautiful garden under The National Gardens Scheme. The Neuadd garden has been under restoration since 1999 and is a wonderfully varied landscape. The kitchen garden above the house has decorative and productive planting whilst in front of the house there is a natural rock garden with a pool and formal lawns and terracing with rare shrubs and trees. There is also a delightful dell with a woodland garden alongside a stream and a series of small ponds. The Neuadd also has glorious views of the Sugar Loaf.



Guests arrive at Mrs Johnes' Garden. © Caroline Palmer

The garden was created c 1786 influenced by William Mason's vision of paradise in his poem 'The English Garden'.

Hafod - a garden blossoms in the wilderness

The restoration and replanting of Mrs Johnes' flower garden at Hafod Uchtryd was celebrated by some 150 guests on 2nd June 2013. Few scenes could be more unexpected than the appearance of a marquee in the middle of an extensive forestry estate in upland Ceredigion.

The story of the pioneering Picturesque landscape created by Thomas Johnes in the late 18th century in the then barren landscape of the Upper Ystwyth valley, has been told many times: how he settled here with his second wife Jane Johnes and steadily poured his massive wealth from other properties into creating his personal Xanadu; a Gothic house by the architect Baldwin, a model farm and huge plantations of oak, beech and larch. Miles of carefully graded footpaths lead the visitor through the landscape of gnarled trees, pools, cascades, rock cut tunnels and viewpoints.

The cognoscenti came to visit Hafod and, as at other great houses, the gardener could, for a consideration allow a visit to the gardens and the long conservatory before directing guests to one of the two circuit walks: the *Lady's Walk* taking in the Church and the more strenuous *Gentleman's Walk* on the contours of the southern flank of the valley.

Johnes and his wife had one child, Mariamne, something of a child prodigy with a great flair for botany and a crippling infirmity which caused her to be at times encased

in a gigantic metal spinal brace. Notwithstanding this, she had her own private garden, an alpine garden perched on a crag east of the house.

Her mother had a flower garden near the carriage drive out of sight of the house. As early as 1788 Jane Johnes was writing to her brother

this place is in higher beauty than ever I saw it, my flower garden full of flowers.

Among the many records by 19th century tourists B.H. Malkin (published 1804) describes:

A gaudy flower garden, with its wreathing and fragrant plats bordered by shaven turf, with a smooth gravel walk carried around, is dropped, like an ornamental gem among wild and towering rocks, in the very heart of boundless woods. The spot contains about two acres, swelling gently to meet the sunbeams, and teeming with every variety of shrub and flower.

By the mid 20th century the Hafod landscape was lost to serried ranks of conifers and the great mansion reduced to rubble. The circular wall of Mrs Johnes' garden was breached by a forestry road, and its interior a plantation of Sitka Spruce.

When I first saw the garden through one of the two arched doorways it was wreathed in brambles and dwarfed by the gloom of the 40 year old trees. It seems inconceivable that in the last six years the road has been moved outside the original perimeter, the trees felled, the

wall rebuilt, the cleared ground graded and the circuit path reinstated close to its original route.

Framed in rusticated Coade Stone, the two arched doorways had been the subject of an earlier restoration. Concrete moulded keystones, locally known as *Adam and Eve* had replaced the original 1793 Coade Stone heads, which were removed to a private collection for safekeeping and eventually deposited in the Ceredigion Museum. The Museum also became the owner of quality resin replica heads moulded from Mrs Coade's original moulds donated by another enthusiast. Since the museum now holds the original keystones the resin heads have been installed in the garden replacing the concrete mouldings. Today the garden exits are watched over by a mischievous Satyr and a more contemplative Nymph.

Planting began in 2012 with carefully selected shrubs and herbaceous plants which would have been available to Jane Johnes in 1788. Several contemporary commentators called it an American Garden, and a number of gentry gardeners, some of them Jane's friends and correspondents, were creating American gardens at this time. The new planting, designed by Landscape Architect Ros Laidlaw, reproduces the American flavour of the time, with shrubs, chiefly from the eastern seaboard of North America, known to have been introduced to British gardens in the 18th century.

