



# WHGT BULLETIN

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## National Botanic Garden of Wales - a Regency Water Park

The National Botanic Garden of Wales (NBGW) occupies the site of one of the finest Regency landscapes and water parks in Britain. A remarkable record of its beauty can now be seen in a series of two hundred year old watercolours.

The paintings by Thomas Horner were once thought to have been lost when they were stolen in the 1960s. Thankfully, seven of the original fourteen have been found and returned to the descendants of Sir William Paxton.

The paintings have now come back to the Middleton estate on a short term loan to the NBGW, to share the unique record of the landscape created by Paxton at Middleton Hall.

Paxton left Scotland at the age of twelve to join the navy.

He rose through the ranks to become Master of the Mint in Bengal, and as a merchant and banker he amassed a considerable fortune. After thirty years of travelling the world he returned to Britain, married, and purchased Middleton Hall in 1789.

In the mid seventeenth century Middleton Hall had been owned by a junior branch of the Myddelton family of Chirk Castle. Between 1793-95 Paxton replaced the old house with a grand new Neoclassical mansion by the architect Samuel Pepys Cockerell. Over the next 35 years Paxton landscaped the garden and parkland to complement the new house.

'Lipscombe's Tour in South Wales', undertaken in 1799 and published in 1802, referred to Middleton as '*one of the best built and most magnificent houses in Wales*'.



A second bath-house with a plunge pool was built much nearer to the mansion. This too was equipped with a furnace room for hot baths. It stood secluded in a grove, near the borders of Llyn Mawr, close to the sluice and bridge that separated Llyn Mawr from Llyn Canol.

In 1815 Paxton commissioned Horner to record Middleton Park, thus providing a complete documentation of this amazing landscape.

Thomas Horner (1785-1844) was born in Hull where his parents were Quaker grocers. Horner was taught engineering and surveying by his brother-in-law and soon after 1800 he surveyed the Free Grammar School in Manchester. By 1807 he was settled in London, living at first in Kentish Town, Chancery Lane, and then Church Court, Inner Temple, where he undertook valuations as well as surveys and levelling of canals and drains. In 1808 he produced an enormous plan of Clerkenwell with his title "*By T. Horner, Land Surveyor, Pictural and Descriptive Planner of Estates &c*", a version of which was published in 1813.

Horner began to pioneer 'picturesque landscape gardening' and a technique he called 'panoramic chorometry.' He used a device, the camera obscura, which transposed an accurate representation of landscape onto paper, producing panoramic views of landed estates. He claimed his technique reunited the arts of surveying and landscape painting.



Paxton also constructed extensive outbuildings including the stables, the landmark eyecatcher Paxton's Tower as a memorial to Lord Nelson, as well as a new double walled garden enclosing over three acres.

However, by far the most spectacular development in the 500 acre parkland was the water park. An elaborate and extensive chain of five lakes was created in the valleys to the south and east of the house. This was accomplished by a feat of water engineering involving a system of dams, sluices and a stunning waterfall at the site of the present day Pont Felin Gât.

The park layout was by Samuel Lapidge, the largely forgotten surveyor and draughtsman who worked for Capability Brown and succeeded Brown as Surveyor of the royal gardens at Hampton Court. After Brown's death Lapidge executed many of Brown's contracts, including serpentineing the lake at Althorp for Georgiana, the first Earl Spencer's widow.

The ingenious water engineering at Middleton Park was largely undertaken by a Scotsman, James Grier, a recognised engineer who became Paxton's agent.

Paxton was delighted to discover a chalybeate spring in his park. He immediately built a bath-house with a furnace room to provide hot baths and dressing rooms, all set in a flower garden. Paxton also had pipes laid to take the water beyond the perimeter wall so the local people could also benefit from the healing powers of the spring.

In 1813 Horner wrote a book '*Description of an improved method of delineating estates: With a sketch of the progress of landscape gardening in England, and opinions on the picturesque effects attempted in rural ornament.*'

Horner advertised his services as a 'Pictural Delineator of Estates' in 'The Cambrian' in 1814. This resulted in commissions from at least nine wealthy families with whom he appears to have mixed as an equal.

From 1816 to 1820 Horner produced a magnificent series of sumptuous leather bound portfolio albums with up to twenty watercolours, interleaved with descriptions of scenes in South Wales. The portfolios included plans and panoramas with exquisite copperplate handwritten accounts of tours in the area. One album still bears the price, 500 guineas. Horner's map is not the bird's-eye view it seems at first sight but is an accurate ground plan with a consistent scale.

Altogether Horner produced between 300 to 400 watercolours and at least 4 huge maps. For a time he enjoyed considerable professional and financial success.

He achieved national celebrity in the 1820s as the artist of an enormous 360° panorama of London taken from an observatory over the cross of St. Paul's Cathedral. This was exhibited by painting the inside of the dome of a purpose-built London Colosseum, based on the Roman Pantheon, in Regents Park. This venture, which included the first steam lift, proved so expensive that Horner and



Rowland Stephenson, an MP and banker, who was his sponsor, were forced to flee to America. Hornor died in poverty in New York in 1844.

Paxton's vistas of Middleton Park, remain fundamentally unchanged although much is now lost to view beneath two centuries of growth.

The largest of the lakes which distinguished Paxton's estate was drained in 1939. The dams were most likely breached to comply with new government legislation regarding reservoirs and their safety.

Hornor's accurate and detailed topographical paintings of Middleton could help to inform a complete restoration of Paxton's water park, recreating the dams, falls and cascades as well as the original planting regimes, even down to identifying varieties and species of plants.

NBGW Garden Director, Rosie Plummer, on taking delivery of the paintings, commented: "We are delighted to have the pictures back here for the first time in nigh on 200 years and are immensely grateful to the Paxton family for their generous loan and permission to reproduce them".

Glynis Shaw



Many thanks to David Hardy, Head of Marketing and Communications, National Botanic Garden of Wales, for providing information and images of Middleton Park.

All images are reproduced with the kind permission of the Grant family.

## New British Standard for conservation of historic buildings

On 10 March 2014 a new edition of BS 7913, the guide to best practice in the management and treatment of historic buildings, was launched by the British Standards Institute. This is the only authoritative national UK guide on the subject.

Whilst there are many notable features of the guide, the need to properly plan and manage issues ranging from significance to the quality of work stands out among the

critical features of the conservation process.

Cadw's Assistant Director John Edwards, the lead author and chair of the drafting panel, said: "This standard is for all traditional buildings and not just those which are listed. It is aimed at everybody and not just the specialist."

The new guide is available from [shop.bsigroup.com](http://shop.bsigroup.com)



Wrexham cemetery chapel drawing

## Garden Cemetery Wrexham

Cemeteries are now included in the revised 2012 Heritage Lottery Parks for People Programme. Wrexham CBC are now working on a bid for the restoration of the Wrexham Garden Cemetery.

Clwyd member Maureen Thomas has researched this site as part of her MA in Garden History, and this will help to inform conservation of the site.

Cimetière du Père-Lachaise in 1804, to the east of Paris, was both the first garden cemetery and the first municipal cemetery. Père-Lachaise set the standard for the garden cemetery movement - the beauty of its landscape, the serenity of its atmosphere and the grandeur of its monuments astonished visitors accustomed to the squalor of ancient city churchyards. Designed with avenues on the principal axes and winding paths, it provides a picturesque informality with the undulating terrain and plantings of clumps of trees and shrubs.

The creation of an appropriate, yet appealing, setting for remembering the dead led to the movement for the garden cemetery - a new feature for many towns and cities in Britain facing a population explosion and overcrowded or full church graveyards.

Cemeteries in the Judeo-Christian heritage are often located on hill sites. Sites least susceptible to flooding were sought for burials. Fear of infectious disease led many planners and architects to advocate burials outside the towns and cities as practiced in Ancient Rome. However, it wasn't until 1819 that the first cemetery independent of an Anglican parish church, The Rosary in Norwich, was opened in England. The need for more cemeteries became acute in 1830-31 when more than 52,000 people died in a cholera epidemic.