It was a triumphal day for the Hafod Trust, which over the past twenty years has coordinated a partnership with the Forestry Commission to reinstate the ten miles of paths, bridges, viewpoints and gardens. Grant aid for Mrs Johnes' Garden has come from the Cefn Croes Wind Farm Community Trust, The Finnis Scott Foundation, Tidy Towns Wales and many individual donors.

In future Mrs Johnes' garden can be used for an afternoon tea party or a champagne reception. You can even get married in the picturesque little church, Eglwys Newydd, just up the footpath by the stream, or in the Hafod Stables meeting room, now licensed for civil ceremonies. The mansion is unlikely ever to rise from its ruins, but the modern visitor with a taste for solitude, silence and starlight can spend a short or long break in Hawthorn Cottage (Pwll Pendre) which overlooks a pool on the meadow between the mansion site and Mariamne's garden.



Resin replica heads of the Satyr and Nymph © Caroline Palmer



Hafod archway with Nymph keystone © Jim Griffiths

For information about the Hafod Estate: www.hafod.org or www.letterfromaberystwyth

Caroline Palmer

The Old Park Bodnant

If you think you have seen everything at Bodnant think again. Bodnant Garden is getting bigger! The oldest part of the landscape, the *Old Park*, was opened to the public for the first time on July 1st.

This was landscaped in the naturalistic style of the day, with a ha-ha for the original house built in the 1700s. Old Park has remained unchanged over the years as the rest of the garden has evolved. Although it has always been visible from the public garden with swathes of daffodils in spring, wildflowers in summer, leaf colour in autumn and snowdrops in winter, visitors can now walk in it.

You can discover new views, enjoy the mature native trees and look for some of the 21 varieties of wild flowers and grasses identified in a survey in 2010.

There are future plans to open the *Yew Dell* at the far south of the garden next year. This is a tranquil wooded area planted with rhododendrons reminiscent of a Himalayan valley. Over the summer you can have a preview of the Yew Dell open every Thursday until and including 5th September.

In 2015, there are plans to open the area known as the Skating Pond at the far end of the Dell.

Abbot's Garden St Mary's Priory, Abergavenny



Harvesting herbs in the Abbot's garden

The little known Abbot's Garden, tucked away behind St. Mary's Priory Church, is flourishing thanks to a small band of dedicated volunteers led by Velia Ellis. The Abbot's garden celebrates the Benedictine origins of the site, founded in 1087 as a Benedictine Priory.

Interpreting the self-sufficient lifestyle of the monks, the garden serves the learning centre within the nearby Tithe Barn. The church took over the 12th century Tithe Barn which was stabilised in 2002 and has been fully restored and refurbished.

Remodelled in 2008, the Abbot's garden is on a relatively small site, a former buffer zone between the church and new housing. The garden is now a delightful sun trap of calm in the heart of the bustling market town whilst its diverse planting has created a haven for wildlife.

Wherever possible, plants authentic to a monastic working garden have been chosen, grouped according to medicinal, culinary and domestic uses.

Within the medicinal section, the planting is sub-divided to show combinations used to treat particular ailments: for example plantain, St. John's wort, comfrey, chamomile and calendula were used for wounds and skin healing.

The kitchen garden is full of fruit and vegetables, surrounded by heritage fruit trees and edged by wild flower margins.

Young learners dressed in period costume can discover the monks' diet, how the Infirmarian would have made ointments for the local leper community and how flax was used to make the clothes they wore.

The spiritual dimension of medieval life is evoked through the recently created Magnificat Garden below the East window of the church. Inspired by Mary Gardens, the symbolic connections with the Virgin Mary are vividly illustrated by the range of plants including Rosa Gallica - known to some as the 'Mystic Rose'. The Virgin is sometimes celebrated with rosary beads made from the compression of the fragrant rose petals.

In the Herbert Chapel recess the raised beds are in the process of being replanted with a mixed, wild flower planting providing nectar for the nearby bees.