London was particularly desperate for new burial grounds. Kensal Green in 1833, was London's first private garden cemetery, the first of the 'Magnificent Seven' London cemeteries. Closely modelled on Père-

Lachaise, it was for a long time the most fashionable burial ground in Victorian England.

As the Victorians developed a culture of commemoration expressed through elaborate funerals, family monuments and mausolea, mourning fashions and regular visits to graves, there was much interest in the design of cemeteries.

The standard was established in 1839 by the architect Stephen Geary with the twin mortuary chapels, for Anglicans and Dissenters, linked on either side of an archway in a Gothic design at the main entrance to Highgate Cemetery.

Highgate, sited on the slope of a picturesque hill with the beautiful

parish church just above, seemingly part of the scene, was the grandest cemetery. It has an Egyptian Avenue and the Circle of Lebanon with catacombs on a passageway built around a great Cedar of Lebanon. The layout was greatly admired and it became the cemetery of the London bourgeoisie. Geary, assisted by the London architect James Bunstone and surveyor and landscape gardener David Ramsay, from a Brompton Nursery, established cemeteries as places of landscape design, architecture and beauty.

In 1840, Abney Park was a pioneering non-denominational place of rest and a model garden cemetery. Abney was unique in being the first arboretum combined with a cemetery in Europe. Originally set in a landscape of fields and woods, outside the built-up boundary of London, it offered an educational experience. The 18th century parkland was landscaped by the well known nurseryman Loddiges with 2,500 trees and shrubs all labelled, arranged around the perimeter, alphabetically from A for Acer to Z for Zanthoxylum (American Toothache tree).

In 1842 John Claudius Loudon published 'On the Laying Out, Planting, and Managing of Cemeteries, and on the Improvement of Churchyards.' Loudon advocated a grid like structure for using space efficiently and stressed the importance of the design, ornament, planting and landscaping of new cemeteries in improving the taste and morals of the masses.

A series of Burial Acts were passed 1852 - 1857 so that public cemeteries developed under the direction of the local Burial Boards were funded from the Poor Rate.

In 1857 the agricultural magazine 'The Country Gentleman' addressed the specific planting requirements for the new style of cemetery: "*cemeteries are not to be left naked and desolate, as were most of the old-fashioned burying yards . . . we conclude that a cemetery [sic] should be a pleasant, cultivated scene . . . the grounds should be substantially enclosed with fences or hedges and belts of trees, to give them an air of security and*

*seclusion . . . and to make them appear to be a suitable resting place and home for the dead."*

In Wrexham in 1871, a meeting of the Burial Board Committee chaired by Alderman and solicitor John Jones, resolved that the surveyor Yeaman Strachan (1830-1891) should be instructed to produce a plan for the cemetery. Three acres for current use were to be apportioned equally between the Church of England, the Dissenters, and the Roman Catholics, together with a lodge and chapel.

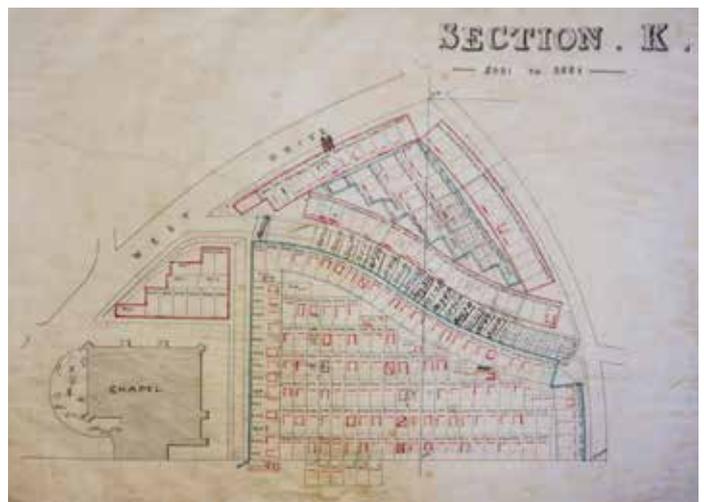
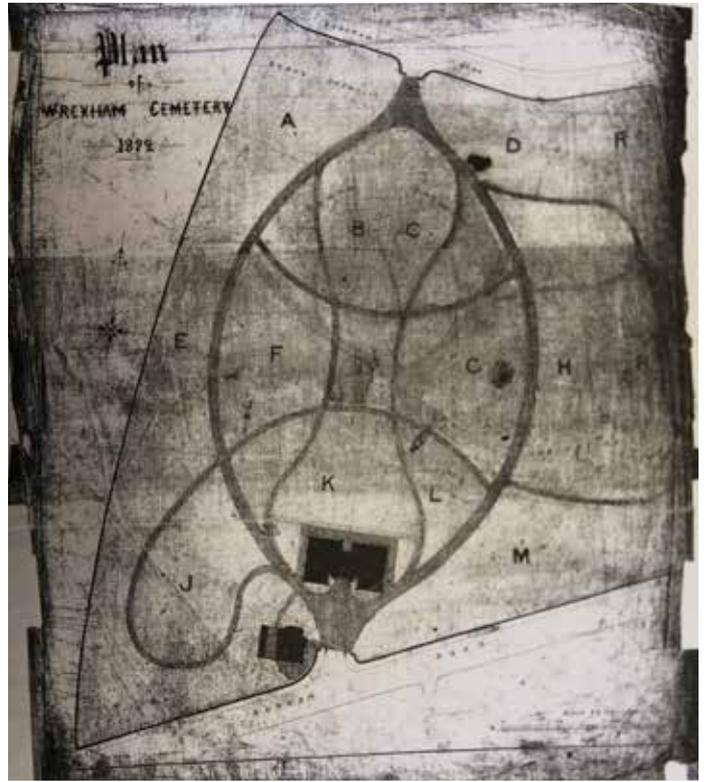
Surveyor Yeaman Strachan was also a local nurseryman, seedsman and manager of manure. He had a Wrexham business at 4, the High Street and the Railway Nurseries with partner Charles Thomas Evans. Strachan originally from Scotland, was previously employed as a gardener at Stansty Hall.

In January 1873 Dr. Holland, a Government Medical Inspector, held a Public Inquiry at the Wrexham Town Hall as to the expediency of purchasing land on the Ruabon Road. Discussions on the purchase of five acres belonging to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners had begun a year earlier and Dr Holland was concerned at the lack of progress. He reported that *"several trial pits have been sunk in the land in the course of the past week, and with the exception of one plot in the centre, the whole of the ground is found to be exceedingly suitable for burial purposes"*. Strachan had by this time become a Councillor and loaned numerous exotic plants and ferns to decorate the tables at the Mayor's banquet held in the Assembly rooms of the Wynnstay Arms Hotel. In 1875 he submitted plans for laying out and planting a new 10 acre cemetery and for walling the site, a rectangular area of gently rolling ground on the western edge of town between the B5099 and A5152 roads.

The valley of the Wrexham cemetery is partly formed by a former quarry and the early mediaeval boundary earthwork Wat's Dyke, which runs north-south on the west of the site. Disused quarries provided an ideal opportunity for the picturesque treatment of a cemetery layout. St James's Cemetery, Liverpool (Foster and Shepherd, 1829), Key Hill Cemetery, Birmingham (Charles Edge, 1834-5) and Church Cemetery, Nottingham (Edwin Patchett, 1856) are early cemeteries occupying former quarry sites.

Local Historian Alfred Neobard Palmer (1847-1915) identified part of the cemetery as The Leper's Land, Terra Leprosarium, mentioned in the Valor Ecclesiasticus of Henry VIII. By 26th Nov 1840 in a lease of the Bishop of St. Asaph it was described as Cae'r Clefion, *'the sick folks' field.'*

The opening and consecration of the new cemetery was performed by the Bishop of St Asaph on 3rd July 1876, followed by a celebratory dinner for everyone who had worked on the site. The opening was reported in The Wrexham Guardian: *"the Ground could not have been laid out with greater taste, and Mr Strachan who prepared the plan and carried it out, is deserving of the highest encomiums for his good taste"*.



*Garden Cemetery design and plots by Yeaman Strachan. Images courtesy of the Wrexham Cemetery office*

The boundary on the Ruabon road has a substantial stepped wall, surmounted by elegant railings, following Loudon's advice for security and his recommendation for railings on open sites.

The lodge, chapels and the main entrance on the Ruabon road were designed by the Wrexham architect William Turner, a former Mayor of the Borough. The main entrance is set back from the road and aligned with the main axis of the chapels. The Wrexham Guardian reported: *"the entrance is most attractive, the whole having been undertaken by Mr T. Hughes, Moss Quarries, for the modest sum of £500. The boundary wall and gates on the Bersham road were contracted for by Messrs Davies and Sons for £450. During the last few weeks energetic efforts were made to prepare the grounds for the formal opening."* The cast iron main gates and side gates are set between stone piers decorated with Gothic recesses and heavy triangular stone tops.

Concerns were reported in April 1876 at the irregularity

of the first interment, of 11 year old Ethel Irene, as the cemetery was neither completed nor consecrated.

The twin Gothic mortuary chapels, for Anglicans and Dissenters, stand at the highest point in the cemetery grounds opposite the main entrance on the Ruabon road and provide a central focus for the cemetery. The chapels are mirror images of each other, containing a chancel, a coffin chamber, a vestry and an underground heating chamber. They are linked by a carriage entrance archway (a porte-cochère), surmounted by a tower and octagonal spire. The spire reaching 80 ft, designed to be the envy and admiration of Wrexham's neighbours, was a source of contention at numerous council meetings.

The Lodge at the entrance has the cemetery office and living quarters for the Superintendent. The chapels, lodge, main entrance gateway and railings are all listed Grade II and will be restored with the cemetery landscape.

After the opening ceremony Strachan continued to be responsible for the management of the grounds. In 1877 the Town Council funded a conservatory at the cemetery, to provide bedding plants and geraniums to decorate the graves. The Superintendent was also promised a supply of cuttings from gentlemen's gardens and Mr J.M Jones remarked *"on the pains now taken in decorating the graves in the new cemetery, because the public were stimulated by beautiful surroundings which were entirely wanting in the other burial grounds."*

Loudon had very different ideas for cemetery planting to create an atmosphere of repose. He believed planting should be unlike that of a Pleasure ground. *"For our own particular taste, we would have no flowers at all, nor any portion of ground within a cemetery that had the appearance of being dug or otherwise moved for the purpose of cultivation. A state of quiet and repose is an important ingredient in the passive sublime; and moving the soil for the purpose of culture, even over a grave, is destructive of repose."*

The council agreed to gravel the footpaths and raised the wages of the Superintendent. Burial fees were long debated - if they were too high people were unable to place monuments in the cemetery. The height and material allowed for headstones was controlled and, to safeguard excavations of the adjoining grave spaces, heavy headstones had to be supported by a brick wall built from the bottom of the grave to the surface as a foundation.

In 1878 a ratepayer wrote to the Editor of the Wrexham Guardian *"would you kindly inform me if it is correct that, with a view to economy, and as a means for raising the wind, the Wrexham Corporation have let the new cemetery for a bleaching ground? During the past month I have been somewhat horrified by seeing a large quantity of clothes drying behind the chapels. What revenue does this realise, and does that fact account for the welcome reduction of the rate ...."*

The practice of leasing the cemetery grass for hay mak-

ing was ended in 1879, as grass covered with dandelions was considered very untidy. It was thought that the cemetery ought to be kept neat throughout the year.

Generally the cemetery was considered a credit to the town. In 1886 the council agreed to purchase further land and the cemetery was extended eastwards in 1890.

One mystery not mentioned in any of the nineteenth century or later accounts is the tall bright red chimney besides the Bersham Road. When and why it was built no one knows.

Yeaman Strachan went on to become a JP and was elected as Mayor in 1882. He died aged 61 in 1891 and is buried in his cemetery. As in life, the social hierarchy of society is seen in the positioning of the graves with the most important on the higher ground west of the chapels and along the main drives.

The cemetery has graves of soldiers who died in the Crimean War and in other conflicts of the nineteenth century. The 64 First World War burials are scattered throughout the cemetery grounds.

During the Second World War a triangular War Graves Plot was established in an angle formed between two carriage ways in part of Section D in the south-western portion of the cemetery. This was used by the Royal Air Force stationed at Wrexham and by the Polish Hospitals in Maelor, at Penley, Llanerch Panna and Iscoyd Park.

The War Graves Plot is divided into three small groups of graves; the corner group contains 48 Commonwealth war graves and the other groups, flanking the two paths, have 40 Polish war graves. The war graves are under the care of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. The cemetery also contains two Belgian war graves.

A memorial to the Polish armed forces and their families was erected at the entrance to the cemetery in 1989. The inscription in Polish, English and Welsh, reads: *"In memory of the Polish soldiers and their families, for whom a return to a Free Poland was not given, who rest here and in other cemeteries in Wales"*.

More research of the graves, the statues and funerary monuments is needed. Although many commemorated are of local rather than national eminence, some of the monuments are very fine.

Succession planting due to recent tree losses and over-mature trees will need to take account of any trees which have properties damaging to certain grave stones. New planting needs to remain sympathetic to what we know of Strachan's original scheme, to maintain the special atmosphere of the Victorian Garden Cemetery and to ensure that the site remains a beautiful place of rest to be enjoyed by the public.

Over 37,000 people were buried here and the cemetery is now closed. Some burials still take place for those with family plots. A new Wrexham cemetery was opened in 2009.

*Many thanks to Maureen Thomas for her help and information.*

## Whitehurst, Chirk

Whitehurst Garden, 1651, is a rare 17th century ornamental fruit garden developed by Sir Thomas Myddelton of Chirk. Following a meeting with Officers of Wrexham CBC last December, there has been much investigation as to how Whitehurst might be saved from continued neglect and dereliction.

Thanks to David Lock, Head Gardener at Chirk Castle and his NT team's Green Day, a start on the conservation of Whitehurst took place in February. This was a day of volunteer effort, coppicing hazels on the mound which revealed views not seen for over 25 years showing the whole height of the serpentine terracing.

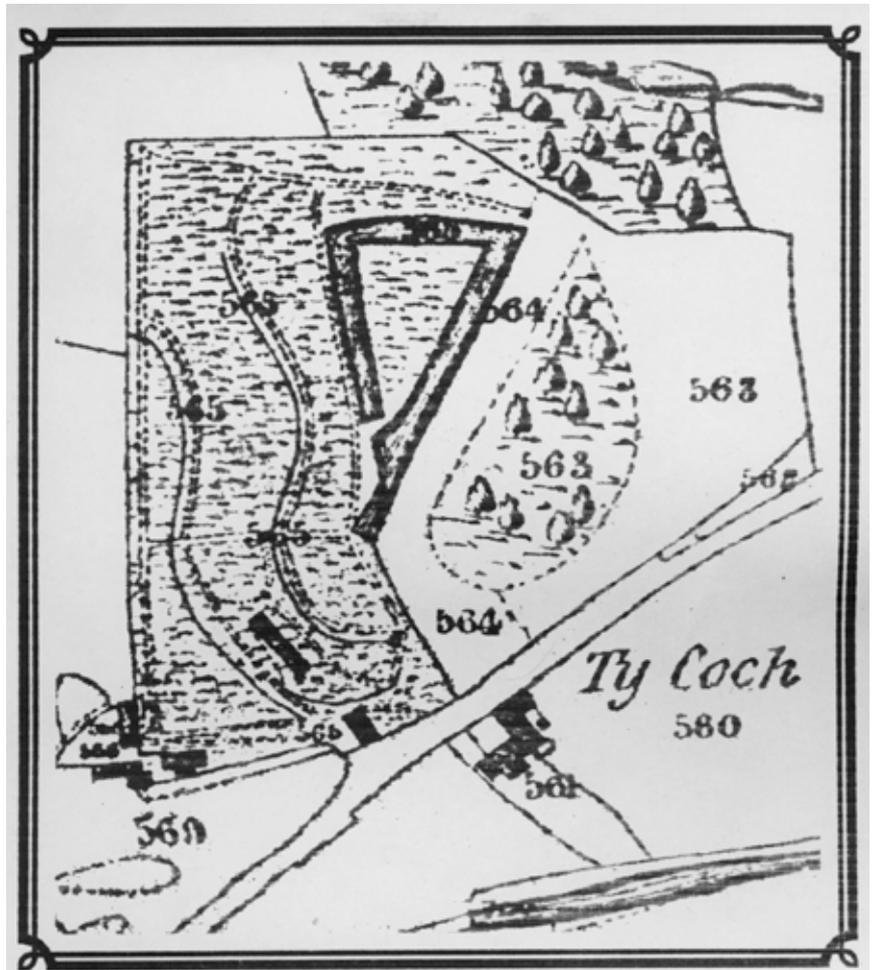
The mound is thought by Ray Bailey to have been a motte utilised as a viewing mount. The site is very much as depicted in the 1735 drawing by Thomas Badeslade of 'The West Prospect of Chirk Castle'. As Shane Logan, Property Manager of Chirk Castle said "*Whitehurst is no ordinary walled garden.*"