Volunteers also care for the more formal planting around the historic church and the elegant Tithe Barn courtyard. Beneath the hornbeam hedge, flower beds provide a succession of colour throughout the year brightening up the passage from the nearby car park to the town. In the magical and atmospheric space under the exposed beams of the Tithe Barn, children enjoy 'Living history' through a wide range of Medieval and Tudor workshops. The authenticity of the experience is enhanced through wearing Tudor clothing (made by volunteers from traditional materials), the period weaving looms and period musical instruments. Large

bunches of dried flowers and herbs gathered from the Abbot's garden hang from the ceiling giving an enticing scent.

With the plants harvested from the Abbots garden the children have fun learning about public and personal hygiene by making Plague bags with their own crushed herbs and 'strewing' - children are encouraged to walk the herbs into the floorboards to release the aroma that was thought to keep the Plague or Black Death away.

It is inspiring to see how the imagination and skill of the volunteers offers not only a rich context for the exploration of the heritage of St. Mary's Priory, but also maintains the colour and biodiversity of Abbot's Garden for everyone to enjoy.

Lucy Prichard

www.stmarys-priory.org

A Physic Garden for Tintern Abbey

There is a new proposal to create a physic garden at Tintern Abbey which will cover some 160 sq m. The garden will be laid out in a design influenced by the plans of c. 900 CE for the Abbey of St. Gall and the archaeological remains at Haverfordwest Cistercian Abbey.

Dr. Caroline Howard has selected twenty plants for the scheme based on a detailed knowledge of herbs which still grow in the vicinity of the Abbey as well as archival information concerning early medieval medicinal or leech practices. Information on the plants and their uses will be available for visitors.

The project is being led by the Rev. John Dearnley and local residents who have already formed a committee and volunteered to assist once the project is under way.

New Resource for Garden History

The Welsh Newspaper Online website Of the National Library of Wales is now live. Over 1,000,000 pages of Welsh history to 1910 can be found online, free of charge. See: welshnewspapers.llgc.org.uk

Missing hermits and a saintly gardener

A new candidate for space on the gardening bookshelf is Gordon Campbell's recently published *The Hermit in the Garden. From Imperial Rome to Ornamental Gnome Oxford University Press, 2013 ISBN: 9780199696994*

Campbell charts the history of garden hermits in Europe and some of the surviving buildings associated with them. He also discusses the literary genre, including Tom Stoppard's wonderful play *Arcadia*. In the book's appendices there is a catalogue of hermitages in the United Kingdom and also a note on the Hermit and the Hermitage on the continent.

Following extensive research, however, Campbell states (p.155) *the English landscape garden and its hermitages spread beyond the borders of England to Ireland and Scotland. There are apparently no hermitages in Wales, though there are two shell grottoes said to have been built by hermits.*

The grottoes in question are, of course, Cilwendeg Shell House near Boncath, Pembrokeshire, and the shell grotto in Pontypool Park. But is it correct that there are no *real* hermitages in Wales and, if so, why? There are a number

of famous hermitages in the border counties such as at Hawkstone, Shropshire, so why did the idea not travel to Wales?

On the saintly gardener theme (Bulletin no. 64 p.9), Campbell (pp.200-2) provides a picture and description of St Fiacre's contemporary hermitage at the Irish National Stud, Tully, Co. Kildare, Ireland. It sits in a garden dedicated to the saint and was opened in 1999 to celebrate the millennium. The hermitage is at the end of a woodland walk on the side of a lake and there is a life size statue of St Fiacre/Fiachra, who holds a seed in his hand. There are two cells, loosely modelled on the beehive huts at Skellig Michael, off the coast of County Kerry and one has in its floor a *delicate subterranean garden of rocks, ferns, fossils and orchids, all handcrafted by Waterford crystal.*

Not content with looking after gardeners, Fiacre is apparently also patron saint of taxi drivers, because the Hotel de Fiacre (Rue St Martin, Paris) named after him has had carriages for hire since the seventeenth century. A curious combination of saintly responsibilities!

Elizabeth Siberry

Welsh hermitages

After discussing the lack of Welsh hermitages with Elizabeth (above), I have since discovered that whilst they are certainly great rarities, there were at least two: Glynllifon, once the family seat of the Glynne and Wynn family, Barons Newborough, is a Grade I listed Park and a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). Its 70 acre grounds have a wide variety of trees and are rich in wild-life, home to many rare and endangered species and to a very rare Welsh hermitage.