Many thanks for the generous consultations and advice given by Jeremy Milln and John Hardy. Thanks also to WHGT members: Beth Brunning who located the tithe map showing the canal, lost by 1876 (OS 1st edn. map of 1876); Michael Kemp for his fantastic hospitality at Queen Anne Cottage, a converted banqueting house and apple store or possibly once the boat-house at Whitehurst; Adrian Jones for his support and guiding services and Michael Norman for his advice.

Special thanks for the support of Christine Ashford who has been encouraging local community engagement and whose experience of local government has been invaluable. We were delighted that Ken Skates AM and the Deputy Minister for Skills and Technology visited the site on March 21st.

A Friends of Whitehurst group will be formally launched at a Clwyd branch party hosted by Michael Kemp on July 19th.

The intention is to restore the landscape as a community orchard with heritage trees from North Wales. We hope the NT Green Day was the beginning of a great project leading to a successful restoration of this impressive site.



*Chirk Castle Gardens from the 1839 Tylhe Map*



*Whitehurst terracing with vinery and Serpentine walling © Glynis Shaw*

## The Towy Gateway

In this anniversary year it seems appropriate that the latest WHGT restoration project might be in the Towy valley, where it all began.

The former palace of the Bishop of St Davids at Abergwili, now the County Museum, is situated in a fine example of informal, ambitiously planted landscaping of the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. Of exceptional interest is the well preserved ha-ha, with far-reaching views across the Great Meadow to the valley beyond. The incorporation of the Bishop's Pond, the adjoining ox-bow lake of the river, into the designed landscape is a novel use of an unusual natural feature and is itself a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).



*Bishop Jenkinson's polygonal lodge of 1825-1840 © Dyfed Archaeological Trust*

Registered at Grade II, this relatively small site therefore combines and contrasts cultural, historical and ecological features of great importance to the heritage of Wales.

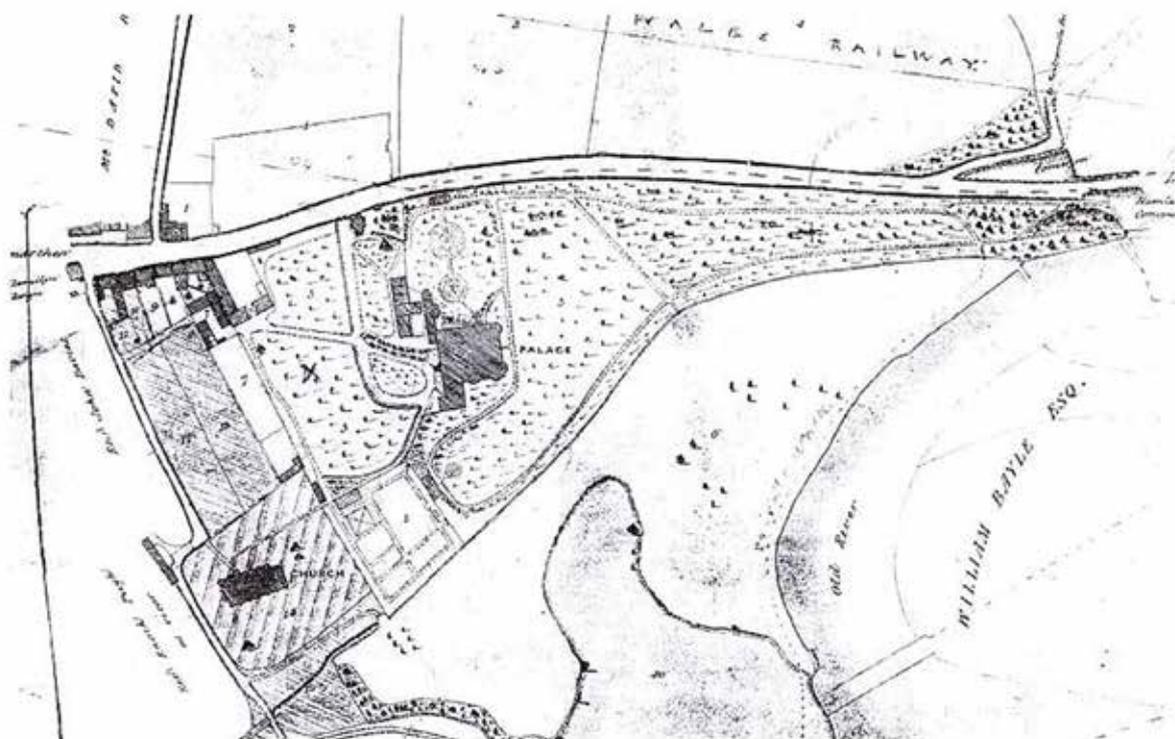
However there are several significant problems. The historic curtilage is in divided ownership, suffering disrepair and neglect. The tree planting is verging on the over-mature, the understory is dull and views out are blurred. Access within is impeded, and the walled garden is derelict. Community engagement is negligible. Publicity and interpretation are inadequate and opportunities for links to nearby attractions, including the Gwili steam railway, are neglected. As a result visitor numbers to the park and Museum are well below their potential, but that could change.

Responding to local requests and working closely with

the County Council, the Carmarthenshire Branch of the Trust is now considering the feasibility of creating of a 'hub' park here, with the Museum at its heart.

If successful, The Towy Gateway would become an all-year visitor destination with its restored ornamental woodland garden, kitchen garden and access to the Bishop's Pond and Great Meadow. In so doing it would involve the local community by providing opportunities for volunteering, learning and employment and would support the Museum (remaining in the Council's charge). And, not least, it would promote the many other attractions in this culturally and scenically important valley, with Aberglasney and Middleton just minutes away.

Michael Norman



*Bishop's Palace Abergwili 1840's Estate Map © Carmarthenshire Record Office, the John Francis Collection.*

## Sárpo Potatoes

A Welsh potato project aims to reduce pesticide use

Growing your own food is hard work but fun and at least you know where your potatoes have come from. There is nothing better than a plate of home-grown earlies, harvested the same day, that have the subtle, sweet flavour of the new potato.

Growing potatoes (and tomatoes) in Wales means that the late-blight disease usually arrives to share the crop. Some older gardeners will remember spraying their rows with Dithane or copper to get more of the share for themselves. Farmers today depend on a good harvest and often spray against blight 20 or more times in a wet year at a cost of £72,000,000. How much better it would be if the potatoes had a natural resistance that stopped or reduced the damage to the potato and chemical damage to the environment.

It is possible to find a gene for blight resistance and insert it into a King Edward or a Maris Piper. Job done! The potato would not get blighted. For many, this gene-jockeying is unacceptable and most agree it will not happen in Europe for a long time. Fortunately, good old-fashioned hybridization can be used but takes a long time.

The Sárvári family started potato breeding in Hungary as part of the Soviet plan to produce low cost potatoes that did not depend on a cocktail of chemicals to prop them up. They produced a strain of vigorous, high yielding potatoes that resisted blight and virus diseases and continued their work privately when the Soviet Union ceased to exist. The promising, new, hardy potatoes became known as Sárpo (a combination of Sárvári with Potato).

I first saw these potatoes in Scotland where an intrepid seed potato grower, Adam Anderson, had introduced some and was keen to find out how they performed in the UK. When Adam learned that I had spent 30 years working with the oomycete (pseudofungus) *Phytophthora infestans* that causes potato blight, he talked me out of my academic post at Bangor University and into the Directorship of a not-for-profit company, the Sárvári Research Trust, based at the university farm (Henfaes Research Centre). The aims of the Trust are to research the late-blight pathogen and continue breeding disease resistant and low-input potatoes.

Over the last ten years, we have been awarded National List status on a total of seven potato varieties. These have various skin colours (red, white and blue) and maturities (early, early maincrop and maincrop). Dry matter content of the potatoes also varies from a moist/waxy 18% (Sárpo Una) to a fluffy, floury 25% (Blue Danube). In addition to their blight resistance, these potatoes have other properties that suit them to organic or low-input growing. Their exceptional vigour allows them to smother weeds and yield a heavy crop. They are resistant to common viruses and this means they do not degenerate rapidly from virus disease and do not need sprays to



*David Shaw, Director of the Sárvári Research Trust*

keep virus-transmitting aphids at bay. The long natural dormancy means that they are much less likely to sprout in store and do not need refrigeration or treatment with CIPC gas to suppress the sprouts. In all, they can grow without chemical crutches and have an unusually small carbon footprint.

We have grown certified seed of our varieties on local farms and sold them mainly to amateur growers and smallholders. This is a costly business and should not be the work of a research trust. So this year, we have formed a new, trading company, Sárpo Potatoes Ltd, owned by the trust. This will allow us to produce more seed to satisfy an increasing demand. To help set up the trading company we have a Crowdfund (see [buzzbnk.org/SarpoPotatoes](http://buzzbnk.org/SarpoPotatoes)) that is accepting donations and larger loans. The crowd of over 150 is also helping us by performing simple growing and tasting experiments on promising seedlings. The crowd's results become a valuable database when deciding what seedling we want to introduce as a new variety.

Next time you see a Sárpo potato you will know it has some of its roots in Hungary and the rest in the North Wales coast.

Eat up your tatws; they are good for you!

Dr David Shaw

*Director, SRT and Sárpo Potatoes Ltd, Henfaes Research Centre, Abergwyngregyn, Llanfairfechan LL33 0LB  
[www.sarvari-trust.org](http://www.sarvari-trust.org)*

## Citrus House Margam Country Park

The Margam citrus house was officially re-opened on the 18th March.

The £900,000 restoration of the 200 year old Grade II citrus house is the first phase of a scheme to increase the revenue at Margam Country Park. This park was voted the UK 2013 Green Flag People's Choice Award-winner.

Margam citrus house produced the orange blossom for the royal wedding in 1981 had since fallen into disrepair. It now has a new citrus collection nurtured by the Head Gardener Gary Lovelock who joined the park as a horticulturist in 2013.

Tangerines, lemons, clementines and the more exotic varieties such as Buddha's fingers are now growing in the lean-to glasshouse. The citrus house had pest problems, including an infestation of tortrix moths, but these are now under control using mostly biological methods. Further improvements include a restoration of the castle terrace and planting of a new and colourful herbaceous border influenced by Gertrude Jekyll.

Gary worked for Suttons Nurseries and spent 10 years at Plas Newydd in Llangollen before coming to Margam. A team of volunteers is now helping to grow produce and cut flowers for sale. The park's staff achieved a huge success with the Green Flag award but now Margam is set to develop horticultural interest.

## Broadheath garden under threat

A proposal for a broiler unit threatens the Grade II listed landscape of Broadheath House, Presteigne, with two huge sheds for 80,000 chickens.

The development will be sited adjacent to a set piece Italianate garden. This was an early private commission by Clough Williams-Ellis who remodelled and extended the Georgian house in 1925.

The neighbourhood of Broadheath will be blighted by the broiler unit. The sheds will be next to ancient Broadheath Common, regarded as Presteigne's official village green, the venue for traditional annual trotting races and where residents have for centuries enjoyed the open space.

The councillors rejected the planning application by a narrow margin because of the adverse impacts on the special landscape, against the recommendation of the planning officers.

The rural tourist economy is fragile. Visitors seek the healthy outdoors, heritage and rural bliss - all too easily lost if industrial scale farm units blot these landscapes with huge buildings, foul odours, noise, dust, pollution and heavy traffic.

WHGT Brecon and Radnor branch have objected to this planning application and WHGT will support the local residents Action Group should there be an appeal.

## WSPA challenge Super Dairy

The World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA) will challenge the appeal decision made by Carl Sargeant, the Welsh Minister, on Lower Leighton Farm, at the High Court Judicial hearing on 5th June.

WSPA condemned the Minister's decision to overturn the Inspector's recommendation to refuse planning for a 1,000-cow dairy, following an eight day Public Inquiry. His decision disregarded county and national expert planning advice.

WSPA believe the decision should be urgently reviewed. The possible creation of a small number of new jobs should not outweigh the long term economic benefits afforded by the plentiful, efficient and sustainable asset of grazing, which is fully recognised by many Welsh dairy farmers.

Applications to build a factory dairy of this size should be subject to tighter planning restrictions and fall under industrial business applications. The planning process needs urgent revision to prevent development next door to a primary school in the heart of a tiny village in the countryside.

The National Trust (NT) and WHGT were among the groups who opposed the super dairy as it will affect a Grade I designed landscape by damaging the views from the baroque terraces of Powis Castle. Such views are priceless and need defending. It is always difficult to appreciate a view adequately but many would mourn its loss. Powys CC were also concerned about the adverse visual impacts from Offa's Dyke, Wat's Dyke and the change to the character of the area.

It was disappointing that heritage organisations and the NT did not challenge this decision, but the mounting costs involved with a Judicial review are daunting.

WHGT is grateful to Ros Laidlaw who gave evidence on behalf of the WHGT at the Public Inquiry.

## Brondanw

The Welsh government has decided not to call in the planning application for a car park on the Grade I parkland at Brondanw. Clough began developing Brondanw 17 years before Portmeirion and the garden is intimately linked to the borrowed views of its setting in the heart of Snowdonia.

The Gwynedd branch have strongly objected to this planning application and are campaigning to have the car park re-sited.

It seems inconceivable that this unique, personal and private landscape could be spoilt by the visual intrusion of up to 50 cars and a coach! This would destroy spectacular views from the fire monument above the chasm, a key feature of this landscape, and the special qualities of the woodland garden with the Castle Folly as well as views from within the formal garden.

The commercial success of the cafe now seems more important than the maintenance and conservation of the charm of Brondanw on the Croesor estate.



Dunraven images © Crown copyright: Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales

## Dunraven Walled Garden

The £99,000 restoration of the Grade II listed Dunraven walled garden, Southerndown, was opened by Lady Dunraven and Lady Ana of the Dunraven Estate on 22 November 2013.

Dunraven is sited on an Iron Age hillfort on the heritage coast of Glamorgan. According to tradition, Caradoc, king of the West Saxons, had a summer court here. In 1093, under the Normans, the Lordship of Ogmore was given to William de Londres, and in 1128 a steward, Arnold Botiler, gained his Knighthood for bravely defending the site from the Welsh and was granted Dunraven. In the early 15th century, Owen Glyndŵr is said to have destroyed the castle built by Botiler.

When Walter Vaughan acquired the property through marriage in the 1540s, Dunraven was described as a Manor Place and it was sold to the Wyndham family of Clearwell in Gloucestershire in 1642.

In 1803 Mr. Thomas Wyndham made many alterations and his grandson Edwin Richard Wyndham Quin (who had become the third Earl of Dunraven in 1850) undertook further major works in 1858. By 1887, Edwin (Lord Adare) had a magnificent castellated mansion, on a rocky promontory, 100ft above the sea.