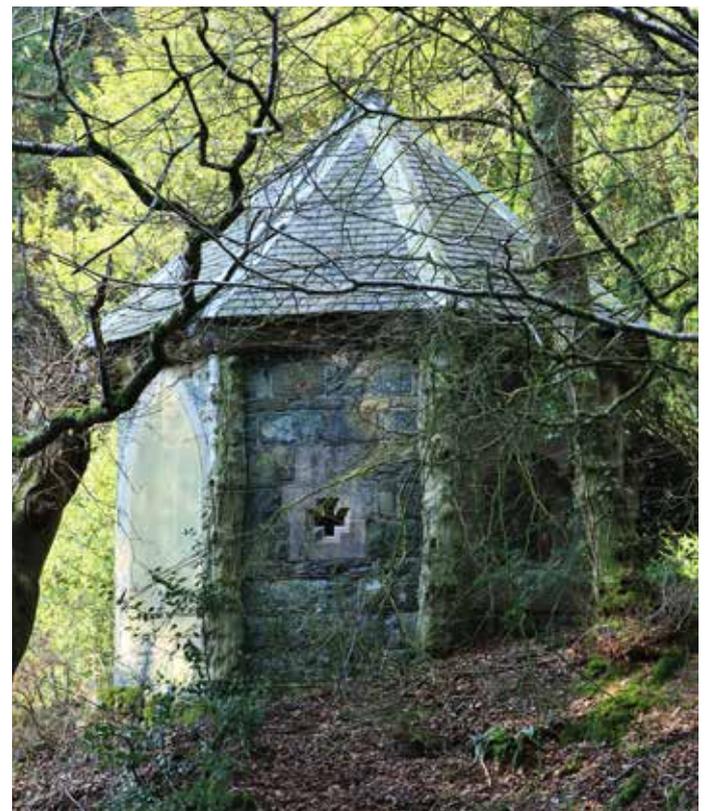
The Afon Llifon was canalised as it flows through the park and a picturesque landscape, with Italianate water features and numerous follies, was created along its banks.

The Glynllifon hermitage (opposite) is a hexagonal Gothic folly built c.1825 with walnut exterior timber columns and stained glass windows. A resident paid hermit resided for a short time until he was sacked for being in a constant state of intoxication and abusive to visitors. The hermitage was then converted to a chapel where the obsequies for the family's pets were conducted before burial in the nearby pet cemetery. The estate workers named the building Eglwys y Cwn (Church of the Dogs).

According to Nicholson's Cambrian Traveller's guide of 1840 there was another hermitage at Picton Castle.

The gardens, hothouses and hotwalls are very extensive. The park now destitute of deer, is large and richly wooded. Some charming walks have been made to wind above the river, with seats frequently occurring, and a hermitage forming a pleasing feature.

Possibly Picton's hermitage was a conceit as there is no



mention of a hermit. This landscaping was carried out by Lord Milford, Sir R.B. Phillips, Bart MP, who extended Picton Castle with new Georgian rooms.

Please get in touch if you know of any other hermitages designed as picturesque landscape features in Wales.

Glynis Shaw

Aberglasney Children go Free !

Saturday July 20th to Sunday September 29th

Recording Seminar

A Recording Seminar was held in April at Venue Cymru, Llandudno. Gwynedd and Clwyd branches were very pleased to welcome Verena McCaig, now Landscape Officer for the Association of Garden Trusts (AGT) for the Midlands and the North. Verena has recently been involved with a Local Listing project in Kent, identifying landscapes of local historic interest. These are the parks and gardens which may not be on the Register but have features of interest and significance which makes them special. Research and documentation of these places is vital to protect them from insensitive or inappropriate development.

Verena shared her recording methodology, emphasising the necessity of both archival research and site survey work. This information should then be presented in a research report together with maps, images and a **Statement of Significance** which is an assessment of the value of the site. The informed and professional presentation is useful for both the heritage and planning authorities.

Glynis Shaw then gave a brief presentation on Haulfre on the Great Orme, the site for afternoon fieldwork and tea. Thanks to all members who contributed and supported this event and to Olive Horsfall and Glynis Shaw for organising this seminar. Gaenor Price has offered to help anyone who missed this seminar and is interested in recording sites of local interest. Please do get in touch! Tel. 01248 490394; email / gaenorprice@fastmail.fm

What is Significant about Significance?

It's getting increasingly difficult to avoid discussions on conserving our historic park and gardens without finding ourselves faced with the question

But what is significant about it ?

Cadw and English Heritage (EH) have produced guidance on why it's important to understand the *significance* of a landscape. They argue, perfectly reasonably, that it is difficult to know what it is that we are trying to conserve if we don't know what it is about a site that is important. Once we know what it is that makes a site special, then we can begin to find ways to conserve this, or manage changes to ensure that they have as little impact as possible on these special qualities.

When we research and visit a landscape in order to record what is extant, we should take the opportunity to find out what features remain that embody that significance, to work out what is significant about the site.

This approach to understanding a site has now been enshrined in planning policy. The requirements of the **National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)**, underpins all planning decisions in England and Wales and must be taken into account in all planning decisions.

Planning should

conserve heritage assets in a manner appropriate

to their significance, so that they can be enjoyed for their contribution to the quality of life of this and future generations.

In order to save historic designed landscapes, it is necessary to communicate clearly what needs to be conserved, and to articulate what makes it special.

Cadw and EH offer some **Conservation Principles** to help document and manage change to historic landscapes. A landscape needs to be described in terms of where its importance lies and what values we can give it. Think about a designed landscape you know well and see if it displays any of the following:

Evidential value: the potential to yield new evidence about past human activity; how it matters for future research. The humps and bumps of garden archaeology are a good example of evidential value.

Historical value: this is the way in which a site is connected to past events and people; how it tells our national story – this could include connections with an artist, designer, writer, etc, or be a place that evokes or illustrates past events. Petworth, West Sussex, extensively painted by Turner, is an example of a site with historical value.

Aesthetic value: this is the way a place can give us sensory and intellectual stimulation and how people respond emotionally – it doesn't necessarily have to be beautiful in the traditional sense! Its appeal might be designed or fortuitous. So many wonderful examples spring to mind – of both whole landscapes and single features!

Communal value: the meanings we give to a place through our collective experience or memory of it; how it brings people together - this is particularly important for landscapes we cherish locally or places with a spiritual value.

To ensure that your research gets to the bottom of what is significant about the landscape ask yourself,

what it is, that makes this landscape special.

Some of the above listed values might not be relevant but list any that apply as short bullet points with your research report as this will help the WHGT and the relevant authorities understand what needs protection and what can be changed without having a hugely negative effect on the *specialness* of the place.

The statement of significance can make all the difference when responding to planning applications or talking to owners – and your efforts might just provide the important nuggets of information that prevent a vulnerable landscape from losing what makes it special.

For further details see the '*Significance*' section of the CGT 'Web Forum' – a section of the AGT website that you can register to use by going to www.gardenstrusts.org.uk/hlp.html

Also see: *Conservation Principles and significance at <http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/professional/advice/conservation-principles/>*

Verena McCaig

Historic Landscape Project Officer, AGT

Glasshouses

Members of Brecon and Radnor and Gwynedd branches who attended a recent study day on glasshouses may be interested in a new Shire publication on the subject. Written by Fiona Grant, a member of the WHGT and a garden historian, the book is highly informative and well illustrated. Fiona describes how the glasshouse evolved from a status symbol of the rich to a specialised structure for botany and horticulture.

Fiona, a founder of the *Walled Kitchen Gardens Network*, is an adviser and consultant on their restoration and conservation. Glasshouses are one of the most important elements of a productive garden.

Fiona charts glasshouse development from the early Orangeries, buildings with glass, to the later glass buildings of the eighteenth century when there was a great experimentation in form and structure to provide ideal conditions for growing an ever wider selection of

plants from other climates. Glasshouse architecture and technology with the workings of the stoves and venting systems became increasingly specialised such as the orchid house, peach house, and pinery-vinery. Essentially functional, many of these glasshouses were very beautiful, especially the curvilinear forms thought to provide the best exposure to the sun.