Although the house was lost in the 1960s, the 19th century walled garden, on the site of a garden dating from the 16th century, still survives. The garden has an Edwardian summerhouse, and a tower containing a banqueting room and ice-house.

To ensure public access to the garden continued and to secure its future preservation some parts of the wall needed re-building and re-pointing. Structural surveys identified badly weathered mortar joints and ivy penetrating the walls as causes of instability. Stone was used from a local quarry to match the original fabric of the walls whilst the distinctive castellations were cleaned and re-pointed, restoring the garden's original

character. Roosting voids for bats have been provided within the walls to promote biodiversity.

The Summerhouse is an important feature of the site and the survey revealed problems with stability and wet rot in its softwood timber frame. A new timber frame matching the original has been constructed from sustainably sourced Douglas fir. A new roof construction over bituminous felt provides roosting space for pipistrelle bats and Swallow cups have been set high up on the back wall. The original tiles were reused to complete the restoration.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Penrhos Lost

The Welsh Government has decided not to call in the proposed 200 hectare mixed-use leisure and housing development on the Isle of Anglesey.

This includes a 500 unit leisure park with lodges, a waterpark and beach, cafés, restaurants and a farmers market on the Penrhos Coastal Park in Holyhead.

Whilst the heritage significance of the site has been under-valued, considering that much survives of the historic landscape, the site is also in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). One may wonder what is the value of this designation if it is not defended by either the Council or the Assembly.

Penrhos images © Liza Jones





The Professional Gardeners' Trust is a privately funded organisation, responding to the need to generate funding for skills training and development within the gardening profession. It does this by providing grants to working gardeners to acquire skills and gain qualifications through part-time training courses and work placements. Access to training often enables gardeners to progress their careers and apply for jobs requiring higher levels of skill.

There are increasing threats now facing traditional training within the profession as working practices have changed. For example, attracting school leavers into the profession continues to be a real challenge. The Trust's objectives are career enhancement which benefits both the individual by adding relevant qualifications and experience to a CV and the horticultural profession as a whole by raising standards across the board. The greater the awareness of this sort of funding, the more prospective entrants will be attracted to the profession.

The Trust was founded by gardeners for gardeners. Its officers and the majority of its trustees are professional gardeners themselves. Since it was established in 2004 the Trust has been able to assist over 100 applicants throughout the UK. From humble beginnings with very limited resources it has become one of the largest providers of funds for training of its type. Thanks to a number of generous benefactors, this year's target of annual funding is £25,000 pa helping about 50 applicants. We hope that will continue. Inevitably though, word of mouth breeds ever greater demand and we have every confidence that the work of the Trust will continue to grow.

Applicants usually work in private gardens, or gardens open to the public, but many are self-employed. We have

found employers to be very supportive by either making a contribution or by giving time off.

Applicants must demonstrate that they derive the majority of their income from gardening. The application process is quite simple, accessed through the Trust's website [www.pgtrust.org](http://www.pgtrust.org)

Specific examples of the types of training which have been enabled illustrate the scope of the Trust's activities. Many of our awards provide training which is on the practical side of gardening. In the last year alone 13 courses for pesticide training and certification and 8 for chainsaw training were funded. These are all important qualifications for applying for jobs. With the disappearance of apprentice schemes the Royal Horticultural Society's diplomas are particularly valuable. Many of them are part time courses enabling full time gardeners to study through distance learning programmes. We have helped over thirty gardeners in this way. Other more specialist projects have included plant identification, tree survey training, social and therapeutic courses, wild flower meadow management and tractor driving with all the Health and Safety requirements which that entails.

An important part of the Trust's work, made possible by a generous donation, is to fund short term placements. This enables gardeners to experience working in different gardening environments to their own. These provide experience and inspiration to gardeners who will go on to make a real mark on their chosen profession.

How can members of WHGT help the Trust? There are three ways. Firstly to encourage garden employees to search the website and see whether the Trust can help their careers; secondly to spread the word about the work of the Trust and thirdly to consider supporting the Trust financially in a way that might bring benefits to Welsh gardens.

Jeremy Garnett

For further details contact Jeremy on: 020 8874 4951  
mobile 07764 398 230

## WHGT Annual General Meeting 2014

### Plas Tan y Bwlch

Snowdonia National Park Centre  
Saturday June 7th, hosted by Gwynedd Branch

Speaker Justin Albert  
National Trust Director for Wales

Afternoon tour of the Victorian Picturesque landscape with unusual and exotic specimens.  
There are also woodland walks for the more energetic.

Friday June 6

### Evening Reception Crûg Farm Nursery

Griffith's Crossing, Caernarfon, Gwynedd, LL55 1TU.  
hosted by Bleddyn and Sue Wynn-Jones

Sunday 8th June

### Plas Cadnant Hidden Gardens

Cadnant Road  
Menai Bridge Isle of Anglesey LL59 5NH.  
hosted by Anthony Tavernor

Booking details and further information will be sent out with the AGM papers.

For further details please contact Olive Horsfall: [oandmhorsfall@btinternet.com](mailto:oandmhorsfall@btinternet.com) 01766 780187

## Japanese Zen Gardens

by Yoko Kawaguchi 208pp, Frances Lincoln, March 2014

You should not be put off by the title of this book, imagining it to be just another volume about Japanese gravel gardens. Once you open this book you will find it difficult to put down until you have completed it.

The author Yoko Kawaguchi has the advantage of not only being Japanese but also of being a gardener.

The book is a perfect size to demonstrate the subject and is filled with text, avoiding the massive margins we have become accustomed to in what we have come to call 'coffee table' books.

The introductory pages give a detailed time line on the history of the Japanese garden from 600 AD to 2006, contrasting events in Japanese history with those of China and Europe. What this does is to set the scene for the rest of the book, which then takes us through the development of the Zen garden in relation to the perhaps better known Tea garden.

The author is also quick to point out that various styles of Japanese gardens should be seen in context and that the Zen garden is not an end but a development. It's not about style but about the spirit in which the garden is approached.

The book is divided into two parts: Part one gives the historical overview of various major examples of the Zen garden. Part two explains the various symbols and motifs contained within the Japanese garden. This is probably

one of the best series of explanations of these symbols, written in English, that I have ever read. Included in part two is also a section on the plants used in such gardens. The text of this book is illustrated throughout with absolutely stunning photographs, most of which are the work of Alex Ramsey, an undisputed perfectionist when it comes to photographing gardens.

The book concludes with a list of the Temples highlighted and their times of opening.

In addition there is an essential Glossary of Japanese terms and a list of further reading.

This is a fabulous book which will be of great interest to both those who are starting out to try to understand Japanese gardens and those who already love and enjoy them.

Sam Youd.

Gardens Advisor, former Gardens Manager at Tatton Park.

*To order Japanese Zen Gardens at the discounted price of £24.00 including p&p\* (RRP: £30.00), telephone 01903 828503 or email mailorders@lbsltd.co.uk and quote the offer code APG77. Alternatively, send a cheque made payable to:*

*Littlehampton Book Services Mail Order Department, Littlehampton Book Services, PO Box 4264, Worthing, West Sussex BN13 3RB. Please quote the offer code APG77 and include your name and address details.*

*\*UK ONLY - Please add £2.50 if ordering from overseas.*

## The Gardens of the British Working Class

by Margaret Willes, 413pp Yale University Press, March 2014

This is much more than a history of allotments. Garden history mainly concerns the landscape of the gentry and the rich, designed as an expression of taste and wealth.

Margaret Willes endeavours to document a history of ordinary gardens, and the many people who laboured in gardens, representing much of the population prior to the outbreak of WWI.

Commercial and domestic gardening over 400 years are covered with the term *working class* loosely applied to mean anyone who worked. For centuries, whatever their station in life, people have tended gardens, primarily growing vegetables for sustenance and herbs for medicine, but also as a recreational activity. The Ancient Society of York Florists, in 1766, declared its purpose to be "Happiness."

Stories of the gardeners are interesting although the nurserymen, park keepers and head gardeners would not have been considered to be working class. There was a hierarchy amongst gardeners from the lowest paid weeding woman to the head gardeners with salary, house, perks and status.