With the industrial revolution and the abolition of the glass tax in 1845, glasshouses became more widely affordable and specialist manufacturers emerged. Paxton's Crystal Palace was perhaps the ultimate nineteenth century construction in glass and steel.

Fiona also describes successful restorations of glasshouses including the fernery at Ascog Hall on the Isle of Bute.

Glasshouses, Fiona Grant (Shire Library) July 23, 2013
ISBN-13: 978-0747812463

Parc Llewelyn, John Dillwyn Llewelyn's Public Park

Responding to local campaigning for public parks, and keen to extend his philanthropic activities, John Dillwyn Llewelyn (JDL) of Penllergare donated his 42 acre Knap Llwyd farm in 1874 for a park. Its development was for the use of the people in the grimly industrialised Tawe valley below.

At the opening of the park in October 1878 The Cambrian newspaper reported,

it is everything that could be wished for the health and recreation of a large population, who are crowded in their works and houses, and who, after work, ought to have an outlet for play and health.

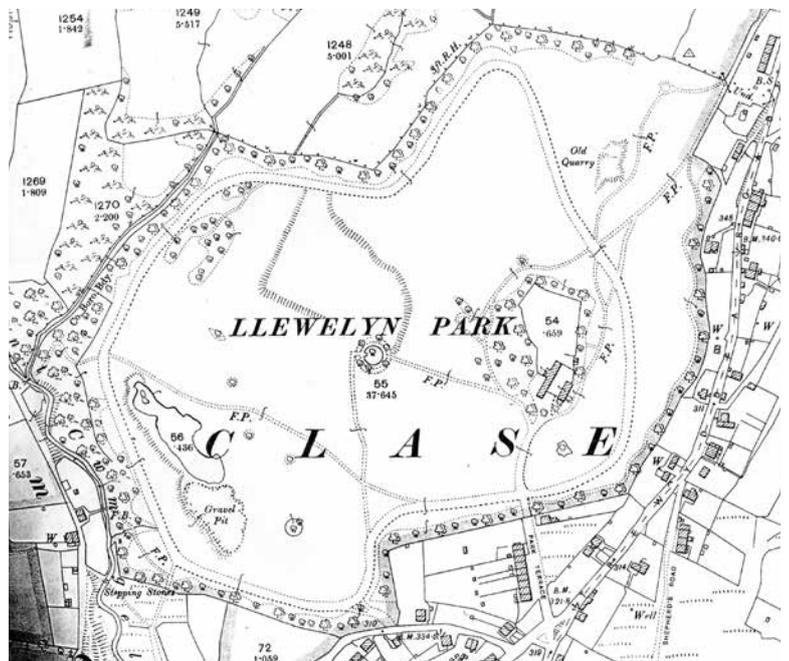
John wanted the park named 'The Lady's Park' to mark his wife, Emma Thomasina's design and role in getting it opened, but was over-ruled. However, locally an area of the park is still known as the *Ladies Walk*. From the outset Parc Llewelyn was an extremely popular venue.

Funding for maintenance was always a problem - some things never change! In recent years, like so many other public places, Parc Llewelyn became neglected and threatened by encroaching development. Happily a committed band of local people, strove to ensure the survival of this much-loved gem and to promote a wider awareness of its importance. The Penllergare Trust commissioned Rob Skinner, then a postgraduate student at the University of Wales Lampeter, to make a study of the park's origins and development, entitled *Parc Llewelyn: John Dillwyn Llewelyn's People's Park*.

The Trust have had the park added to the *Register of Parks & Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales*, thereby adding another layer of protection to,

one of the most major Victorian parks of Swansea and the first and most important on the east side of the city.

With commanding views over Swansea, including the



spectacular eye-catcher of Morris's Castle, to the Brecon Beacons and Aberavon, together with its unique contribution to Swansea's social and industrial history, Parc Llewelyn is the antithesis of JDL's private valley paradise of Penllergare and deserves to be much better known.

The Park Llewelyn in Morriston (SS 659969) is owned and maintained by the City and County of Swansea with the help of a thriving Friends' group.

Following a local consultation exercise and with support from the City & County of Swansea, park improvements are being achieved through the *Breathing life into Parc Llewelyn project*. There are future plans to improve the entrances to the park and to plant a small orchard.

For further information and Rob Skinner's study see: <http://www.friendsofparcllewelyn.co.uk>

Michael Norman

Ymddiriedolaeth Penllergare Trust

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New President

The Trustees are delighted to announce that Elisabeth Whittle has accepted the invitation to become the new President of WHGT.



President Elisabeth Whittle

Liz joined the staff of Cadw in 1985 and has been a member of WHGT since its inception in 1989. Liz was appointed Inspector of Historic Parks and Gardens for Wales in 1992 a title later amended to include the word *Landscapes*. Her book *The Historic Gardens of Wales* was published in 1994 and she has written many articles on historic parks and gardens in Wales. Most importantly she coordinated the publication of the 6 volumes of the *Cadw/ICOMOS Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales*.

The Hidden Uses of Plants

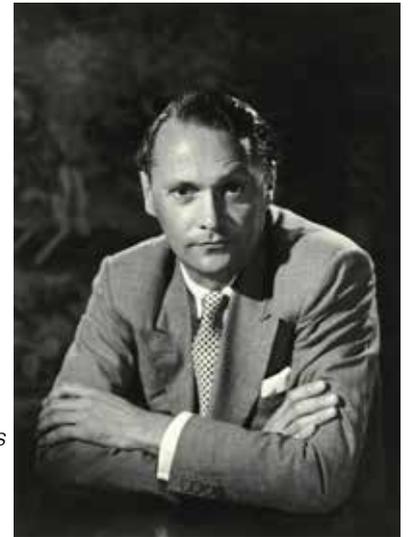
For the second year running, the Brecon and Radnor Branch exhibited in the *Gardeners Corner* in the Festival Floral Hall at the Royal Welsh Spring Show. The 3m square plot titled *The Hidden Uses of Plants* was designed by students of the *Heritage Horticultural Skills Scheme (HHSS)* from Picton Castle, guided by Head Gardener Roddy Milne.

The garden, divided by a curving path and a small bench, featured a wide range of edible ornamental plants as well as the more common herbs and vegetables. Despite the challenges of the late spring there was a profusion of flowers and foliage on view, from the tiny edible violets growing in the path to the spreading amelanchier behind, backed by a stand of osiers used for construction and fuel.

One student compiled a book of further information on plants and their uses. The enthusiasm and enjoyment of the HHSS participants from all over Wales in assembling and manning the stand made it a very special weekend for all of us. WHGT support for the HHSS is important as it supports the future gardeners who will maintain the historic gardens we try to save.

Anne Carter

Obituary: The 7th Marquess of Anglesey



George Charles Henry Victor Paget, 7th Marquess of Anglesey by Walter Bird, 1961 © National Portrait Gallery, London

George Charles Henry Victor Paget, 7th Marquess of Anglesey passed away, aged 90, on July 13th. His career as a distinguished military historian is well known, his 8 volume *A History of the British Cavalry, 1816-1919* being the definitive work on the subject.

On his marriage to Elizabeth Shirley Vaughan Morgan in 1948 they were presented with the thinnings of rhododendrons from Bodnant, as a wedding present from Lord Aberconway. For three successive seasons a lorry would arrive with rhododendrons, some of them eight feet high. Accompanying them would be two gardeners equipped with shining polished spades for planting them.

The Marquess made a valuable contribution to Welsh culture and heritage. In 1976 he gave his Anglesey home, Plas Newydd, redesigned by James Wyatt in the 18th century with a landscape designed by Humphry Repton, to the National Trust. He continued to live at Plas Newydd and as a keen and knowledgeable gardener, he worked with the National Trust and the Head Gardener for over 30 years to enrich the planting, whilst maintaining the spectacular views across the Menai Strait to Snowdon. Elisabeth Whittle, WHGT President, recalls how deeply he cared for these gardens, sending her a note of his despair when some of the Repton beeches came down in a great storm.