From the humblest rural plots, the hardships caused

by the land enclosures, the development of allotments and the struggle to manage on ever smaller plots, Willes demonstrates how gardening in cities became a triumph in the face of adversity, dealing with poverty, overcrowding and pollution. Bromborough, Wirral, was an early industrial development where workers' houses had to have a garden which was followed by utopias such as Port Sunlight and the later garden cities, designed to provide parks and gardens for working classes.

Certain communities were associated with particular plants: the Paisley weavers with pinks and carnations; in London Deptford was known for onions, Barnes for peas, etc. The rural worker's cottage garden, planted with scented and common flowers, influenced fashion in the Edwardian garden.

Although neither organized chronologically or geographically, there is a wealth of material in this book and much to enjoy.

Glynis Shaw

## The Tradescants' Orchard: the Mystery of a Seventeenth Century Painted Fruit Book.

by Barrie Juniper and Hanneke Grootenboer 40pp  
Bodleian Library, University of Oxford, 2013

The fruit paintings known as 'Tradescants' Orchard' are often reproduced as decorative art by Oxford University's Bodleian Library, home of these nearly four hundred year old water colours. Now, all sixty-six paintings are published in a handsome book, together with a stimulating commentary on their origin and purpose by plant scientist Barrie Juniper and art historian Hanneke Grootenboer of the University of Oxford.

In glowing, vivid colours and an endearing, rather simplistic style, each plate illustrates one named fruit variety: 23 plums, 12 peaches, 5 nectarines, 10 cherries, 4 pears, 4 grapes, 2 apricots and a single apple, quince, nut, strawberry and gooseberry, plus a lily. These are bound in a leather volume bearing the coat of arms of Elias Ashmole and were first recorded in 1697 under the title 'A Book of Fruit Trees drawn in Colours about the year 1640'.

Ashmole was a wealthy man, scholar and eclectic collector. In 1677 his donation of a 'Cabinet of Curiosities' to Oxford University partly founded the Ashmolean Museum. The volume of paintings were passed to the Museum, probably on his death in 1692, along with his own collection of 'rarities', to be recorded, then catalogued as 'The Tradescants' Orchard' in 1845 and transferred to the Bodleian in 1860.

The John Tradescants, father and son, were gardeners

to the aristocracy and royalty, nurserymen and collectors. At their Lambeth Nursery, in South London, they amassed the 'Curiosities', known affectionately as 'Tradescants' Ark', which Ashmole acquired from them, possibly duplicitously. It has yet to be proved that the paintings also belonged to the Tradescants. Although the plate of 'The Amber plum' credits its introduction to 'J.T.', no evidence has emerged that the Tradescant family commissioned, or ever, owned the paintings.

The selection of fruits covered is another puzzle and suggests that some plates may be missing since the most common fruit of any English orchard of the early seventeenth century, the apple, is represented by only one variety.

Though charming, the artist's style is naïve by comparison with contemporary botanic and still life works, which raises the intriguing question - what was their function? The authors speculate the paintings may have served as a nurseryman's illustrated catalogue, but this would make them very remarkable and far ahead of their time. Almost another century passed before the famous and much more sophisticated paintings, 'Furber's Fruits', were issued in 1732 to promote the fortunes of Robert Furber's Kensington nursery.

This is a beautiful book, which will enchant a wide readership as well as fruit historians with its colourful, enigmatic, paintings and the mysteries that still remain surrounding their role and provenance.

Joan Morgan (*Abridged from Fruit Forum: <http://www.fruitforum.net/tradescants-orchard-paintings.htm>*)

## Elizabeth Anne Bartlett

With great sorrow we announce the loss of Elizabeth, much loved wife of Pierre Nicholas Bartlett, who died peacefully on January 18th 2014.

Elizabeth was a founder member of the WHGT and a great friend and colleague in the Clwyd branch. Her contribution to WHGT was immense. Always helpful, hospitable and practical, Elizabeth served for many years as the branch Events Secretary and was instrumental in seeing that members had many interesting visits and enjoyable social events.

Elizabeth and Pierre have been restoring Leeswood Hall and its Grade I Switzer landscape. Elizabeth particularly devoted many happy hours to the kitchen garden, making good use of the beautifully restored glasshouse.

Elizabeth will be much missed by all who knew her. Her great sense of fun, her joy in her children and grandchildren and her unfailing kindness and generosity to everyone will ensure that many will forever have fond memories of someone very, very special. Sincere condolences to Elizabeth's family and her many friends and colleagues.

*A Service of Thanksgiving to be held at St Mary's Church, Mold CH7 1BW on Friday 13th June, at 2.30 p.m. Donations if desired to Mold Community Hospital, Ash Grove, Mold CH7 1XG. All enquiries to Dutton & Hallmark. Tel: 01244 310966.*

## Fiona Grant

It was a great shock and sadness to learn that Fiona, a Shropshire garden historian and an active member of the Clwyd branch, died on New Year's day.

It was Fiona's interest in productive gardens which led to the founding of the Walled Kitchen Gardens Network in 2001. After visiting hundreds of walled gardens Fiona became an expert on the abandoned and derelict glasshouses she saw.

Fiona acted as consultant and advisor on the restoration of walled gardens for both the private and public sector, including the National Trust. Fiona gave interesting talks to the WHGT Gwynedd and Clwyd branches on walled gardens and glasshouses. Her excellent Shire Book on 'Glasshouses' published last summer will be a fitting legacy.

Those who knew Fiona will very much miss her good company and passion for championing walled gardens and their conservation. Thanks to Fiona, many gardens have been saved from becoming car parks or worse!

Editor Glynis Shaw: [Bulletin@whgt.org.uk](mailto:Bulletin@whgt.org.uk) 01745710261  
Castell House, Bodfari, Denbigh, LL16 4HT

Many thanks to all contributors and everyone who has assisted with this issue. Items for the autumn issue should be received by Sept 15th.

## New Trustees

Anyone wishing to stand should hand nominations in to Jennie Macve; [jennie.macve@btinternet.com](mailto:jennie.macve@btinternet.com). North Wales is currently poorly represented so nominations from the North branches will be particularly welcomed.

## WHGT Officers:

President: Elisabeth Whittle	
Chairman: Jean Reader	029 2059 6742
Vice Chairman: Joy Neal	01654 781203
Treasurer: Hugh Gardner	01792 290014
Company Secretary: Jennie Macve	01970 626180
Conservation Officer: Ros Laidlaw	01970 832268

WHGT, Aberglasney Gardens, Llangathen, Carmar SA32 8QH  
[admin@whgt.org.uk](mailto:admin@whgt.org.uk) 01558 668 485

## WHGT Celebrates 25 years

I have been thrilled by the enthusiasm with which members have welcomed the opportunity to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of WHGT this year. As you'll see in the Events section at the end of this Bulletin there are lots of activities taking place - don't forget that all WHGT events are open to all members, wherever they live. The only challenge is to book early as numbers are often limited. Particularly interesting this year are the overnight visits that branches have organised: Brecon and Radnor are visiting the gardens of North Wales; Monmouthshire and Gwent are going to Devon and the Gwynedd branch to Ireland.

The Carmarthenshire branch are currently preparing 'Rooted in History', a new book on the gardens of the county which will be published in the autumn to celebrate the 25th anniversary. More events are being planned all the time so do keep an eye on the website to make sure you don't miss anything.

A new WHGT display has been produced this year and, for the first time, we had a stand at the RHS Show in Cardiff in April. It was an opportunity to display information on our historic gardens and some plants special to Wales. There were floral arrangements in the style of the sixteenth, eighteenth and twentieth centuries and a wonderful selection of old garden tools, the identification of which formed the basis of a competition for adults. The children's competition encouraged them to find things out about the National Botanic Garden, Aberglasney, Dyffryn and Picton Castle.

My request in the last Bulletin for articles, thoughts and memories of WHGT activities over the last twenty-five years has produced a rich harvest of material and these will form a special 25th anniversary publication which will replace our usual summer Bulletin this year.

## 25th Anniversary Small Grants Scheme

The support shown for the Small Grants scheme has been tremendous and our thanks go to Advolly Richmond who has taken the lead on the planning behind this project. As a result of the article in the last Bulletin a number of generous donations have already been

received and even generated an application for funding, although we shan't be making any grants until 2015! We shall be working through the year to establish a really good supply of funds to ensure this project can continue over the years. My target is £25,000 - a thousand pounds for each year of our existence - so please do help in any way you can so that we can build up our funds.

The response to the request for garden related books to raise money for the Small Grants scheme has been wonderful. We shall have a number of book sales throughout the year so please keep your offerings coming. My thanks to Gaenor Price who will help with valuations of any rare and unusual books.

## Anniversary Raffle

Joy Neal and Jennie Macve have organized a 25th Anniversary Prize Draw with a selection of wonderful prizes. All proceeds will go to the WHGT Small Grants Scheme. Any member who can help by selling tickets should contact Jennie at: [jennie.macve@btinternet.com](mailto:jennie.macve@btinternet.com) or their branch representatives. The draw will take place on Tuesday November 18th.

I'm pleased to see that the weather we experienced in the first months of this year seems to be improving rapidly and that the coming months will offer us all many opportunities to get out and enjoy the wonderful gardens of Wales.

Jean Reader, WHGT Chairman.

## TOP TIPS FROM NFU MUTUAL

This is the time of year when we typically think about spring cleaning. We turn our attention to those corners and places in the house that get missed when doing our regular chores.

The keen among us often feel the urge to "tidy the garage" and de-clutter. It gives us a sense of satisfaction when we know where everything is and it makes our lives seem better organised and we feel more in control.

What we forget is that our finances also need a regular sort out. So take time to have a look at your investment, pension and savings options and make sure they are working as well as they can for you.

For more information  
 visit [nfumutual.co.uk](http://nfumutual.co.uk)



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## Branch events

For up to date information see: [www.whgt.org.uk](http://www.whgt.org.uk) and the Welsh Historic Gardens Trust Facebook page

### Brecon and Radnor

**Saturday and Sunday 17 and 18 May** Spring Festival at Royal Welsh Showground, Builth Wells.

**Monday 2 June to Thursday 5 June** Visit to gardens in North Wales. Members will be staying at Portmeirion Hotel.

**Sunday 6 July** Garden Party at Evancoyd Court, nr Presteigne, by kind invitation of Mr and Mrs Guy Morrison.

**Monday 21 July to Thursday 24 July** Royal Welsh Show at Builth Wells.

Contact Jonathan Reeves for further details  
[reeves@aberedw.wanadoo.co.uk](mailto:reeves@aberedw.wanadoo.co.uk) 01982 5602050

### Carmarthenshire

**17th May** Guided morning walk of Cowbridge Physic Garden and guided afternoon walk at Dyffryn Gardens.

**14 June 3.00pm** visit to Gellideg, Llandyfaelog

Contact Judith Holland for further details  
[j.holland@dyfedarchaeology.org.uk](mailto:j.holland@dyfedarchaeology.org.uk) 01558 823121

### Ceredigion

**Tuesday 20th May** The Flower Gardens of Hafod, visit the newly restored and replanted Mrs Johnes' Garden with designer Ros Laidlaw, and view the bones of Mariamne's former alpine garden. Tea at Hafod Stables.

**Wednesday 18th June** Anniversary tea and fundraiser at The Conrah Hotel, Aberystwyth. There will be a book sale, entertainments and a display of old photographs of Ceredigion Gardens.

**Monday 23rd June** A tour of the station gardens of the Vale of Rheidol Railway. A special train will take members from Aberystwyth, stopping at each of the seven halts to inspect the recreated gardens. Lunch at the Two Hoots Cafe, Devil's Bridge.

**Wednesday 30th July** visit and tea at Alltrodyn, Llandysul. This early 19<sup>th</sup> century pleasure ground includes a walled garden orangery and cold bath.

**Wednesday 17th September** Gardens in the Teifi Valley (TBA)

Contact Prof Colin Eldridge for further details  
[c.eldridge@uwtsd.ac.uk](mailto:c.eldridge@uwtsd.ac.uk) 01570 470667

### Clwyd

**May 28th 2.00pm** visit Rhual Hall, Mold, CH7 5DB, kindly hosted by Julia Marlow-Thomas. The 17th century house has an unaltered seventeenth-century forecourt and a landscaped park created in late 18th or early 19th century. £5

**June 18th 6.00pm** Tros Y Parc, Ystrad Road, Denbigh, LL16 4RH kindly hosted by Stephen and Camilla Cheshire. An evening garden visit with drinks. £5

**July 19th 6.00pm** Anniversary Party at Queen Anne Cottage, Whitehurst, Chirk LL14 5AS kindly hosted by Michael Kemp. A fundraising event for the restoration of this 17th century garden. £5

**August 16th 2.00pm** Cream tea at Dedwyddfa Bryn Goodman, Ruthin LL15 1EL kindly hosted by Ann and Basil Thomas. £5

Contact Sinah Harrison-Jones for further details  
[sinah@btinternet.com](mailto:sinah@btinternet.com) 01745 583433

### Gwynedd

**May 3rd** Annual Plant Fair, Crûg Farm Nursery, Caernarfon by kind permission of Sue and Bleddyn Wynn-Jones.

**May 22nd** Joint visit with Friends of Treborth to Dunham Massey and Quarry Bank Mill.

**June 25th** Visit to Plas Newydd, Llangollen home of the Ladies of Llangollen.

Contact Olive Horsfall for further details  
[oandmhorsfall@btinternet.com](mailto:oandmhorsfall@btinternet.com) 01766 780187

### Monmouthshire and Gwent

**Thursday 10 July at 6.00pm** Special Evening with drinks in in Sir Roy Strong's Theatre Court, The Laskett.

**October 16 at 7.00pm** Lecture by Arne Maynard, one of the most talented garden designers working in Britain today. "Designing a Garden for Chelsea."

Contact Merilyn Anderson for further details  
[m.anderson666@btinternet.com](mailto:m.anderson666@btinternet.com) 01600 780389

### Montgomeryshire

**Sunday 10 August:** Garden Party, Pen-y-Bryn Hall, Montgomery.

Contact Joy Neal for further details  
[joyneal@btinternet.com](mailto:joyneal@btinternet.com) 01654 781203

### South & Mid Glamorgan

**Sunday 18th May 3.00pm** Visit to Hillcrest, Waunborfa Road, Cefn Fforest, Blackwood, Gwent, NP12 3LB

**June** The Branch is planning to visit Dyrham Park, near Bath.

Contact Val Caple for further details  
[val.t.caple@care4free.net](mailto:val.t.caple@care4free.net) 01446 775794

### West Glamorgan

**Monday 12th May** Coach trip to Tyntesfield, North Somerset, a spectacular NT Victorian Gothic Revival house, with gardens and parkland.

**Monday 16th June** Coach trip to NT Courts Garden (English country garden) and Great Chalfield Manor (mediaeval), Wiltshire.

**Sunday 13th July** Strawberry tea in Nicholaston House, Gower

**Friday 18th July** Coach trip to Dewstow Gardens, Caerwent and Penpergwm Lodge, Abergavenny.

**Sunday 3rd August** Gower Show.

**Thursday 25th September 2.00pm** Restoring the Kitchen Garden at Audley End, Essex by Mike Thurlow, former Head Gardener at Audley End.

**Thursday 20th November 2.00pm** WHGT Contribution to Conservation over the last 25 years by Elisabeth Whittle, President of WHGT.

Contact Ann Gardner for further details:  
[hughgardner@virginmedia.com](mailto:hughgardner@virginmedia.com) 01792 290014

**Country Life** Free to good home (would suit WHGT Branch or individual researcher). A long run of Country Life mostly from 1960s to 1994, with many duplicates and a number of later issues. This collection takes up a lot of space, and could be split up if required. Whatever proportion is removed, a large car will be needed to transport it.

Contact 01974 202 954 (near Aberystwyth).