As a founder member of the WHGT he presided over the conference *Welsh Gardens under Threat* at Lampeter in April 1990 and served on the WHGT Council. The Marquess held many positions in public life: he was a former President of the National Museum of Wales; Chaired the Historic Buildings Council for Wales; President of the Crimean War Research Society; Founding President of the Friends of Friendless Churches; Trustee of the National Portrait Gallery and the National Heritage Memorial Fund; a member of the Royal Fine Art Commission and served on the Welsh Committee of the National Trust and the Ancient Monument Society. The Marquess was Lord Lieutenant of Gwynedd 1983-89. Members who knew him will have fond memories of this scholarly and erudite man.

Bettina Harden

Branch events

For up to date information see www.whgt.org.uk
and Welsh Historic Gardens Trust Facebook page

Brecon and Radnor

Wednesday 23rd October visit to Westonbirt gardens and the National Arboretum.

Contact Jonathan Reeves for further details
reeves@aberedw.wanadoo.co.uk 01982 560205

Carmarthenshire

September An introduction to Site Recording, a training day for volunteers at the Bishop's Palace in Abergwili the last weekend in September with Penny David and Michael Norman.

October Talk by Nick Wray – Bristol Botanic Gardens. Details to be confirmed.

Contact Judith Holland for further details
j.holland@dyfedarchaeology.org.uk 01558 823121

Ceredigion

Wednesday 11 September Visit to private gardens in the lower Teifi Valley, led by Penny David.

Contact Penny David for further details
lady.fern@virgin.net 01570 422041

Clwyd

Tuesday August 20th 2 pm Visit to The Hall, Lygan-y-Wern, The Nant, Pentre Halkyn, Holywell, Flintshire CH8 8BD and tea. This privately owned home with over 13 acres includes an old walled garden, a dovecote and a posh 5 seater outdoor privy. You can also see where there was once a small lake and ice house.

£5 Please book by 13th August

Wednesday September 11th 2.00pm Visit to Iscoyd Park and tea. The Pleasure Garden at Iscoyd is not very large, but has been completely redesigned by Xa Tollemache, with Michael Balston, in spring 2010. It will be interesting to see the new garden on an old landscape. £6 Please book by Sept 4th

Wednesday November 20th 7.00 for 7.30 Talk at Theatr Twm o'r Nant 'Cuttings from a Gardener's Diary' by Sam Youd, former Head Gardener of Tatton Hall. £6 includes mulled wine and mince pies.

Contact Glynis Shaw for further details
glynis@castell-photography.co.uk 01745 710261

Gwynedd

Saturday 24th August Visit to Brynkir Archeological dig Tour by Mark Baker. Cost £5 to include tea and cakes

Thursday 19th September Lecture and Lunch, Tyn Rhos Hotel, Bethel, near Caernarfon 'Medieval Parks, Gardens and Designed Landscapes of North Wales and the Shropshire Marches' by Spencer Gavin Smith

Saturday 12th October Gardening Women Study Day at Botwnnog Enterprise Centre, Llyn Peninsula. The story of women gardeners in Wales 1750-1850 by Jean Reader; Gertrude Jekyll - Speaker to be confirmed. The Keating Sisters at Plas yn Rhiw by Mary Thomas Visit to Plas yn Rhiw garden. (finger buffet lunch)

Contact Olive Horsfall for further details
oandmhorsfall@btinternet.com 01766 780187

Monmouthshire and Gwent

Saturday September 28th 10.15. 'The Pulham Gardens of Dewstow' by Claude Hitching and Val Christman. Afternoon tour of Dewstow. £20 includes lunch and admission.

Contact Marilyn Anderson for further details
m.anderson666@btinternet.com 01600 780389

New Branch Launch Garden Party!

Montgomeryshire

At Gregynog

near Newtown SY16 3PW

18 August 2-4.30 pm

Admission £4.50

Tickets can be purchased in advance from reception
01686 650224

West Glamorgan

Thursday September 26th Rock Landscapes: The Pulham Legacy by Claude Hitching.

Thursday November 7th Sally Pollock on 100 Years of Chelsea Flower Show.

Talks take place at St Paul's Parish Centre, De La Beche Road, Sketty, Swansea SA2 9AR on Thursdays at 2 pm (doors open 1.30) £3 includes light refreshments.

Contact Ann Gardner for further details
hughgardner@virginmedia.com 01792 290014



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